



Dorking & District u3a

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

HANDBOOK

Autumn 2022



A MEMORY QUILT WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD!

Following the sudden death of Sue Grant, one of our u3a quilters, the Quilting group decided to make a quilt in her memory and raffle it in aid of Cancer Research, her favourite charity. Many months went into cutting and sewing the 100 two-tone coloured squares, to create a 'log cabin' design with a border. The quilt has involved many hours of work. The raffle will take place at a Cancer Research coffee morning at Betchworth Park Golf Club on 10 November 2022. The photograph features Elizabeth Shaw, one of the quilting group and Sue Grant's daughter, Helen. *(Photograph by Jon Grant).*

Dorking & District u3a 40th Anniversary Barn Dance



Thank you for organising last night's dance - the band thoroughly enjoyed entertaining your very responsive group. D'arcy Spice



Thank you and the team for arranging the Barn Dance. Everyone really seemed to enjoy it!
Can we do it again next year?
Paul Smith



Lovely evening. We all thoroughly enjoyed it. Good band, venue, food and company. Very well done. Jan Carter

PHOTOGRAPHS PAUL SMITH, ROBERT EDMONDSON AND JOHN SINCLAIR

Chair's Annual Report



Dear Member

It's been a busy year as Dorking & District u3a has brushed itself off and resumed most of its activities. Many groups have resumed face to face meetings, our summer picnic was a great success and will be replicated next year. Outings and trips have also attracted a lot of interest. So thank you for your ongoing support. I have also received a number of completed

questionnaires which raised some interesting points and questions which I will try to answer briefly.

♦ ***Why move monthly meetings to St Joseph's Church Hall?***

The Committee considered several issues when getting Monthly Meetings restarted this year, including the need for free parking for members and speakers; easy access; efficient Wi-fi speeds to allow us to provide Zoom meetings; the safety and comfort of members in a less frequented hall and finally, value for money as town centre venues have increased their charges.

♦ ***What does my membership fee cover?***

Dorking u3a membership fee has not increased since at least 2013. We pay just over £8 to the Third Age Trust to cover administration, insurance fees and access to free online workshops and presentations. The balance goes towards our speaker fees, venue hire for monthly meetings, IT licences and newsletter production fees.

♦ ***Why do I need to pay for my group sessions even if I don't attend?***

Groups are the life-blood of any u3a, bringing people with similar interests together. In Dorking u3a, we accept that not everyone joins a group so we don't fund group costs (some u3as do but charge higher membership fees). To survive, groups need to ask members to contribute to venue hire costs. Some groups are small enough to meet in someone's home but some of the larger or exercise groups need more space.

♦ ***Why does the Newsletter no longer contain group and outings information?***

Each year, we issue three newsletters containing articles and reviews from members and one handbook covering group details. We issue monthly emailed bulletins. The responses to the questionnaire suggest that the newsletter is still relevant particularly for those who don't have email or internet access. To keep printing costs down we have to balance what is interesting and necessary information. I will endeavour to reintroduce group information into the newsletters in a slimmer format for reference.

We hope that more members will consider offering help to run events, outings or just join sub-committees to support a Committee that has worked incredibly hard to organise a number of outings, trips and events this year. Thank you.

Beryl

THE SUMMER SCHOOL AT CHICHESTER UNIVERSITY June 2022



"That looks interesting" I thought when the Third Age Matters magazine arrived last winter and my eye was caught by a small item with details of the Summer School 2022. I immediately booked a place on the Family History course as I have been researching my family tree on and off since the 1960s. I was a fifth-former when my father offered to take me to Somerset House to start finding out about our ancestors. The work has been more 'off' than 'on' through the years of raising a family and many house moves, so I thought the Summer School may provide new ideas on research which is now mainly online. I wasn't disappointed as Jill and Pat, our course leaders, had handouts, suggested website addresses of genealogy sites and sparked ideas for us to follow up. I also enjoyed hearing about the workhouses, apprenticeships and ag labs (agricultural labourers) within the sessions.

I wasn't sure what I would find at a Summer School. What I found were

friendly and enthusiastic course leaders and participants, together with the opportunity at coffee breaks and meals to chat to members of other u3a groups and hear about their seminars. The subjects on offer were many and diverse such as maths, French, poetry of the 19th century, learning the ukulele and mah-jong for example.

There was an optional visit to the theatre to see the premiere of *The Southbury Child*, a play with a plot that gave us plenty afterwards to discuss on our walk back to the University and at breakfast the following morning.

I shall be looking out for details of the 2023 Summer School when available.

Christine Baron

Editorial notes: I would urge others to take part in this and other u3a activities.



Monthly Meetings

Meetings are currently held at St Joseph's Church Hall on the second Wednesday of each month (except August), starting at 2.30pm. There is no need to book. Where indicated, meetings are also transmitted via Zoom for those who do not wish to attend a face-to-face meeting.

Further details of all our monthly meetings are on the Dorking u3a website www.dorkingu3a.org.uk

12 October 2022 - DINING WITH HISTORY (ZOOM)

Former BBC broadcaster **JESSICA THURTELL** looks at changes through the ages in the way we eat.



9 November 2022 - THE CINQUE PORTS (ZOOM)



Amateur historian **JAMES DICKINSON** gives a fully illustrated talk on the Cinque Ports, a confederation

providing naval services to medieval kings in return for tax and other privileges. An important source of ships when needed, they provided essential maritime expertise to the king when such knowledge was limited.

14 December 2022 - A CHRISTMAS CRACKER (ZOOM)

Town crier and performer **JONATHAN JONES** delivers a



miscellany of prose and poetry for the festive season, including works by John Betjeman, TS Eliot, Ogden Nash and Joyce Grenfell.

11 January 2023 - SECRETS OF THE ROYAL COURT 1660 - 1830 (ZOOM)

Guide Lecturer at Hampton Court Palace, **SARAH SLATER** describes some of the less palatable diseases that were rife at Court and elsewhere.

WARNING - naughty but fun!!



Dorking & District u3a Groups - When do we meet?

		1st in month	2nd in month	3rd in month	4th/last in month
Monday	am	Singing for Pleasure	COMMITTEE MEETING Reading for Pleasure (autumn/winter)	Plant Lovers Singing for Pleasure	Luncheon Club
	pm	Bridge 1 & 2 German Conversation	Bridge 1 & 2 Reading for Pleasure (spring/summer)	Bridge 1 & 2 German Conversation	Bridge 1 & 2
Tuesday	am	Military History Exercise for Health	Exercise for Health Luncheon Club Scribblers	Exercise for Health Shakespeare & his Contemporaries Words, Words, Words	Exercise for Health
	pm	Photography 1 Pilates 1 & 2 Quilting 2 Shakespeare & his Contemporaries (online)	Pilates 1 & 2 Photography 2 Quilting 2 Upwards	Philosophy Pilates 1 & 2 Quilting 2 Upwards	Archaeology Pilates 1 & 2 Quilting 2 Upwards
Wednesday	am	Current Issues Genealogy Workshop	French Lunch Science & Technology	Local History	
	pm	Card Games Plus DIY Dressmaking Philosophy (online)	MONTHLY MEETING	Card Games Plus Philosophy (online)	Focus on Art & Architecture (NEW)
Thursday	am	Spanish Café (NEW)	Guitar Storytelling (NEW)	Spanish Café (NEW)	Guitar
	pm	French Conversation 1		French Conversation 1 DIY Dressmaking Photography 2	
Friday	am	Line Dancing	Gardening Ukulele Walking	Line Dancing Ukulele	Ukulele Walking
	pm	Indoor bowls (Oct-April) Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept)	Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept)	Indoor Bowls (Oct-April) Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept)	Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept) Portfolio Management

Interest Groups

Members may join as many groups as they wish. Just ring the contact number or send an email for further particulars. In the listings, both email addresses and telephone numbers are given where available. If venues are not specified, groups may be meeting at a group member's home - this may restrict numbers due to space or Covid safety. Please check with individual group leaders.

If you would like to start a new group or have suggestions for new groups or wish to make a general enquiry about joining a group, please contact Beryl Sinclair on 01306 711542 or dorkingu3achair@gmail.com.

Want to meet new friends? Join a luncheon club or coffee morning



Tony Parker: 01306 884050; tp@abilityback.com

If you would like to spend a relaxed time chatting with like-minded people over a meal or a coffee, please contact Tony to find out when and where the next meeting will take place.

ARCHAEOLOGY

4th Tuesday 2.30-4.30pm at The Lincoln Arms

Peter Horitz 01306 898057; peter.horitz@uwclub.net



This small group of archaeology enthusiasts meets once a month to share interests and discuss the history of excavations in the UK and elsewhere. This year we considered Roman settlements like Pompeii, Herculaneum and Bignor and had a trip to Fishbourne Palace. We also discussed the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Mary Rose. New members are very welcome.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE (NEW)

4th Wednesday 2-4pm

St Joseph's Church Hall

Roger Stones on 01306 886754; roger.stones@btinternet.com

Beryl Sinclair: 01306 711542; dorkingu3achair@gmail.com



If you love art and have an interest in architecture this convivial group could be for you. The aim is to enjoy art whatever its provenance and discuss artistic trends both ancient and modern. Through a mix of informal talks and visits to local exhibitions and properties, members exchange personal knowledge and a personal appreciation of art. The group brings together members of previous groups to bring a new focus and experience for all.

BOWLS

Bowls is a friendly and sociable activity. It offers a great way to get gentle exercise and meet other people. New members attend a taster session to assess their level before joining a group. The basics of the sport are easy to learn. The more you play, the better you get. But be warned - it can become seriously addictive! We run two bowls groups, both of which welcome new members.



Summer (late April to mid September)

Every Friday 2.30-4.30pm

Pippbrook Bowling Club (behind Mole Valley District Council

Offices in Dorking; parking permits can be available for when you are playing)

David Pettman: 01306 883043; david@pettman.co.uk

Equipment: Bowls and other equipment are available, but please wear comfortable clothing and flat-soled shoes. Initial coaching and further guidance is available.

Charges: £4 per session (charges waived if you do become addicted and decide to join the bowling club)

Winter (late September to April)

1st & 3rd Fridays 2-4pm

Horsham Indoor Bowling Club at Broadbridge Heath, near Horsham, behind Tesco.

Ann Watney: 01306 889115; ann.watney@btinternet.com

Equipment: Flat-soled shoes, preferably bowling shoes, are necessary; but other equipment and guidance can be provided.

Constraints: Because of limitations at Horsham, initial coaching needs to be obtained – either with the Summer Group, or with a bowls club before joining this group.

Charges: £7 per session.

BRIDGE

Every Monday 2-4pm, the Christian Centre, Dorking

Sue Greenacre: 01306 886832; suegreenacre49@gmail.com

Lesley Pearce: 07954 381873; lesleypearcemassage@gmail.com



The group offers social bridge where members can play, learn and have fun in an informal environment. Members have mixed abilities and in accordance with the u3a ethos the more experienced members help the less confident. We have grown significantly and now consist of three groups.

CARD GAMES PLUS

1st & 3rd Wednesday 2.30-4.40pm
St John's Church Community Building,
North Holmwood

Mike Giles: 01306 884598;

07710 500116;

mibridge@mac.com

Come along and give us a try! We don't



take ourselves too seriously - the most important thing is that we enjoy ourselves! Our most popular games are Canasta and Contract Whist, but other games

are available! We often play such things as Rummikub and Triominos. On any afternoon each table may be playing a different game and we are open to suggestions.

A session costs around £2 depending on the number of players to cover hall fees and refreshments.

DIY DRESSMAKING

Group 1: 1st Wednesday from 2.15pm

Group 2: 3rd Thursday from 2.15pm

Anne Blanchard; 01306 884359

barothon@gmail.com

These groups are for those who would like to improve their basic dressmaking skills. Sessions begin with a demonstration of an advanced technique and continue with working on a garment or drafting a pattern.

Meeting in Anne's home allows ready access to practical examples, equipment and books; and, if necessary, a change of date can be arranged easily. We visit exhibitions and museums as and when they arise.

Group size is limited and currently there are no vacancies. But a third group could be arranged if there were sufficient demand.



CURRENT ISSUES

1st Wednesday 10.30am-noon

Andrew Gibbons: 01306 742650;

andrew.gibbons@pobox.com

Our round-table discussions on topical



issues are based on prior reading of articles circulated by one of the group.

In its recent home-based meetings members have discussed *Ukraine, abortion and 'wokeism'* and more recently the problems of *rewilding*.

EXERCISE FOR HEALTH

Tuesday 10.30-12noon

Wescott Reading Room, RH4 3NP

Elizabeth Crook: 01306 81156;

g.crook09@btinternet.com

Come and join our fun fitness class with a lovely group of local people. Easy to learn, low impact dance routines to music you will know and love plus some seated exercise and light dumbbell routines. If you like to cha cha cha or rock to Elvis music, this is the group for you.

CURRENT ISSUES

Getting to grips with rewilding

In August, members discussed the topic of 'rewilding'. Proponents, from large landowners to *Guardian* columnist George Monbiot, say that rewilding is about large-scale restoration of ecosystems to the point where nature can take care of itself and re-kindle our relationship with the natural world.

Critics point out that the UK's landscape has been closely managed, even mismanaged, for centuries, so what exactly could it or should it revert to? Supporters' views vary about the extent to which nature needs a helping hand to re-establish itself.

Rewilding benefits need to be weighed up against alternatives forgone if land use is changed, such as a reduction in food output or the loss of traditional and familiar countryside views. Reintroducing absent species is contentious, when it comes to how such decisions are made and whether wild animals like wolves or beavers would cause problems to neighbouring land users.

Our discussion was more about comparing different impacts rather than arriving at a particular consensus. We looked at matters like big landowners, unsustainable farming techniques, nuclear power and waste, and food miles. Important unanswered questions were *'how far good rewilding is fully hands-off or should be managed to include species reintroduction'*, *'whether central government guidance or coordination would be useful'*, or *'whether the dead hand of the state risks getting it wrong'*.

Anyone from Dorking interested in rewilding need only visit the Knepp Wildland Project, near Horsham. Once 1,400 hectares of marginal farmland has been rewilded to establish a functioning ecosystem where nature is given as much freedom as possible. With 16 miles of well-marked public footpaths, you can explore first-hand the effect of two decades of rewilding where 'nature takes the driving seat' – and come to your own conclusions!

Andrew Gibbons

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Walk on the wild side

During their Natural History walk on Denbies hillside in June, the group spotted three distinct species of wild orchid in flower - Bee, Pyramidal and Fragrant, the last in large numbers, and other flowers characteristic of chalk grassland (e.g. perforated St. John's Wort, rock rose and agrimony). Examining specimens with a magnifying

glass, we discovered that some leaves of wild plants have a special smell (e.g. hedge garlic)!

The sun brought out the butterflies - the Small Heath, the Meadow Brown and the sharply contrasting Marbled White and an unexpected sight of several Dark Green Fritillaries flying around the flowers. The outing ended with a pleasant pub lunch at The Anchor, Bookham.

Robert Edmondson

FRENCH CONVERSATION

1st & 3rd Thursdays 2.30-4pm

Angela Day: 07762 752322

angela_m_d@hotmail.co.uk

Christine Lawrence: 01306 882316

clawrence6@btinternet.com

We meet in each other's houses, each member taking a turn in leading the session, finding a topic of interest, sometimes an item of news, a quiz, an



exercise to improve our command of the language, a play, or a game, or we just chat in French.

GARDENING

2nd Friday 10am-noon

Vivian Wildman: 01306 644950

We meet monthly to exchange plants, discuss problems and investigate ideas old and new. No matter how long we have gardened, there is always something new to learn.



FRENCH LUNCH

2nd Wednesday 12.30-2pm, various venues

Geoff Saunders: 01306 884812

geoff.m.saunders@gmail.com

We meet around 12.30pm in Dorking, on the second Wednesday of each month for an informal lunch at various locations.

Topics of conversation vary widely, covering travels, holidays, children and life in general. Most of the conversation is in French. If you would like to join in with this easy-going group and hone your language skills while having fun, just get in touch. New members are always welcome.



GENEALOGY

Christine Holloway: 01306 889310

leschris.holloway@hotmail.co.uk



Each month members meet at each members' homes to exchange suggestions on how to further their research and discuss how particular problems can be resolved.

Members give each other the incentive to find the next piece of the jigsaw and add to their confidence to work on the internet. Some have found living relatives abroad they never knew existed, which adds to the broader picture of the extended family.

GERMAN CONVERSATION

1st & 3rd Monday from 2.15-4.30pm

Bob Crooks: 01306 740062;

robertcrooks@rocketmail.com



We are a small friendly group who share an interest in German language and culture. We meet on first and third Monday afternoons each month, in each other's homes. We aim to practise reading, listening and speaking through a variety of activities. We welcome new members with some knowledge of the language even if it's a bit rusty.

GUITAR

2nd Thursday 10am-noon at St John's Community Building, North Holmwood

4th Thursday 10am-noon at the Scout Hut, Pixham Lane

Brian Joannou 01306 887411

brian.joannou241@btinternet.com



This small group brings together guitar enthusiasts with some experience who enjoy jamming together, either on electric or bass guitars. Music ranges from rock to negro spirituals. Ability to read music preferred but not a pre-requisite.

JIGSAW EXCHANGE

Hilda Burden: 01737 842516

hildaburden@gmail.com

Do you enjoy doing jigsaws? We have well over 200 jigsaws, mainly 1,000-piece, but also lots of 500-piece, all stored in Brockham. The exchange is open one morning and one afternoon a month. Please phone Hilda to make an appointment.



There is a £2 joining charge which entitles you to have one puzzle and exchange it as many times as you wish for 50p each time. If you want more than one puzzle at a time you can have as many as you want for an initial charge of £1 each, then just 50p for each puzzle exchanged.

LINE DANCING

1st & 3rd Fridays 10.45-11.45am

Follett Hall, URC, West Street

Gill Crooks: 01306 740062;

gillcrooks1@gmail.com

Line dancing is a great way to exercise body and mind.

At the end of the hour of upbeat music we leave the hall invigorated and uplifted! Every other week, we learn new dances and revisit old favourites, gradually building up our pace.

New members are welcome – don't worry about catching up, practice makes perfect and many of the dances are online.



LOCAL HISTORY

3rd Wednesday 10.30am-noon

Hilda Burden: 01737 842516 ; hildaburden@gmail.com



Are you new to the area? Or do you just enjoy discovering the secret history of local communities and sites ? We hope you will join this new group to consider how local events and people have impacted on the wider cultural and social aspects of history. Researching documents, liaising with museums and exploring the local area are just some of the ways members can engage and expand their knowledge of Dorking and the surrounding area. Please contact Hilda to register your interest.

MILITARY HISTORY

1st Tuesday 9.30am-12pm Recreation Ground Pavilion, Brockham RH3 7JT

Barrie Friend: 07796 633516; barrieandmarilyn@gmail.com

The aim of this interest group, which numbers nearly forty members, is to share knowledge and understanding of why conflicts occur, the progress and consequences of battles, and the role of participants on the front line and the home front.



Our monthly meetings start at 9.30am with coffee and biscuits followed by a talk, discussion, more coffee and the Ten Minute Slot. Recent talks have covered *Women at War*, *The Battle of Britain*, *Dorking's Victoria Cross Holder*, *The French at Waterloo*, and *Stopping*

Hitler's Invasion of Britain.

Our monthly Newsletter offers further reading and information on other military subjects, and keeps the group up-to-date. Regular group visits to local military sites and museums helps keep this friendly group together and engaged as do our annual garden meetings and book exchanges. More information, links to Zoom talks and our Newsletter can be found on the D&D u3a website www.dorkingu3a.org.uk.

Sound interesting? You will be warmly welcomed at our meetings - you are not obliged to give a talk.

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

RUG (REALLY USEFUL GROUP)

We always NEED members who can 'step up' to help and support us at monthly meetings and events, and with minor projects. People who can give lifts to other members would also be welcome.

Please contact Tony Parker on 01306 884050

MILITARY HISTORY

The Commandant's Parade at Sandhurst



On 10 August, 16 members of the group, well-turned out as befits the occasion, attended the Commandant's Parade for the Commissioning Course 213 at the Royal Military Academy, courtesy of the Sandhurst Trust. This precedes the Sovereign's Parade usually held on the subsequent Friday after which they cease to be Officer Cadets and hold a Queen's Commission.

There are three courses held every year and whilst the lead role is taken by the one about to commission, known as the Senior Division, they are joined by two junior divisions. As a result, over 800 officer cadets are on parade supported by college staff and on this occasion the British Army Band from Catterick. Their contribution during the formal inspection and march pasts included well known military favourites such as *Soldiers of the Queen*, *Scipio*, *British Grenadiers* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*!

We were all pleased to be in sheltered

stands rather than on parade standing still in the growing heat of the day. It is to their credit that only one had to be helped off the parade ground by an observant NCO. The format is the same throughout the country on formal parades although the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force have fewer horses! As a country we may have many failings but our armed forces always seem to be able to put on a first class display full of ceremonial traditions.

In his speech, the Commandant remarked on the fact that whilst cadets would be starting their military careers at the end of the week, he would be ending his own after 37 years service. In addition to the home-grown variety, a further 5,000 graduates of Sandhurst come from 125 different countries outside of the UK and 7 current Heads of State are also graduates.

The Commandant finished his speech by quoting Churchill, also a Sandhurst graduate: ***'We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give'***.

George Blundell-Pound
(full article in the MH Newsletter)



PHILOSOPHY

3rd Tuesday 2.30-4pm

Marjorie Hudson: 01306 888281; hudmarjorie@gmail.com



We continue to explore aspects of philosophy using John Cottingham's Anthology of Western Philosophy as a guide. Having considered '*Problems in Ethics*', '*Morality and the Good Life*' and '*Science and Method*', we then completed the section on '*Beauty and Art*', referencing works by Hume, Nietzsche, Tolstoy and Sartre. As usual, topics raise more questions than they give answers. We are now covering the final section on '*Human Life and its Meaning*,' which includes extracts from Augustine, Montaigne, Nietzsche and Camus. Meetings include presentations and lively discussions.

PHILOSOPHY ONLINE

1st & 3rd Wednesday 2.30-4pm

Virginia Wheeler: virginia.s.wheeler@gmail.com

This group uses online materials from major universities to support learning. As each module is completed, the group select a follow-on module from a vast choice on MOOC websites. Meetings are held in various members' homes. New members are welcome.



PHOTOGRAPHY 1

1st Tuesday 2-4.30pm

Faith & Mike Docker: 01306 501640;

faith.docker@ntlworld.com; michael.docker@gmail.com



Our members have a mix of experience and cameras (SLR, bridge and compact). Several have computers with image manipulating software. We engage in practical digital photography and are striving to extend the boundaries of our individual photographic comfort zones and to improve our creative picture-making skills by sharing our individual knowledge and expertise as well as having fun.

We agree a broad monthly theme for each member to interpret and produce a set of images which are projected on to a screen and shared with the whole group for critical evaluation at the end of the month. The best images are displayed on the u3a website.

PHOTOGRAPHY 2

3rd Thursday 2-4pm, The Old House, Dorking

John Sinclair 01306 711542; johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk



This small, informal group meets to discuss photographic techniques and compare photographs on a pre-determined theme in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere. Members need not be experienced or dedicated photographers and new members are always welcome as we all share information and help each other make great photographs, the best of which may be seen on the u3a and other websites. We organise occasional photographic trips as well.

PILATES

Every Tuesday, Christian Centre, Dorking

Cost: £7 per session, payable by cheque at the start of each 6-8 block.

Contacts: Sue Bax: sue.bax1@btinternet.com; 07899 797557

Janet Hoad: jahoad@hotmail.com; 07802 377873

Tutor Tina Westwood



Group 1: 2.30-3.30pm; **Group 2:** 3.45-4.45pm

Pilates is a low-impact workout designed to strengthen the centre of the body, tone muscles, improve posture and increase flexibility. Exercises are done sitting or lying on an aerobics mat. Each exercise is done slowly with precision and targets specific muscle groups.

Sessions start with a warm-up to mobilise the joints and muscles. Each exercise has specific movements and specific breathing, with few repetitions. Pilates differs from other forms of exercise in that it concentrates on the deep muscles essential for stability. It will improve your body awareness and, through specific breathing techniques, teach you how to maximise your abdominal control and strength.

PLANT LOVERS

3rd Monday 10.30am-noon

Hilda Burden: 01737 842516; hildaburden@gmail.com

This friendly group meets in members' homes and so are able to view their gardens and maybe even obtain a cutting or two and some small plants.

Each month we discuss how we deal with plants and problems in our own gardens and so share our knowledge. This coming year, with restrictions being relaxed, we will be arranging group visits to gardens of special interest.

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

4th Friday 1.30-4pm, Hamilton Room, Betchworth

John Holder 01737 845907; holdj851@gmail.com



Our group shares the enjoyable and generally profitable hobby of investing in the stock market, either in collective funds or in individual stocks. We discuss the impact of current affairs on markets, exchange investment ideas and construct dummy portfolios, which we follow throughout the year. Study topics have included investment risk and reward, finding one's comfort zone,

managing bond portfolios and SIPPs.

We are a small friendly mixed group who usually gather for a bite to eat in the Dolphin beforehand and we welcome a few new members.

QUILTING 1 AND 2

Group 1: once a month 10.30am-4pm

Deanne Rhodes: 01737 844768; deannerhodes@btinternet.com

Group 2: Most Tuesdays 2-4pm

Juliet Eberle: 01306 884569; juliet.eberle@ntlworld.com



Our groups meet at an agreed group member's home. We set ourselves both group and individual challenges to explore and develop unlearned techniques. We also like to share outings, articles and quilting experiences with each other and to see where the future takes us.

We are enthusiastic and friendly; everyone contributes something different to ensure the success of each project - technical knowhow, fabric and equipment, ideas and encouragement.

READING FOR PLEASURE

2nd Monday 10.15-11.45am (autumn and winter); 3-4.30pm (spring and summer)

Joyce Kingsley-Jones: 01306 885789; joycekingsleyjones@hotmail.co.uk



Our group considers a wide array of literature from around the world - biographies, travelogues, dramas or novels. Each month, we take it in turns to present a book of our choice. The more individual the choice, the better the discussion. Of course, we like to put the world to rights! During autumn and winter months we meet in the morning; during spring and summer we meet in the afternoon in the garden weather permitting.

READING FOR PLEASURE

In July Joyce Kingsley-Jones led a lively discussion on the book of her choice, *Death and the Penguin* by Andrey Kurkov. Born in St Petersburg, the author, aged two, moved with his family to Kiev, Ukraine. Having graduated from Kiev Foreign Language Institute, he worked for some time as a journalist and did his military service as prison warden at Odessa.

He later became a film cameraman, screen play writer and author of critically acclaimed and popular novels. *Death and the Penguin* was first published in 1996 and is an original and sinister satire of chaotic post-Soviet Ukraine. Many ideas and views arose during our analysis of the book and of course the situation in Ukraine was discussed at length.

We also attended a screening of the film *Where the Crawdads Sing* at Dorking Halls, our chosen book for September. So if you enjoy reading, contact Joyce Kingsley-Jones for more information.

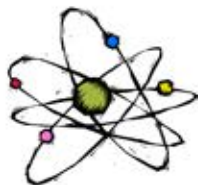
Jill Roome



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

3rd Wednesday 10am-noon

Richard Rumble: 01372 450142; richrumble747@gmail.com



Our members have a range of backgrounds – some have worked professionally in a field of science or technology, while others are simply interested in the exciting and amazing world of science and technology.

Members volunteer to give a talk on a particular area that interests them or a video is chosen from the internet and this is followed by discussion and questions. Recent talks and videos have included 'Climate Reality', 'Advantages of driving BEVs', and 'The Nuclear Accident at Fukushima'. The group also arranges visits from time to time to places of scientific interest such as the synchrotron science facility at Harwell. We welcome new members who have an interest in science and technology. We meet at each other's homes so contact Richard for more information.

SCRIBBLERS

2nd Tuesday 10am-noon

Pat Smith: 01306 889278; pat2africa@yahoo.co.uk

Gillian Williamson: 01306 884191; rowewill@aol.com



Scribblers is a friendly writing-for-pleasure group. Our meetings start with a short *scribble* then have a writing activity of some sort, followed by a reading of what we've prepared. It can be factual, imaginative, a poem, a play, whatever. Writers range from beginners to experienced - we all share an enthusiasm for the written word, be it poetry or prose (mostly prose, actually). You may be pleasantly surprised to discover your hidden talent. All you need is pen and paper, and a sense of humour - new members are welcome. Please contact the group leader for more details.

WATER CRISIS

We've got a severe water crisis.

The water's exceedingly low

In the Cherwell, the Mole and the Isis;

And the Piddle's not much of a flow.

We can't wash our cars on the forecourts;

The brewers can't water the beer;

There's even talk at the Law Courts

That liquidations could soon disappear.

There's a hosepipe ban for the garden;

There are standpipes out in the street.

The judges are reluctant to pardon

Those who'll not drink whisky neat.

We're losing the floating voters.

They're deserting our banner in floods.

And even the week-end boaters

Are nothing but stick-in-the-muds....

The PM is going bananas,

The Cabinet are doing their nuts.

They say they'll accept no *mañanas*,

No ifs and no water butts...

Ken Kelsey, extract from *Let's Face It*

SHAKESPEARE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES

1st Tuesday 2.30pm; 3rd Tuesday
10.45am

Jackie Rance: 01306 887416;
jaxrance@gmail.com

Our enthusiastic group continued meeting successfully during 2020/21 on Zoom but has now begun to meet face-to-face again.

When we were Zooming, we studied Shakespeare's *Sonnets*. Now we have started studying the historically linked plays Henry IV parts 1 and 2 and Henry V.

From November we will also be having an online meeting on the 1st Tuesday in the month. We will study different plays at that meeting so you can choose to attend either or both sessions.

We welcome new members - please contact Jackie for more information.



SINGING FOR PLEASURE

1st and 3rd Monday 10.30-noon

Meike Laurenson

mmlaurenson@talktalk.net

Our friendly, relaxed Singing Group of ladies and gentlemen is re-starting in October after a long break. Led by pianist and accompanist Gina Eason, this group meets twice monthly in **Buckland Reading Room, Old Rd, Buckland, RH3 7EG.**

We welcome new members - no nerve-racking public performances, no knowledge of complicated musical jargon needed!

If you enjoy singing a variety of music, old and new, and are looking for something to lift your spirits, come join us!



SPANISH CAFÉ (PROPOSED NEW GROUP)

Beryl Sinclair : 01306 742650; dorkingu3achair@gmail.com

1st & 3rd Thursday mornings

For those with some basic knowledge, this group will meet for coffee and conversational practice. Some personal study between sessions is essential so that we can enjoy social exchanges. The emphasis is on learning for fun in a relaxed atmosphere.



STORYTELLING (PROPOSED NEW GROUP)

How can storytelling help social change?

We've all grown up with stories – we have either written stories as at school or had stories read to us. Many of these stories (and by extension rhymes) have been handed down to us through generations and without the tradition of storytelling, much of local folklore and culture would be lost to us. Social change happens when listeners or viewers identify with messages or a character or characters portrayed in the story.



This group aims to look at tales from across the world and ages, and consider how they inform us about our ancestors but also prepare us for the world we live in.

Drawing inspiration from online presentations and research, we will, among other things, consider how stories are crafted to generate interest, suspense and emotion and how illustrations enhance impact.

There may be an opportunity to work with local libraries. For more information contact Beryl Sinclair on 01306 711542 or dorkingu3achair@gmail.com



UKULELE

Every Friday (except 1st Friday) 9.30-11.45am

St Joseph's Church Hall, Dorking

Julie McCulloch: 07968 084505

juliemg.mcculloch@gmail.com

We are an enthusiastic group of players, most of whom joined as beginners. We play and sing a variety of songs, from standards through to Bruce Springsteen. The emphasis is on acquiring skills through fun. Beginners will be offered starter sessions until they feel competent enough to join the group. Join - you can't help but smile when you play the ukulele!

IT HELP DESK

Bob Crooks: 01306 740062; robertcrooks@rocketmail.com

John Sinclair: 01306 711542; johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk



Need advice or help with IT issues, please contact Bob Crooks or John Sinclair. One-to-one help is available. We can run group informal training sessions and fun workshops. Please contact John or Bob to discuss your needs further.

UPWORDS

2nd & 4th Tuesday 2-4pm

Sue Jex: 01306 882673

suelucas51@yahoo.co.uk



Upwords is a sort of 3D Scrabble but more fun! Come and try it if you've never played - it's very easy to learn. Tiles are placed on a board similar to Scrabble, but then other letters can be stacked on top of those already on the board to create a new word. The higher the stack, the more points are scored. We're very friendly and like to chat as we play.

WALKING

2nd & 4th Fridays at 10am

Jane White: 01306 888886

Our friendly group enjoys walking in the beautiful countryside within a 10-mile radius of Dorking. Walks are between four and five miles long, take 2-2½ hours and let you discover beautiful, diverse countryside. We often finish off at a nearby pub for lunch. Very civilised!



WINE APPRECIATION

Geoff Saunders: 01306 884812

geoff.m.saunders@gmail.com



This small but well established group has one aim - discovering more about wine together.

We like to learn the u3a way, sharing expertise but also working with local wine merchants and producers to find out more. Members take turns in selecting a topic (region, grape variety, colour, style, etc) and perhaps research a little with the help of professionals. Ad hoc meetings due to recommence soon. No regular meeting day or location. Costs are in the order of £5-£10 per session. New members welcome. Come and join us - Cheers!

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

3rd Tuesday 10.30-noon

Rosemary Harbridge: 01306 881520;

rharbridge@sky.com

Meeting monthly in Dorking on the third

Tuesday from 10.30am to noon, we discuss and research the infinite variety of words and phrases in a sociable setting.



DAYS OUT

Wednesday 26 October 2022 CHISWICK HOUSE AND GARDENS



Chiswick House and Gardens are the most glorious examples of 18th century British architecture and landscaped gardens with over 300 years of discovery, inspiration and delight.

Two Georgian trendsetters, the architect and designer William Kent and his friend and patron Richard Boyle, the 3rd Earl of Burlington, created the house and gardens between 1725 and about 1738. Influenced by their travels on the Grand Tour, they rejected the showy Baroque style fashionable in England in favour of a simpler, symmetrical design based on the classical architecture of Italy. Together they broke down the rigid formality of the early 18th century garden to create a revolutionary, natural landscape.

Art and culture has always been at the heart of Chiswick House and Gardens and rather than a conventional home, Chiswick House was a bold architectural experiment.

We are planning private guided tours of both house and garden with the chance of a light lunch (or you can bring your own) in the cafe. This will be a relaxing day with our first pickup at 9.45am and we expect to be back in Dorking by late afternoon.

Leaders: Deanne Rhodes (07770 273407) and Sally Connett (07546 229462).
Please use these numbers only in an emergency on the day of the trip.

Bookings can easily be made online via the Dorking u3a website or you can phone Sally Connett on 01306 740596.



PLEASE NOTE COACH DEPARTURE TIMES

9.45am	Brockham
9.55am	Dorking Halls
10am	Opposite Waitrose
10.05am	Bus Stop near Knoll Road

Cost: £39

DAYS OUT

Friday, 9 December 2022 CRUISING INTO CHRISTMAS!!

This promises to be a wonderful way to start Christmas celebrations. Our first coach pickup is at the friendly hour of 1.30pm to drive us from Dorking to Greenwich. We'll take a leisurely stroll down to Greenwich Pier to meet our Blue badge guide at 3.45pm, just as the sun sets, to take a one-hour cruise to Westminster with a fun and informative Cockney skipper's commentary.

Passing Canary Wharf, all lit up like a mini-Manhattan, we sail beneath a floodlit Tower Bridge and through a glistening City & West End.

Our coach driver meets us at Westminster Pier ready for a tour of Christmas London by night. It's great fun seeing the busy shopping streets from a coach.

Our tour is much more than just the Christmas lights, as you will also see some of London's most beautifully illuminated buildings and discover what is new in the capital.

We end the day at Kennedy's Restaurant, Fulham, sitting down to a fish & chip supper with a hot drink (included in the price). We will be ready to leave for home at around 7.45pm.

Leaders: Deanne Rhodes (07770 273407) and Sally Connett (07546 229462)

Please use these numbers only in an emergency on the day of the trip.

Bookings can easily be made online via the Dorking u3a website or you can phone Sally Connett on 01306 740596.

PLEASE NOTE COACH DEPARTURE TIMES

1.30pm	Brockham
1.40pm	Dorking Halls
1.45pm	Opposite Waitrose
1.50pm	Bus Stop near Knoll Road

Cost: a snip at £55, inclusive of a fish & chip supper and hot drink.



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 online viewing.

Booking fees are £12 for u3a members, £15 for non-members and £5 for Zoom attendance. Prior booking is necessary by visiting www.u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/events or by contacting 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: September 2022 - June 2023

September	3	<i>D&D event</i>	Barn Dance
	14	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	AGM By Greyhound Bus around America, speaker Tim Albert
	16	<i>Study Day</i>	Voices from Ancient Mesopotamia speaker Dr Irving Finkel, British Museum
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
	26	<i>Day Out</i>	Chiswick House and Gardens
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	9	<i>Day Out</i>	Cruising into Christmas
	14	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	A Christmas Cracker, speaker Jonathan Jones
2023 January	11	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Secrets, Sex, Scandal and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court 1660 - 1830, speaker Sarah Slater
	25	<i>D&D 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

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Dorking & District u3a Groups



TOP LEFT: ART APPRECIATION AT THE LIGHTBOX, WOKING; ABOVE: CREATIVE WRITING; LEFT: EXERCISE FOR HEALTH; GUITAR GROUP (photographs Beryl Sinclair / Brian Joannou)



BELOW AND RIGHT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GROUP ON DENBIES HILLSIDE (photographs Richard Rumble)

