



u3a
Dorking & District

Newsletter

Winter 2022

Number 108

Winter 2022

DORKING U3A PEAK DISTRICT RESIDENTIAL
OCTOBER 2022
(photographs Paul Smith)



CHARLECOTE PARK, THE LUCY FAMILY HOME



BAKEWELL, ALL SAINTS CHURCH



CHATSWORTH, INNER COURT



BAKEWELL, THE PUDDING TRADITION



CHATSWORTH STATE BEDCHAMBER



CHATSWORTH CARRIAGE HOUSE CAFÉ



DEAR MEMBER

Another Christmas, another year ends. And what a year it's been. Thanks to the incredibly hard work of the Committee and group leaders, Dorking u3a has held its own. It has managed to hold two celebratory events commemorating 40 years of the u3a movement - a successful summer picnic at Buckland Park Lake and a barn dance led by D'Arcy Spice. Let's not forget the two residential trips, Devon in springtime and Peak District in autumn. Days Out have also reprised to great acclaim.

Thanks goes to all who made these events happen and to those who have supported them. So much is done by so few. But I particularly want to thank one long-standing member who has not only provided support through the RUG group but has over the years ensured that the Newsletter is distributed by a team of over 30 deliverers, come rain or shine. Elizabeth Holmes is leaving Surrey to be closer to family and her support and energy will be much missed. We wish her well. It is gratifying however that when we appealed for help, a dozen volunteers promptly came forward. Thank you for the offer of support.

Next year will be another make or break year - a number of activities and events are planned for 2023. There are also a good many changes afoot with the Third Age Trust to ensure better communication and support. We all need to move with the times and adapt to new challenges. But one thing does not change and that is the need for members to continue supporting groups and events to make them viable. At a recent workshop the trainer shared wise words:

Treat the u3a as you would a bank – the more you take out, the more it becomes depleted; the more you put in, the richer it becomes.

The Committee wishes all Dorking & District u3a members a peaceful Christmas and brighter New Year.

Beryl

(cover photograph - Veiled Vestal Virgin, Chatsworth House)

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome!

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

Margaret Ashdown
Betty Attwood
Rhona Bowler
Christine Broom
Susan Burgess
Pat Burnip
Sandra Carline
Mario Cassar
Steve Cole
Katherine Cook
Peter Corry
Elizabeth Dolman
Margaret Elliott
Gladys Fisher

Maria Glenister
Anthony Goodenough
Carol Graham
Anne Humphreys
Cyntha McGinlay
David Payne
Anna Perren
Tony Pickles
Liora Schurr
Colin Simmons
Ray Smith
Teresa Turner
Nigel Underdown
Moya Weeks

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thank you to those of you who have renewed your subscriptions, which were due on 1st April 2022. Anyone who has not renewed will be marked as lapsed and will no longer receive any communications from us (including newsletters, monthly bulletins and links to monthly meetings).

Subscriptions for 2023-24 will be due on 1st April 2023. Emails or letters inviting members to renew will be sent towards end February or early March. 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 2022-23 subscription you must set up a new direct debit payment for 2023-24, as the mandate is for a **one-off** payment only.*

John Sinclair, Membership Secretary

We **NEED** poems, articles, photos and detailed group information for the **SPRING** newsletter to reach the Editor by **END MARCH 2023**. Without contributions the Newsletter will not survive. **Thank you.**

FIT FOR THE FUTURE

WHAT ARE THE U3A PRINCIPLES?

The D&D u3a AGM was held on 9th November. Just over 60 members attended in person at St Joseph's Church Hall or on line, thus ensuring that the meeting was quorate.

This year, about 60 new members have joined Dorking u3a. Although this is encouraging, the reality is that becoming a member is not in itself a guarantee that our u3a will survive. As Chair I need to remind members of the basic principles of the movement: that membership of a u3a is open to all and promotes the values of lifelong learning through participation in groups, meetings and social activities; that learning is by members for members and that members need to work together to make things happen.

WHAT DO YOU GET FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE?

In October the Third Age Trust (TAT) who oversees the Network of over 1000 regional u3as, recommended at their AGM that the capitation fee levied from each u3a member be increased by 11% in line with inflation. All u3a representatives present at the AGM voted against the recommendation and negotiations have begun with u3a representatives to consider possible changes in the way TAT is run.

As membership of Dorking u3a increases, subscription income also increases but from this nearly 50% of the membership fee goes to TAT to cover insurance, legal and IT support (Beacon). Nonetheless, the Committee proposes not to increase membership fees for another year.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR U3A?

In the summer issue of the Newsletter, members were asked to complete and return a survey giving feedback on the activities we offer. Only 31 people responded and they were mostly long-time members who had themselves served as trustees or as group leaders. Without feedback, we remain unclear what newer members expect in terms of groups, meetings and events. We depend on members to actively engage with u3a principles and support the work done by the Committee and other volunteers. We hope to extend our Days Out and Short Breaks programme and include a variety of events such as the summer picnic and quiz night. However, without help from the wider membership, it will be difficult to organise activities. Just a couple of hours a month will probably suffice if enough people come forward to help.

LIVE TO LEARN, LEARN TO LIVE.

GROUPE DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS



Le groupe du déjeuner français s'est réuni régulièrement cette année. La plupart des mois, nous nous réunissons au Queen's Head, le deuxième mercredi de chaque mois. C'est pratique pour la réunion mensuelle qui suit, à l'église catholique Saint-Joseph toute proche. Nous disons que nous ne sommes pas des débutants, mais les normes

varient.

Nous trouvons fréquemment de nouveaux mots ou expressions, parfois avec l'aide de Monsieur Google. Nous n'avons pas d'agenda, mais d'une manière ou d'une autre, nous parvenons à remplir quelques heures, avec beaucoup d'humour et de la bonne nourriture. Les nouveaux membres sont toujours les bienvenus.

Geoff Saunders

FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP DURING LOCKDOWN



We all had to adapt our groups during lock down. At the beginning, and then during the winter months, often the only way of keeping the group running was via zoom. I must say that it is not my favourite form of communication, I miss the body language, the feeling of being together and social interaction, one human being with another. I am sure, like many people, my attitude was that zoom is better than no group at all.

I felt that we needed something to counteract the things that we were missing when zooming, something a bit different. I have contacts in France so I wondered if I could ask one of them to give us a talk – of course via zoom. Enter Frederic...

My friend Frederic is an ecologist and often gives lectures. In fact, a few years ago, he came to Dorking to speak to a group of like-minded people at our very own Denbies.

He spoke to us (in French of course) about climate change, sea levels and the state of rivers and their effect on the food chain. He gave many examples but I particularly remember that he explained that the area around Cherbourg harbour is flat, well populated and includes the local hospital. Behind is high ground. He predicted that it won't be long before this area will be under water. He showed us many drawings of the long-term effect of these changes. He also

spoke about man's misuse of nature. Farmers have taken down trees bordering rivers in order to increase yield. It seems that it is important for leaves to fall into the water to sustain the chain of events needed to sustain life. It made me think of the quote 'If a butterfly flutters its wings in Brazil, could it cause a tornado in Texas'.

I found his talk fascinating and extremely informative and am very grateful to him for spicing up our zoom meeting.

Christine Lawrence

SHAKESPEARE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES

Since the beginning of the year, we have continued to have a monthly Zoom session during which we work through the Sonnets. We usually get through 3 poems each meeting. At our regular face-to-face meeting we read and discuss the plays. We have also read both Henry IV parts 1 and 2 since we got back together and are finishing off Henry V.



Dorking Halls have been showing Screenings from NT Live this year. On 8th September, the group went to see 'Much Ado About Nothing', one of Shakespeare's liveliest comedies. Just before the lights went down, Dorking Halls staff announced the death of HM the Queen. How hard must it have been for actors to then embark on their challenge to entertain and make their audience laugh in such sad circumstances. But they were professionals and I took my metaphorical hat off to the cast, led by Katherine Parkinson, for their determination. The play was set in 1930s Italy and the designers gave us a set and costumes full of sunshine and colour. There were elements of slapstick that were extremely effective, such as when our hero, Benedick, hid under an ice cream trolley and later emerged from beneath it covered in ice cream. The cast performed magnificently but it was difficult to forget the significance of the day.



As you can see, we study Sonnets in one session and a play in the other. You can choose to attend either or both sessions. We would love to have some new members, so anybody interested please contact Jackie for more information on 01306 887416 or jaxrance@gmail.com

Jackie Rance

NOTHING 'GRUMPY' WITH TONY'S LUNCH CLUB!

Another excellent and great fun get-together at the Grumpy Mole for the Dorking and District u3a Lunch Club! Fine food, convivial conversation - if you'd like to join in, please call Tony on 01306 884050.



SUE GRANT'S QUILT



You will have read about the memory quilt designed and crafted by the two quilting groups. The quilt was raffled off at a Cancer Research coffee morning in early November. The total raised was £1,097. CRUC and the Quilting groups would like to thank all those who bought tickets and raised this money.



BIN IT? NO WAY!

Today, in the UK, we recycle only 3% more than in 2010. Yet we all know that recycling and reusing help to save energy and resources. When I met with Amanda Wheatland a couple of months ago, I asked if we might invite u3a members to the Repair Café she runs at the Christian Centre on the first Saturday of every month.

Repair Cafés are all about repairing things (together). Volunteers with the relevant skills repair clothes, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, toys etc. that visitors bring from home and they can watch and participate in the repair. There are over 2,500 Repair Cafés worldwide.

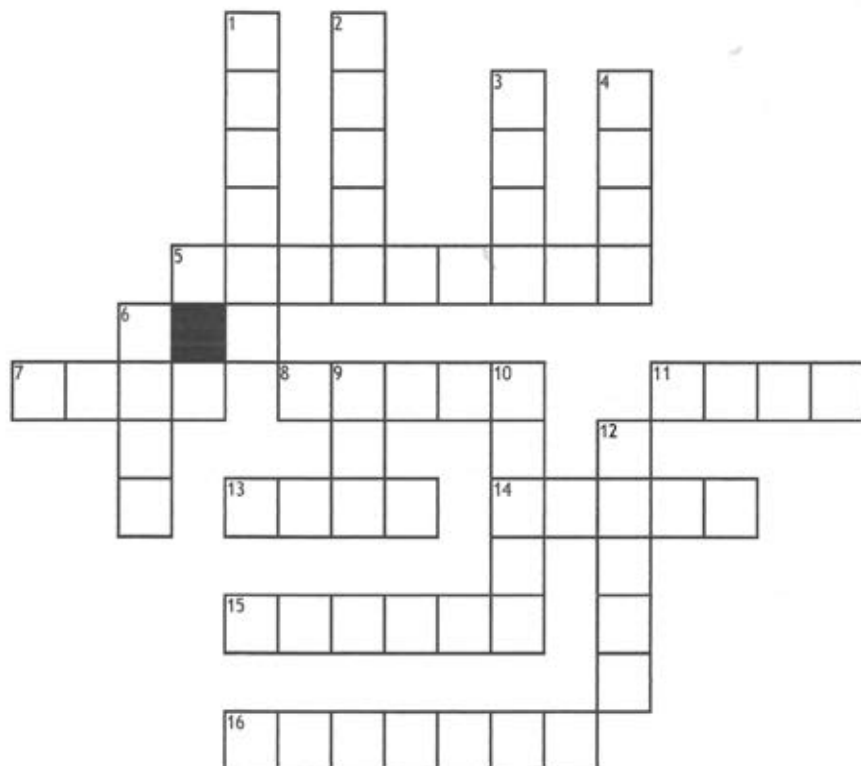
The aim is to prevent household items from ending up in landfill, often it's cheaper to buy a new appliance such as a toaster than to take it to an electrician but by bringing it to a repair café there's a high possibility it can be repaired and continue to be used for years to come. According to the Environment Agency, the amount of electrical waste collected by the government from UK households in 2018 totalled 378,200 tonnes!

The Repair Café brings together people with different skills - sewing; electrical, mechanical - to help Dorking residents reduce items going to landfill.

For more information you can contact Amanda on 07722 645373 or amanda_wheatland@yahoo.co.uk

RHYMING SLANG CHALLENGE

Try your hand at this crossword, set by *Words, words, words* group leader Rosemary Harbridge. The answers are on page 20.



ACROSS

- 5. tomfoolery
- 7. whistle and flute
- 8. tea leaf
- 11. Barnet fair
- 13. china plate
- 14. Ruby Murray
- 15. Lionel Blairs
- 16. cut and carried

DOWN

- 1. skin and blister
- 2. dog and bone
- 3. duck and dive
- 4. £25
- 6. porky pies
- 9. tit for tat
- 10. brass tacks
- 12. penny come quick

Chiswick House, 26 October 2022



Fine, dry weather favoured the October coach trip to Grade I listed Chiswick House and Gardens, birthplace of the English Landscape Movement at the beginning of the 18th century. A stiff breeze moved the clouds away and we were grateful as it also kept us refreshed while listening to three enthusiastic and knowledgeable guides outlining the history of the Neo-Palladian house, built partly to showcase a large collection of art and statuary, and about the extensive landscaping of the gardens which replaced the previous 16th century parterre and canal. This was revolutionary in its time as it rejected a heavy Baroque style and introduced simpler, geometric symmetry based on the classical architecture that the nobility were now seeing on their Grand Tours of Italy.

We also saw the enormous conservatory which houses the largest collection of heritage camellias under glass in the world.

Similarly there is a kitchen garden, now run as a community project and staffed mainly by volunteers which has been in continual use for 250 years.

The Dukes of Devonshire owned Chiswick for most of its past history and many famous names have been associated with it, notably Georgiana Spencer, the great-great-great-great-aunt of the late Princess Diana. In 1774 this great beauty, socialite, political organiser and activist married the 5th Duke, but she was also a reckless gambler who lost much of his vast fortune. Her story and their unusual marital arrangements featured in the film "The Duchess" in 2008.



By the middle of the 20th century, much of the art collection was moved to Chatsworth and Chiswick House had largely fallen into disrepair. Fortunately it was rescued in 1928 to be run as a private hospital for two decades, before being finally taken into municipal care in 1950.

The entire site is now managed by

the Chiswick House and Garden Trust. It comprises the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Chiswick House itself, and the Grade I listed conservatory, along with 21 other Grade I listed garden buildings and

statues, all set in 65 acres of Grade I gardening history - so there is much to see here.

Gelhi Jones

(Photographs by Denis Kellaway)

WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY CHATHAM HISTORIC DOCKYARD

Following many requests we are revisiting the historic dockyard at Chatham.

Established in Chatham in the middle of the 16th century, at a time when additional defences were required because of worsening relations with Catholic countries of Europe following the Reformation, the Dockyard started building ships for the Royal Navy. For 414 years Chatham Royal Dockyard was at the forefront of shipbuilding, industrial and architectural technology, providing over 500 ships for the Royal Navy. At its height it employed over 10,000 skilled artisans and covered 400 acres. The Dockyard closed in 1984 and 84 acres are now managed as a visitor attraction by the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust. HMS Victory and HMS Temeraire were amongst vessels launched from the Dockyard. On arrival we will enjoy coffee and biscuits (included) before returning to the coach where we will be given a 45 minute guided tour of the site. From the coach fans of the TV drama 'Call the Midwife' may well recognise some of the settings from that series. Following this we will take the Victorian Ropery tour and "learn the ropes" with Master Ropemakers and discover why the enormous double Ropewalk is nearly a quarter of a mile long. Rope has been made here for 400 years and it is still made today for many customers.

Lunch can then be taken at your own leisure in either the Mess Deck Restaurant or the Wagon Stop, the latter mainly serving snacks and sandwiches. Equally, you can take your own picnic. Included in our ticket is the opportunity to visit HM Submarine Ocelot, the last submarine built at Chatham for the Royal Navy and this can be done in the afternoon, coupled with many other attractions on offer. We will be leaving at 4.00pm when the site closes.

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

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

PLEASE NOTE COACH DEPARTURE TIMES

8.30 am	Brockham
8.40 am	Dorking Halls
8.45 am	Opposite Waitrose
8.50 am	Bus Stop near Knoll Road

Cost: £45



WALKING OFFA'S DYKE AUGUST 2022



Chepstow to Prestatyn: 177 miles: camping: It was a challenge. The hills were higher, the weather warmer, the distances further than I'd thought. And I got lost more often than I'd care to mention. But I made it, in 14 days of actual walking. By the end of this magnificent experience, I had fallen in love with this awe-inspiring and gentle area of Britain, with ancient and modern history around every corner.

Anyone like to join me next year?

I camped whenever I could, lugging a 14kg backpack, and wild-camped three times. On my first day I took a wrong turning and ended up on the banks of the River Severn. I fell asleep to the sound of salmon jumping, water flowing over rocks and owls hooting.

Another time I planned it. My guidebook stated the Hatterall Ridge couldn't be walked in a day and

recommended a few places to stop. All involved a lengthy walk down the ridge and – worse – an arduous climb back up. No! So, I loaded up with water (2 extra kilos), walked for miles and settled where I watched the sun setting, then twinkly stars against black sky and a glorious pinky-orange sunrise.

The third time was to be my last 'real' night on the trail so I decided to wild-camp in an Iron-age hillfort amongst the Clywidian Hills. This was not the best idea of my life. I pitched in a sheltered gully. By 10pm the wind was rising. By 11 it was raining – then the wind changed direction and my gully turned into a wind tunnel. I spent the next two hours nipping out of my tent to push pegs down and tighten guy-ropes but in the end I took down my tent in almost a full-blown gale, lying on it at times to stop it blowing away, then lurched down the hill to a more sheltered spot. Naturally, I got lost.



The countryside was beautiful, the towns laid-back and interesting, people diverse and rather wonderful. I

Monthly Meetings

Meetings take place in St Joseph's Church Hall on the second Wednesday of each month (except August), starting at 2.30pm (2.00pm for the AGM).

If you are finding it difficult to get to monthly meetings but would like to come if someone were to collect you, please ring Tony Parker (01306 884050), who will try to find a volunteer to drive you. If you drive, come to monthly meetings regularly and would like to be added to a list of drivers willing to collect members, would you kindly let Tony know.

If you have suggestions regarding topics and/or speakers for monthly meetings, please get in touch with Linda Willmott (01306 884405).

11 January 2023

SECRETS OF THE ROYAL COURT

Sarah Slater, guide lecturer at Hampton Court Palace, tells the tales of all the naughty bits of history you probably would not have learnt about at school.

WARNING - not for the prude but fun!



8 February 2023

INSECTS AND ORCHIDS OF THE NORTH
DOWNS

D&D u3a member Robert Edmondson, an enthusiastic entomologist, botanist and photographer, presents a lively talk on the local natural history.

JERSEY TIGER
MOTH



8 March 2023

PASSPORTS, ASSASSINS, TRAITORS AND SPIES

Author and former immigration officer Martin Lloyd often appears on radio and television and in this talk, reveals how three passports have played an

influential role in the course of history from an attempted assassination to the capture of a spy.



12 April 2023

A POLICEMAN'S LOT, Neil Sadler draws on his many years' experience to reveal the darker and lighter sides of policing and how the many changes have influenced the changes in uniform and equipment but also have impacted on the many TV programmes we watch.



Interest & Activity Groups

Details of all current interest groups can be found in the handbook or on the Dorking & District u3a website www.dorkingu3a.org.uk.

- ♦ Members may join as many groups as they wish. Just ring the contact number or send an email for further particulars (email addresses are given where the group leader has requested it).
- ♦ If you have difficulty in joining a group or have suggestions for new groups, please get in touch with Beryl Sinclair (01306 711542; dorkingu3achair@gmail.com).
- ♦ For general member enquiries contact **Members Contact** Hilda Burden on 01737 842516 or email hildaburden@gmail.com.

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BADMINTON (NEW)

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nibiupp@gmail.com

BOWLS – INDOOR GROUP (Oct – April)

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ann.watney@btinternet.com

BOWLS - OUTDOOR GROUP (May –Sept)

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BRIDGE

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WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

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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	Exercise for Health Badminton Military History Shakespeare & Contemporaries (online)	Exercise for Health Badminton Luncheon Club Scribblers	Exercise for Health Badminton Shakespeare & Contemporaries Words, Words, Words	Exercise for Health Badminton
	pm	Photography 1 Pilates 1 & 2 Quilting 2	Pilates 1 & 2 Photography 2 Quilting 2 Upwords	Philosophy Pilates 1 & 2 Quilting 2	Archaeology Pilates 1 & 2 Quilting 2 Upwords
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

met an Irish pilgrim travelling from Dublin to Rome and several walking from John O'Groats to Land's End. One man will remain forever in my memory. He walked slowly, leaning on a hand-made walking stick. He told me that he was recently diagnosed with MS and was walking from his home town of Chester to Land's End

on his last long walk. "I have to take it slowly," he said. "But I'll make it." I have no doubt that he did.

Photographs and text by Pat Smith

Editorial note: Pat Smith will be presenting 'My Adventurous Life' at our May 2023 monthly meeting.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE WALLFLOWERS GONE?



CORYDALIS

From April until mid-July, our local walls in Dorking were lavishly decorated with two plants bearing flowers which, though small, were bright and beautiful.

The one with the dense spikes of vivid yellow flowers is Corydalis (also called rock fumewort). Although native to the foothills of the Italian Alps, it seems to flourish on our brick walls, rooting in the sparse soil and mortar between the bricks. It

is tolerant to air pollution and to acid or alkaline conditions.

The other continental visitor that adorns our walls is the Ivy Leaved Toadflax. A member of the Figwort family, this is said to have been introduced to the UK in seeds from Italy with some marble statues, but it is now considered to be naturalised. Its attractive flowers, like miniature purple and yellow snapdragons are less than 1cm across and make it a popular resident. The leaves are said to be edible with a flavour similar to watercress. The Latin name *Cymbalaria* refers to the shape of the leaves which resemble cymbals. It has an ingenious system to colonise walls - when in bloom, the flower stalks bend towards the light but after flowering the seed heads bend the other way so that seeds tend to be shed into cracks in the wall.



IVY LEAVED TOADFLAX

However, the recent hot spell has accelerated the flowering, seeding and regrettably the desiccation and loss of both these 'glories of our local walls'. We can hope that they will reappear on our local streets early next year!

Robert Edmondson

PEAK DISTRICT SHORT TRIP

17 - 21 OCTOBER 2022



MONDAY: After three deferments, 26 travellers set off on a dank October morning with our very competent and pleasant driver, Gary, braving the M25 and M40 traffic to make a first lunch time stop at Charlecote Park, a National Trust property in Warwickshire. By now the sun was shining and an invigorating walk took us to the house, gardens and facilities. The house, built in the 1550s of warm red brick and Warwickshire stone, it was the home of the Lucy family and is full of surprising treasures, reflecting the tastes and fortunes of the Lucy family. The gardens, designed by Capability Brown, are a haven for Jacob Sheep and Fallow Deer that roam across the parkland. After lunch, continuing our journey north through the glorious country of the Peaks with its winding hilly roads, streams and woodlands, we arrived at the Leewood Hotel in Buxton in good time for a relaxing drink before an excellent dinner in their conservatory restaurant. Situated on the outskirts of the town with views

over the valley, it was a comfortable and well-situated stop for all our visits.

TUESDAY: we set off for **Bakewell**, home to the Pudding. We had now been joined by our Blue Badge Guide Sam, who took us on a short walking tour of the delightful town and some took time to sample the famed pudding. Sam was a mine of information throughout all our tour.

Our next visit was to **Chatsworth**, home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. Set in the heart of the Peak District National Park, it is one of Britain's best loved historic houses because of its treasures and beautiful gardens. Mary Queen of Scots was under house arrest here for 15 years and more recently, *Pride and Prejudice* was filmed here.

WEDNESDAY: we first went to **Renishaw**, a delightful house full of quirky artefacts that remind us that this was the home of Edith Sitwell and her family. Then we visited **Hardwick Hall**, an Elizabethan treasure house with the finest tapestries in Europe, and home of Bess of Hardwick, responsible for building it. Originally the daughter of a farmer, through four marriages Bess ended up in the court of Elizabeth I and lived at Chatsworth until she parted from her fourth husband.



THURSDAY: In between downpours, we had an interesting walking tour of **Buxton** before carrying on our coach journey to **Quarry Bank Cotton Mill** in Cheshire. The route took us over the High Peak, which would have been spectacular had it not been sheathed in low cloud. Apparently, it is normally like that!

A restored Georgian Cotton Mill, Quarry Bank tells the story of King Cotton from a bale of raw cotton to the finished cloth. History came alive with all the machinery and the volunteers who showed the workings to us the visitors. Children from 10 years old were employed and lived in the nearby Apprentice House. The work was hard but this Mill was one of

the better ones with a good owner. The noise and conditions must have been horrendous on a daily basis. We could not really see all the grounds because of the rain but it made for an interesting trip.

FRIDAY: departure day and still raining! Fortunately, we were on the coach with Gary doing all the driving in pretty unpleasant conditions. We lunched at **Upton House and Gardens**, home of Lord Bearsted with the finest Art collection in England, before completing our trip back to Dorking.

Ianthe Cox

Editorial Note: check out details of the spring short break to Suffolk on page 17.



EXERCISE AT ODDFELLOWS HALL



If you are keen on doing something a little different, u3a members are welcome to join in the Tai Chi and Zumba Gold sessions run on Friday mornings by Jo Thompson. Cost: Oddfellow members £4; guests £7. For more information contact Jo at www.lowimpactandseatedfitness.com.

We are also starting Badminton sessions on Tuesday mornings from 10am-12 noon. For more information contact Beryl Sinclair on 01306 711542 or Nicholas Jupp on 07881 587134 / email njbiupp@gmail.com.



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SE NETWORK STUDY DAY - INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The SE Network organises 8 study days a year at the Menuhin Hall in Stoke d'Abernon. Sadly, this year, they have been poorly attended but it is hoped that the new programme for 2023 will encourage greater participation. In November, Professors David Perrett and Martin Adams focused on the beginnings of industrial archaeology in the UK.



Industrial archaeology (IA) is the study of industrial heritage such as buildings, machinery and documentation associated with the manufacture, extraction and transport of a range of products. It covers a range of disciplines such as archaeology, architecture and technology that help to piece together the history of past industrial activities.

Michael Rix, extra mural tutor for Birmingham University, is credited with popularising the concept of industrial archaeology. He campaigned for the preservation of 18th and 19th century industrial sites.

Kenneth Hudson published a first book on industrial archaeology in 1963 by and this led to a worldwide interest in IA.

However, the Newcomen Society, founded in 1920 in Great Britain, was already promoting the study of the history of engineering and technology, including steam engines, canals, iron bridges, and other artifacts. Historian Sir Neil Cossons published a definitive book on Industrial Archaeology in 1969 and became the first Director of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust in 1971.

But it's the campaign to preserve the Euston Arch that really promoted public interest in industrial archaeology as a distinct discipline. Built in 1837 in the Doric style, the Euston Arch, was the original entrance to Euston station; when Euston station was rebuilt in the 1960s, the arch's imminent demolition sparked widespread protest by such prominent people as Sir John Betjeman, Sir Arthur Elton and Nikolaus Pevsner. Only the ornamental iron gates from the arch were saved and are now in the National Railway Museum in York; in 1994, some of the columns were recovered from the Prescott Channel where they had been thrown to block up a leak.



Britain may have led the industrial revolution but it has been slow to recognise the importance of its industrial heritage. Even organisations like the National Trust have not known how to preserve industrial sites; for example, at

Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, it scrapped most of the original devices and then had to buy back equipment from other mills in order to restore the mill to working order. However, many preserved industrial sites have become a vital part of heritage tourism, including the World Heritage List such sites as Ironbridge Gorge (1986), New Lanark (2001), the Forth Bridge (2015) and more recently the Welsh Slate Landscape (2022).

Beryl Sinclair

(photographs by Paul Smith & Beryl Sinclair)

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP 1

Visitors to Southwater Country Park on 6 September were surprised to come across so many photographers on a quiet afternoon. The snappers were actually members of our u3a Photography 1 group seeking out the best ways to interpret a series of objectives set by group member Angela Rixon, a widely published professional photographer.

The challenge was to submit six images from a list of 10 categories such as 'Shades of Green', 'Looking Up' and 'Wild and Free' to be judged anonymously by Angela and her photographer husband Peter Crook.

In an entertaining session at the group's December meeting, the photos were shown and the winners revealed. The results were close, with only five points out of 60 separating all the entries, and Angela's comments were unfailingly positive about all the images.

Paul Smith won first prize with a consistently excellent set of pictures, including one of a moorhen, which scored a perfect 10 in the 'In Silhouette' category (see above).

Mike Docker



PHOTO MEET WINNERS (FROM LEFT): JOHN SINCLAIR, BERYL SINCLAIR, TONY PERNET, FAITH DOCKER, PAUL SMITH, MIKE DOCKER AND ROBERT EDMONDSON

READING FOR PLEASURE OR CENSURE?

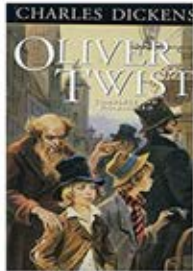
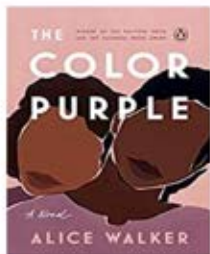
Working one day a week at Dorking Library since the summer has been a steep learning curve not least because of the IT systems I'm having to master. When Library assistant Jo suggested a banned books quiz for our newsletter, I was intrigued particularly since some of the well known and loved books are on still the list as 'corrupting minds' even today.

The recent screening of Dr Zhivago, an all-time classic, highlighted the fact that after taking nine years to write the book, Pasternak was unable to publish in Russia not because it celebrated individual worth and fortitude but because it failed to glorify the Revolution. Pasternak was awarded the Nobel prize in literature in 1958

after the book had been published in Italy but was forced to refuse the honour and he died a broken man. The CIA, seeing the "great propaganda value" of Doctor Zhivago, secretly printed a small number of copies in Russian and the novel has been part of the Russian school curriculum since 2003.

Book banning encompasses a wide range of books from popular fiction (Peter Benchley, Sidney Sheldon, Jodi Picoult) to established classics, even children's classics that we take for granted. So can you say why the following have been banned in countries all over the world? The answers are on page 20 and are really surprising.

Beryl Sinclair



SPRING SHORT BREAK

The Delights of the Historic Houses & Heritage of Suffolk Spring 2023 (departs 11 May)

Five days - 4 nights half board from £599 at the 3* Holiday Inn Ipswich Orwell Hotel
For more information and to book

phone Ianthe Cox on 01737 843105 or email ianthecox72@gmail.com

DAY 1: En route to Suffolk and to our hotel, we visit the English Heritage's **Paycocke's House and Gardens** near Colchester, a Tudor merchant's house with elaborate panelled rooms and an Arts and Crafts-style cottage garden restored by volunteers.

DAY 2: We start the day with a guided tour of **Bury St Edmunds** and a visit of **St Edmundsbury Cathedral**, a place of worship for nearly 1,000 years. We next visit **Ickworth House (NT)**, located in 70 acres of stunning gardens and 1,800 acres of idyllic Capability Brown parkland. Ickworth is home to a fine collection of Old Masters, silver and Regency furniture. We then make a short stop in **Lavenham**, one of England's finest



medieval villages with a superb 15th century church and the early 16th century timbered framed Guildhall. In the medieval period it was among the twenty wealthiest settlements in England.

DAY 3: a morning visit of the **Sutton Hoo (NT)**, an Anglo-Saxon royal burial site will be followed after lunch with a tour of the picturesque 16th century fishing village of **Aldeburgh** with our Blue



Badge guide and the nearby **Snape Maltings**, one of the largest barley maltings built in East Anglia in the mid-19th century.



DAY 4: Explore **Constable Country**, on the Suffolk and Essex border - our day's visit will include a guided tour of **East Bergholt** and John Constable's Studio; St Mary's Church, built in the 15th and 16th centuries and **Bridge Cottage** at

Flatford (NT) which houses an exhibition on John Constable, several of whose paintings famously feature this property. Finally, we visit **Dedham**, where Constable went to school.

After lunch, we enjoy an included scenic two-hour **cruise along the River Deben**, one of the most beautiful and scenic spots on the East Coast.

DAY 5: The journey home includes a visit of the **Beth Chatto Gardens**, transformed in 1960 from an overgrown wasteland into an informal garden harmonising with the surrounding countryside.

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 have resumed at the Menuhin Hall, places are available in the hall or online and booking is open now.

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.

17 FEBRUARY 2023 - AMELIA EDWARDS - THE GREAT FORGOTTEN VICTORIAN EGYPTOLOGIST

Speaker Clive Barham Carter, lecturer with the Arts Society returns to present the life and times of English novelist cum Egyptologist Amelia Edwards who recorded her journey from Cairo to Abu Simbel in '*A Thousand Miles up the Nile*' published in 1877.

17 MARCH 2023 - A STUDY DAY ON POETRY

A day of poetry and entertainment presented by three renowned poets: Steven Fowler, founder of the European Poetry Festival; James Haddow, the Taxi Driver Poet & Roger McGough, host of *Poetry Please* on Radio 4.

21 APRIL 2023 - THE STORY OF POLAR EXPLORATION & ARCTIC FRONTIERS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE, speakers John Ash & Robert Headland, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge

19 MAY 2023 - THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

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 how the Bible text 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.

17 NOVEMBER 2023 - REMBRANDT - FROM FAME TO POVERTY & FINAL ACCLAIM, speaker Colin Wiggins explores the artist's remarkable life and artistic output and examines his enduring fame as well as he has influenced modern artists such as Francis Bacon and Lucien Freud.

Calendar of Events January - December 2023

January	11	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Secrets, Sex, Scandal and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court 1660 - 1830, speaker Sarah Slater
February	8	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Insects, Orchids and other Plants of our Local North Downs, speaker Robert Edmondson
	17	<i>Study Day</i>	Amelia Edwards - The Great Forgotten Victorian Egyptologist, speaker Clive Barham Carter
	22	<i>Day Out</i>	Chatham Historic Dockyard
March	8	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies, speaker Martin Lloyd
	17	<i>Study Day</i>	A Poetry Study Day, with Steven Fowler, James Haddow & Roger McGough
	21	<i>Quiz Night</i>	Quiz Night
April	12	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	A Policeman's Lot, speaker Neil Sadler
	21	<i>Study Day</i>	The Story of Polar Exploration & Arctic Frontiers in a Changing Climate, speakers John Ash & Robert Headland
May	10	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	My Adventurous Life, speaker Pat Smith
	19	<i>Study Day</i>	The Dead Sea Scrolls, speaker Professor Hugh Williamson
June	14	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	The Heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan, speaker Bernard Lockett
	16	<i>Study Day</i>	The Vikings & Their Influence in the World, speaker Imogen Corrigan
July	12	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	RNLI - It's Not All at Sea, speaker Colin Brown
September	13	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Water Aid, speaker Nigel Barraclough
October	11	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Seaside Piers of the British Isles, speaker Graeme Payne
November	17	<i>Study Day</i>	Rembrandt - from Fame to Poverty & Final Acclaim, speaker Colin Wiggins

Dorking & District u3a publishes its **Newsletter** four times a year in March/April (Spring), June/July (Summer), September/October (Autumn) and December/January (Winter). **ARTICLES AND PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR BY END FEBRUARY 2023.**

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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ANSWERS TO THE CROSSWORD ON PAGE 7

ACROSS: 5. jewellery; 7. suit; 8. thief; 11. hair; 13. mate; 14. curry; 15. flares; 16. married. **DOWN:** 1. sister; 2. phone; 3. hide; 4. pony; 6. lies; 9. hat; 10. facts; 12. trick.

ANSWERS TO BANNED BOOKS QUIZ ON PAGE 16

Charlotte's Web by E B White (1952): due to themes of death and the fact that the main characters are talking animals, a parent group in Kansas sought to ban the book from their students' school libraries.

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell (1877): South Africa's apartheid regime banned the book because it had the words "black" and "beauty" in the title.

The Colour Purple by Alice Walker (1982): banned for its sexual and social explicitness covering incest and violence.

Animal Farm by George Orwell (1945): Banned for representing the rise of Communism in the Soviet Union and imagery they felt was "against Islamic values."

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens (1837-9) was banned in Nazi Germany for featuring Jewish characters.

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank (1947): raised concerns in the US for its explicit sexual passages.

DORKING U3A PEAK DISTRICT RESIDENTIAL
OCTOBER 2022
(photographs Paul Smith)



RENISHAW HALL TOUR



A WELL-DESERVED DINNER AT THE HOTEL



BUXTON GEORGIAN CRESCENT



HARDWICKE HALL LONG GALLERY



QUARRY BANK - THE SCHOOL ROOM



UPTON HOUSE - THE DINING ROOM

D&D U3A PHOTO GROUP 1
PHOTO ENTRIES AT SOUTHWATER COUNTRY PARK



WILD AND FREE - MIKE DOCKER



LOOKING THROUGH - PAUL SMITH



SILHOUETTE - ROBERT EDMONDSON



LOOKING UP - CHRISTOPHER PROUT



LOOKING THROUGH - FAITH DOCKER



LOOKING UP - TONY PERNET
