



u3a

Dorking & District



Newsletter Summer 2023

D&D U3A HISTORIC HOUSES & HERITAGE OF SUFFOLK
MAY 2023
(photographs Paul Smith)



EDMUND, KING OF EAST ANGLIA



AT THE SUTTON HOO MUSEUM



CRUISE ON RIVER DEBEN



TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS, LAVENHAM

HELLO



LIVE IN SURREY
AND BE HAPPY!

I will admit – I struggle every time to produce a newsletter which I hope will be both informative and interesting. Most writers and editors probably get what we call the 'blank page' syndrome. I needn't have worried – as usual the Creative Writing members came to my rescue, producing a wonderful poem and short story which I hope will entertain. And as always both Paul Smith and Robert Edmondson deliver interesting articles and photos that lift the cover from the mundane to the extraordinary. Of course, thank you to members who

sent in group news and pictures, showing that Dorking u3a is still delivering a wide programme of activities.

In this issue, a diarised account from Ianthe Cox on the successful Suffolk trip in the spring. Much planning goes into the residential trips and days out - to ensure that these continue please support them.



The June Study Day at the Menuhin Hall on the Vikings was the best attended yet since study days resumed in 2022. The autumn lectures should appeal to a wide audience dealing as they do with science, music and art.

Finally, thank you to u3a members and friends who supported Phyllis O'Shea's fundraising event in aid of the Dorking Food Bank. People who bought her paintings raised in excess of £1460 all of which will go to purchasing food.

Wishing you a restful summer .

Beryl

WELCOME!

A warm welcome to the following new members, who have joined since Spring 2023.

Patsy Allen

Anne Baxter

Jean Bennett

Max Collins

Margaret Davies

Sue Elridge

Angela England

James Jones

Chris Kohler

Kathy Miller

Theresa Penman

Beverley Porter

June Sage

Denise Sherborne

Beverley Sinden

Denise Smith

Helen Westrop

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

We sent out invitations to renew memberships on 6 March 2023 for the year starting on 1st April. However, a number of members have not yet renewed, so we would be very grateful if you could please send your payment as soon as possible. Subscription rates remain unchanged at £16 for individual or £28 for joint membership for two people at the same address.

There are three methods by which you can pay your subscription - by Bank Transfer, by one-off Direct Debit (via GoCardless) through our website or By cheque. Please note that if you paid by Direct Debit last year you will need to repeat the process for this renewal. We use a **one-off** type of DD, which is not the popular recurring type of DD. Full payment details are in the email of 6 March but please contact me if you have queries. Thank you.

*John Sinclair,
Membership Secretary*

We **WELCOME** poems, articles, photos and group information for the **WINTER NEWSLETTER** to reach the Editor by **END OCTOBER 2023**. Please ensure articles are no more than **300 - 400 words** and typed in Word or in the body of an email. Without contributions the Newsletter will not survive. **Thank you.**

DORKING & DISTRICT U3A CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT

Looking back at 2022-23

This year has been about re-energising groups and rolling out regular days out and events.

Membership numbers remain constant at around 600 members annually. We hope to roll out meetings for new members so that they can meet group leaders and suggest ideas for new groups and events.

Events, Days Out and Residentials

A growing number of people are enjoying the days out organised by Deanne Rhodes, Sally Connett and Jackie Rance.

The spring Suffolk residential organised by Ianthe Cox was much appreciated despite some damp weather. The Northumberland trip promises to be even better with some interesting and unusual visits planned.

We've had some epic successes with the autumn barn dance and the spring quiz night. This year's summer picnic was also fully booked within two weeks of being posted online.

Interest Groups

Although a third of members don't appear to join any group, those who attend groups engage in outings and public performances for all to enjoy.

Despite not having a Group Coordinator in post, we have tried to work closely with community venues to host new activities such as Badminton at Oddfellows Hall, under the leadership of Nick Jupp, and two reading circles based at the Dorking Library. We would welcome more

ideas and support for interest groups to attract new members.

Although finances are healthy, to help with new group start-up costs and events, we are introducing a small charge for associate members from this year.

Monthly meetings / Study Days

Monthly meetings co-ordinated by Linda Wilmott will continue to be held at St Joseph's. The SE Network Study Days are also attracting large audiences to their excellent programme of lectures. Full details of all meetings and events are regularly updated by Mike Docker on the website.

Planning for the future

We are committed to keeping up the momentum with regular member meetings at St Joseph's which offers facilities for parking, refreshments and above all good IT links enabling us to record meetings for those who are unable to attend in person. This year we need to plan for the future to ensure that Dorking & District u3a does not fold as some members of the committee and the executive officers will stand down next year.

Without active support and new committee members, the Committee will need to reconsider what is on offer to members. We should **ALL** remember **the self-help principles** of the u3a movement and be more actively involved if we are to keep Dorking u3a alive.

Beryl Sinclair, June 2023

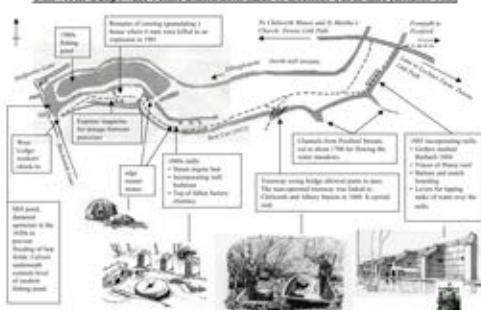
ARCHAEOLOGY - FORGOTTEN POWDER MILLS OF SURREY

On one of the only sunny days in April, six members of the archaeology group visited Chilworth Gunpowder Mills (see cover photo). These were first set up by the East India company in 1626 to supply their forces abroad and were one of the earliest examples of such a mill. By the mid-1600s, they had become the sole legal producer of gunpowder to the king. Different phases followed until the early 20th century when they were used by the Admiralty in the first World War. At the end of the war, many structures were demolished and the works finally closed in 1920. However more than 100 structures still remain, most of which date to the late 19th century. After a picnic lunch (see cover photo), we set off using the excellent trail guide produced by Guildford Borough Council. We saw a large number of structures including a wharf where punts would have been moored by the River Tillingbourne to take materials to Dapdune Wharf, Guildford and the steam incorporating mills where 2 bed stones, the boiler house chimney and a steam engine bed remain. The chimney had a 'spark scrubber' to stop flyaway sparks and worn millstones were turned on their side and covered in earth to provide protection from accidental blasts. We also saw the mixing house where the saltpetre, charcoal and sulphur were mixed to make the charge for the incorporating mills and the 'corning house' where the pressed powder was broken up and sorted into grain sizes. However, an explosion caused by a hobnail boot killed 6 men.

We spent a fair amount of walking around the site and after an interesting and informative day, most of us caught the bus back to Dorking.

Peter Horitz

Chilworth Gunpowder Mills: Blacksmith Lane to Lockner Farm lane (distance 1km)



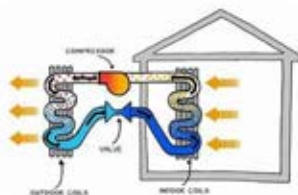
GENEALOGY

We are sorry to pass on the news that our leader, Christine Holloway, passed away peacefully early in April. She has led our group most capably for several years, and we want to continue in her memory.

Sally Hulbert (07770 874769) hulberts_molev@yahoo.co.uk has taken up the reins. We will in future be meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm, at the Lincoln Arms.. We are a small group, and some of us have been researching our family tree for some years as there are surprises round every corner, and more information is available online almost daily. We encourage each other, and share suggestions on types of research. Whether our ancestors were royal, or (far more likely) "ag labs" agricultural labourers, the research is both fun and fascinating.

Sally Hulbert

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



In the Science and Technology Group we have had several talks about renewable energy and the problem of global warming. All these discussions have been rather remote in that we have been focusing on what the global problems are and what Governments are doing to solve them.

Recently we thought that we would focus nearer to home, in our own back garden so to speak!

The Government wants all future boilers to be heat pumps thereby getting rid of gas or oil for home heating, although electricity will still be needed. One of our members has just installed a heat pump and solar system. Luckily the house he installed it in had never had central heating so all the new kit could be installed without tying into an existing system, that would be difficult to measure when trying to work out the efficiencies and cost of the new system.

Our group will be looking over the installation, checking out its efficiency, reviewing how much it cost and how much inconvenience one has to put up with to get one designed, installed and what it costs to run and maintain. It promises to be an interesting case history with I hope some **actual** CAPEX and OPEX costs and not just estimates.

Our group is a small and friendly one, focusing on real everyday issues. We welcome more members so please get in touch with me on richrumble747@gmail.com.

Richard Rumble

GUITAR / MUSIC FOR PLEASURE



The current guitar group has become so successful that it now can't provide an activity to interest all of its members at the same time. We currently have 11 guitar players, and to have 11 guitars all playing at the same time is not what some of the members want. The four members who play electric guitar want to play more 'heavy rock' type of music,

whilst those who play the acoustic guitar want to play more contemporary music.

We will therefore form a new group called **Music for Pleasure** for anyone who plays electric guitar and/or an Instrument not covered by a u3a group (i.e. drums; keyboard; string instrument; wind instrument etc.). The electric guitars will form the basis of this new group. The group will meet at the Harvest Church on Goodwyns Estate every Thursday morning 10am-12noon. This group will be run by **Jeff Smith**.

The present **Guitar Group** will continue in its usual format and will meet at St John's Church, North Holmwood every Thursday morning 10am-12noon with me as Leader.

Brian Joannou

PLANT LOVERS IN FULL BLOOM (see cover photograph)



Our friendly group usually meets in each other's houses to discuss our successes and failures and have a look around our gardens. This helps us all to hopefully improve our gardening skills.

However, last March we decided to have a trip out to Polesden Lacy. We enjoyed walking around the gardens admiring the spring flowers. We then decided it would be nice to return when the rose garden would be in full bloom. So six of our group met there in June and had a lovely morning walking around and admiring the roses. The weather was kind to us as it was not too hot. The roses were beautiful with such a lot of different varieties and colours.

I'm sure we will be returning perhaps in a few months to see the changing seasons.

Cathy Guy

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP GROUP (NEW GROUP)

The Photography 2 group has seen a decline in members attending in recent months. At the last meeting the remaining members decided that we would start a new Photography Workshop group which aims to help others gain a better understanding of how digital cameras work by exploring camera settings.

We will also look at some techniques to help members copy the photos on their cameras, phones and tablets to other devices. Our meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday afternoons at The Lincoln Arms. Our first meeting will be on 20 July, starting at 2pm - we look forward to welcoming you. Contact John Sinclair on 01306 711542 for more details.



John Sinclair

BUS PASS TRAVEL GROUP (NEW GROUP)



A new group, the Bus Pass Travel Group, has been proposed for members with a bus pass, meeting approximately once a month and using one of the bus services that stop in Dorking High Street and travelling to a village, town or city for coffee or lunch or a place of interest. Most of the buses also stop at or near Dorking station and on the occasions that we use, for example, the 32 bus any members could board in Westcott or members in Holmwood could board the 93 bus there. We would try to vary the day, the bus route we use and where we go.

If you are interested in giving the Bus Pass Travel Group a try, please email Christine Baron at chrisbaron6170@gmail.com.

DORKING READERS (NEW GROUP)

We all love to read and Dorking Library makes an excellent venue for two reading groups that have recently formed, meeting on different days. Our first book **A MAN CALLED OVE** by Frederik Backman wasn't necessarily well received by all members but it gave us an opportunity to reflect on current issues such as community support, loss and discrimination in all its guises. Written in the form of a diarised narrative and in the third person, Backman's incisive descriptions may strike some as stereotyped but are at times funny, sad but never dull.

We have a long list of proposed titles which will no doubt keep us occupied well into the new year.

Beryl Sinclair

MILITARY HISTORY - BURMA, THE FORGOTTEN WAR



On 6 June, to commemorate D-Day, some 110 members and guests of the Military History group came together to listen to historian and author of '*A War of Empires*', Robert Lyman talk about 'Burma, the Forgotten War'.

The Burma Campaign was the longest land campaign in UK history (December 1941 to August 1945). Having invaded Indochina, the Japanese went on to invade Hong Kong, Malaya and Singapore and then attacked the Pearl Harbour on 7th December 1941, finally declaring war on Britain and the United States. The British position quickly deteriorated and by March 1942, the Burmese capital Rangoon and its vital port had been lost.

The main reason for the Japanese invasion of Burma was to cut overland access to China from Burma via the Burma Road and

deprive the Chinese armies of military aid from Rangoon, enabling the Japanese to conquer all China.

When Field Marshal William Slim was promoted to command Burma Corps in March 1942, he understood the importance of jungle warfare training and the need to improvise in a hostile territory. In a jungle rich with teak trees his army felled enough to construct 550 boats, strong enough to carry tanks, plus two gunboats. To appreciate the scale of the task, Robert referred to '*the tyranny of distance*'. The distance from Calcutta to Rangoon was 1,800 miles, (the same as from London to Moscow).

After months of stalemate, the Japanese resolved to end the campaign with an assault into Assam, in north-east India, aimed at capturing the key towns of Imphal and Kohima. For the first time the defenders stood firm, confident in their air support. Between March and July 1944 battles raged on both fronts. Although outnumbered, the Japanese fought with courage, their army philosophy being that it was an honour to die for the emperor. The Japanese withdrew from the hills and back across the River Chindwin, harassed by Wingate's Chindits.

The Allies' logistical and communications superiority allowed quick deployment of reinforcements

and equipment. During the battle, the RAF continually re-supplied the garrisons and Slim was able co-opt Indian volunteers, Gurkha battalions, Burmese and Indian Nagaland Hill Tribes, Hindus and Sikhs to cut off the Japanese advances.

After the failure by the Imperial Japanese Army of the Imphal offensive in May 1944, their field commander Mutaguchi refused to allow his divisional commanders to retreat, and instead dismissed all three of them. He eventually called off the attack on 3 July. Some 55,000 of Mutaguchi's 85,000-man force either died from starvation or disease. Imphal-Kohima was one of the biggest defeats the Japanese Army ever suffered. The Kohima War Cemetery lies on the slopes of Garrison Hill and also contains the

British 2nd Division's memorial. The inscription on the latter has become famous as the 'Kohima Epitaph':

*'When You Go Home, Tell Them
of Us and Say, For Your Tomorrow,
We Gave Our Today.'*

Paul Smith



SUMMER SOLSTICE PICNIC AT BUCKLAND PARK LAKE

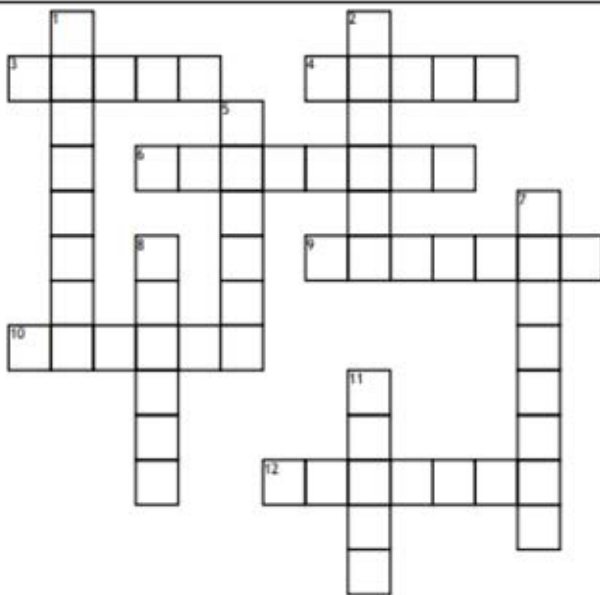
It was our best event so far with 112 people meeting up for a Pimms & Cake themed picnic at Buckland Park Lake. The sun was hot but sheltered beneath the trees, our members were able to catch up on news, share a laugh and above all be entertained by the Guitar and Ukelele groups.

Staff at Buckland Park Lake helped to make a success of the day by providing a shuttlebus and staff to help serving drinks and cake. Our next picnic is booked for 19 June 2024. Thank you to all who came and to the Events Team.



SUMMER QUIZ - QUOTING SHAKESPEARE!

Yet again, the Words, Words, Words group came up with an interesting quiz. Although Shakespeare lived 400 years ago, his language is so ingrained in our everyday speech we're often quoting him without realising it. Complete the quotes to complete the crossword. *Answers on page 22.*



Across

3. Aof strength
(Richard III, Act 5 Scene 3)

4. Neither nor
reason (The Comedy of
Errors, Act 2 Scene 2)

6. Aidiot (The
Merchant of Venice, Act
2 Scene 9)

9. stuff (Julius
Caesar, Act 3 Scene 2)

10. into thin air
(The Tempest, Act 4
Scene 1):

12. The make the
man (Hamlet, Act 1
Scene 3)

Down

1. conclusion
(Othello, Act 3 Scene 3)

2. Short (Richard
III, Act 3 Scene 4)

5. Something this
way comes (Macbeth, Act
4 Scene 1)

7. is the
green-eyed monster
(Othello, Act 3 Scene 3)

8. Who would be a
..... ! (Othello, Act 1
Scene 1)

11. Wild-..... chase
(Romeo and Juliet, Act 2
Scene 4)

THE HERITAGE OF GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

BERNARD LOCKETT – 14 JUNE 2023



After the AGM Bernard Lockett presented his talk on 'The Heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan'. Trustee

of the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival, held annually in Harrogate, he explained how the partnership developed. W S Gilbert, from a wealthy family, had become a barrister in Lincoln's Inn in London but he was dismayed by the injustices and inequalities of Victorian society. Rich criminals could avoid punishment and only 5% of the population benefited from the industrial revolution. He left the Chambers to become a prolific writer of poems (the Bab Ballads), plays and essays. As a member of the Garrick Club he discussed society's inequalities with Charles Dickens.

Arthur Sullivan came from a poorer family but he obtained a music scholarship which enabled him to study composition and classical music in Leipzig where he was persuaded by Rossini to write music for the theatre. Gilbert, as a theatre critic, saw *Cox and Box* with music by Sullivan and suggested a partnership, producing a piece called *Thespis*

which was not a success. The pair separated, during which time Sullivan wrote *Onward Christian Soldiers* and other hymns. However they were brought together again by D'Oyly Carte who wanted new material for his opera company. They produced *Trial by Jury*, the first of 14 successful shows in their 25-year partnership, still a record.



Bernard discussed the unique features of the shows and their relevance to the social and political issues of the late Victorian era (and today!). The brilliant music by Sullivan softened the satire and made it acceptable to the authorities. They were never sued or officially criticised. For each show Gilbert would write all the dialogue and lyrics after which

Sullivan would write the music. For the first time the audience came to the same show from all classes and walks of life. Bernstein, Sondheim, Lloyd Webber and Richard Rodgers have all acknowledged their influence.

In Princess Ida we have references to women's education and the possibility of University and Votes for Women (in the 1880s!). The incompetence of the police in The Pirates of Penzance probably led to the reorganisation of the Police a few years later. In HMS Pinafore there is an obvious reference to W.H. Smith who became Lord of the Admiralty without any knowledge of ships or seamanship. *Utopia Ltd* is not often performed because of the large number of principals required. As well

as a satirical comment on the Two Party system, it illustrates the unfair nature of the bankruptcy laws with regard to employees and creditors.

Gilbert and Sullivan shows, with the words of paramount importance, are popular throughout the world with companies in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA and even in foreign language countries such as Germany and Latvia. Universities use them to stimulate discussion about politics and society. Modern theatre productions may have more movement and choreography but the words and music stay the same with the exception of Coco's song '*I have a little list of society offenders who never will be missed*' from The Mikado.

Robert Edmondson

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE WITH ROBERT EDMONDSON

Large displays of English bluebells may be seen locally in late April/early May giving attractive views *en masse* or close up with their delicate structure, curved stems with nodding flowers, creamy stamens and curled edge to the petals. (See back cover photos)

In early summer they provide rich nectar sources for a variety of insects, including butterflies and red mason bees. Spiders may wait on the flowers for an unwary insect. The Green Hairstreak butterfly is shown '*robbing*' the plant by taking the nectar through a hole, made by a previous visitor, in the tube of the flower. This does not contribute to pollination.

A problem is caused by the closely related non-native Spanish bluebell which was introduced into UK gardens in the seventeenth century. This vigorous alien has flowers all round the stem, is pale rather than deep blue, the petals do not curl back and the stamens are blue. Unlike our native plant it has little or no scent and it has wider leaves. Unfortunately it hybridises with our native species and many intermediates are produced and the creamy coloured stamens may occur on hybrids.

Monthly Meetings

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

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).

13 September 2023

WATER AID

Nearly 1 in 10 people worldwide live without clean water. The majority live in isolated areas and spend hours each day walking to collect water for their family. And the water often carries diseases that make everyone sick. Speaker NIGEL

BARRACLOUGH describes the work being done by Water Aid to bring clean water to drink and good hygiene to break the cycle of poverty.



11 October 2023

BRITAIN'S SEASIDE PIERS

British seaside piers are a reminder of the achievements of Victorian engineers. At the turn of the last century, there were almost a hundred piers: now only half remain and face an uncertain future. Speaker and writer GRAEME PAYNE provides an entertaining tour of these magnificent but sometimes neglected seaside features that draw millions of visitors each year.



8 November 2023

SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT



Following his entertaining talk *A Christmas Cracker* last December, JONATHAN JONES returns to tell of his time as Farnham's official town crier from 2003 to 2019.

Going as far back as William the Conqueror, town criers have fulfilled an essential role in keeping an illiterate population abreast of news.

13 DECEMBER 2023

AN ANTARCTIC ODYSSEY



From an early age, DUNCAN LAVIN dreamt of visiting Antarctica. In 2017 he cruised from Buenos Aires to Antarctica via Tierra del Fuego and onwards to Elephant Island, the Falklands, Punta Tombo Nature Reserve in Argentina and Montevideo. Accompanied by stunning photography, his talk charts his voyage and the history of polar exploration.

Interest & Activity Groups

Details of 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 contact Beryl Sinclair (01306 711542; dorkingu3achair@gmail.com) or John Sinclair, **Membership Secretary**, email johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk.

ARCHAEOLOGY

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Beryl Sinclair: 01306 711542
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BADMINTON

Nicholas Jupp: 07881 587134
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BOWLS – INDOOR GROUP (Oct – April)

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BOWLS - OUTDOOR GROUP (May –Sept)

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WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

Rosemary Harbridge: 01306 881520
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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 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 Quilting 2 Upwords	Philosophy Pilates 1 & 2 Quilting 2	Archaeology Pilates 1 & 2 Quilting 2 Upwords
Wednesday	am	Current Issues	French Lunch Science & Technology	Local History	
	pm	Card Games Plus DIY Dressmaking Genealogy Philosophy (online)	MONTHLY MEETING	Card Games Plus Philosophy (online)	Art & Architecture
Thursday	am	Guitar Music for Pleasure	Guitar Music for Pleasure	Guitar Music for Pleasure	Guitar Music for Pleasure
	pm	French Conversation 1	Spanish (Improvers)	French Conversation 1 DIY Dressmaking Photography Workshops	Dorking Readers 1 Spanish (Improvers)
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)	Dorking Readers 2 Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept) Portfolio Management

CREATIVE WRITING - THE WINDFALL

Gerry Flynn stared morosely into his tea mug as he pondered the dismal state of his finances. Two weeks to go until pay-day and he had just £119 pounds to his name and the flat rental due in two days. He flicked through the paper, anything to take his mind off this parlous state of affairs. Glancing at his horoscope he noted that today was to be a memorable day. He read on with interest that he was to be the recipient of a windfall but would '*need to take things into his own hands*'. Thinking this through, Gerry donned coat and shoes and, with some haste, left the flat and headed out into the wind and rain in the direction of the newsagent.

For the cost of £20, he purchased ten scratch-cards, and hurried outside to the bus shelter across the road, where he took a coin from his pocket, reverently rubbed it, kissed it for luck and then set about discovering what fortune he was to come into. For his £20 pound investment the return was poor, at just £2.50, but Gerry was not disheartened for he would take things into his own hands, as the horoscope had suggested.

Next stop was the bookies where he bet £20 each way on 'Lucky Jim' for although the odds were poor, surely the name was an indication of a safe return on his investment. Gerry stared at the screen as he watched Lucky Jim limp home, riderless, pausing to snatch at some hapless race-goer's hat.



However, Gerry remained undeterred and, leaving the bookies, made his way through the park to The Ace of Spades public house, where he purchased a half of Guinness and £20 in change and walked determinedly to the fruit machine. Loading coins into the slot, he pulled the handle and watched as the reels spun, all flashing lights and dinging electronic bells. At one point, he regained his £20 stake but, taking this as a good omen, he reinvested and was soon left £20 lighter, clutching an empty beer glass.



By now Gerry was starting to wonder what else he could do to take things into his own hands and secure his windfall. And then providence struck as the O'Donnell boys entered the pub and invited Gerry into the back room for a game of poker; and that had to be lucky as

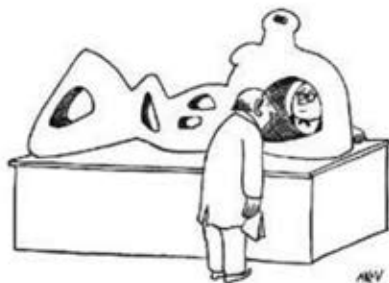
Gerry was rarely included in their games. Pints were pulled and consumed, hands were dealt and Gerry betted generously with his remaining rent money, with the opening few hands falling in his favour. He was up by £50 when lady luck turned her smile upon another at the table. Not long after, Gerry placed his last fiver down, sent up a silent prayer, watched the turn of the final card, and then it was all over. He was cleaned out and, with no windfall forthcoming and no rent money, quite understandably felt deceived by that morning's horoscope.

To make matters worse, as Gerry stumbled from the pub he realised he was rather drunk, having had several pints, with nothing to eat since the day before. The rain now lashed down and the wind howled and Gerry's thin coat proved of little use against the elements. He entered the park, where he decided to take shelter under one of the broad oak trees, hoping the worst of the storm would soon pass. The last thing he heard was a loud crack and a bang as the branch fell clean on his head. Now that, indeed, was a windfall.

Gill Rowe



RECUMBENT FIGURE



C'mon love it'll pass the day,
into this Gallery out of the rain.
We'll wander around,
not have to pay.
Then back to the Flea market
again.
'Recumbent Figure' it says 'ere,

but it's got no shape
and it's got no ears;
there's a great big 'ole
where the stomach should be.
And instead of an arm
it looks like a knee.
I suppose 'e knows
what e's trying to say,
but I think I could look
at this thing all day,
and not get the message
the sculptor is sendin.
If you ask me love,
'e wants 'is 'ead mendin!
(Apologies to Henry Moore)

Rosemary Dudley

THE VIKINGS ARE COMING!

In June, the SE Network Study Day guest speaker was Imogen Corrigan, who earlier that week had done a presentation on the Sutton Hoo burial to the Dorking Arts Society.

She started by describing how the Vikings came to gain their reputation as ferocious fighting men. There are few contemporary writings about them and what exists tends to be often hysterical accounts erroneously describing the Vikings as uncouth savages sporting horned helmets. Most Vikings were farmers, fishermen, shipbuilders and traders and archaeological finds and historical sources reveal a complex, sophisticated civilisation with laws, intricate art and architecture.

For most of the period they followed the Old Norse religion based on a hierarchy of gods and a belief in ancestors; but they later married into the tribes they conquered to become Christians.

The burial practices of the Vikings were varied, from dug graves in the ground, to tumuli, sometimes including so-called ship burials.

Vikings spoke Old Norse and made inscriptions in runes; many English words have a scandinavian origin such as ombudsman meaning 'royal servant'.

Originally seafaring people from Scandinavia, from the late 8th to the

late 11th centuries they raided, traded and settled throughout parts of Europe, going as far as North Africa and North America.

The story of the Rus is even more dramatic and savage than that of their Scandinavian cousins - they had bizarre funeral rites, immense courage in battle, but utter disregard for human life.

Better known as the Vikings who gave their name to Russia and mainly originating from Sweden, they rampaged eastwards through the lands that stretch from the northern coast down to Novgorod and Kiev towards the ultimate trading prize, Constantinople. It was through them that Christianity found its way to Russia and that the icon as an art form travelled from Constantinople to Novgorod.

The study day finally focused on Viking women. Far from being warring 'Valkyries' as suggested by legend, they were nonetheless strong minded and probably freer than English women, ensuring that homesteads were well managed in the absence of their warrior husbands.

Queen Emma of Normandy, although a Norman-born noblewoman became the English, Danish, and Norwegian queen through her marriages to the Anglo-Saxon king Æthelred the Unready and the Danish

king Cnut the Great. As Cnut's wife, she was Queen of England from their marriage in 1017, Queen of Denmark from 1018, and Queen of Norway from 1028 until Cnut died in 1035. After his death, Emma continued to participate in politics during the reigns of her sons Edward the Confessor and Harthacnut. She is the central figure in the *Encomium Emmae*

Reginae, a critical source for the history of early 11th century English politics and one of the most influential early medieval queens.



READING'S BAYEUX TAPESTRY



In May the Days Out team took us to Reading Museum, home to the Bayeux Tapestry replica.

The original Tapestry displayed in the Bayeux Museum, tells the story of William the Conqueror's invasion of England and his accession to the throne having killed the last Anglo-Saxon king of England, Harold Godwinson,

Thought to have been commissioned by William's half-brother, Bishop Odo of Bayeux, the 70-metre-long embroidery was probably stitched by English nuns in Canterbury in the 1070s. Of the many

replicas in existence, the Reading tapestry is the oldest and the work of Elizabeth Wardle, founder of the Leek Embroidery Society, and at least 35 other embroiderers. Completed in June 1886, the replica accurately depicts 626 human figures, 190 horses and over 600 birds and animals and 57 Latin inscriptions with some minor adjustments to ensure that the nakedness of the characters did not shock Victorian society.

Close to the museum, lie the ruins of



Reading Abbey founded by Henry I in 1121. Mostly destroyed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the abbey was re-

opened to the public in 2018 after a major renovation project. We finished the afternoon enjoying a relaxing boat ride from Reading to Henley, admiring some of the most expensive properties in the county.

RESIDENTIAL VISIT TO SUFFOLK

11 - 15 MAY 2023 *(photographs Paul Smith)*

DAY 1

When our 25 travellers set off for Suffolk, the weather was decidedly unsettled. Due to a last-minute itinerary change, our first stop was Woodbridge, a delightful small market town situated on the River Deben. People have lived there since the Neolithic Age and the area is famous for the Sutton Hoo burial ship. Having a contact at Art Safari I arranged a short guided tour of the historic Tidal Mill and the Long Shop, where volunteers are building a full sized replica of the Sutton Hoo burial Ship. We were able to have lunch at Whisstocks Square in sunshine, before heading back to our coach.

Our next stop was further up river to Waldringfield for a delightful 2-hour cruise on the River Deben. We reached our hotel – the Holiday Inn on the outskirts of Ipswich around 5pm.

DAY 2



After breakfast, we visited Ickworth House with Blue Badge Guide Claire. This National Trust property is situated in 70 acres of stunning gardens and 1800 acres of

Capability Brown parkland. Dominated by its huge central Rotunda, dating from 1795, the house has a fine collection of paintings and regency furniture. After lunch, we set off for a visit to Beth Chatto's Gardens, near Colchester. Started in 1960 on overgrown wasteland, gravel and bogs, it has been transformed into beautiful gardens harmonising with the local area.



DAY 3

Saturday dawned dry and bright, although cool with the wind. We headed off to our tour of Constable Country with Claire, starting with East Bergholt, where Constable had his studio, and St Margaret's Church, dating back to the 15th century. The church doesn't have a tower; consequently, the bells are housed in a cage on the ground and are still rung to this day. While in the Church we were treated to a wonderful rendition of the Gloria sung by one of our members. This just added to enjoyment of the visit.

We visited Flatford Mill, Willy Lot's house, Valley Farm and Bridge Cottage which houses a collection of Constable paintings. Despite the wet ground, four intrepid members decided to walk to Dedham where we met up for lunch.

The afternoon was spent visiting Bury St Edmund's. Claire regaled us with a detailed history of this fascinating city. Dominated by the Cathedral, the town has royal connections going back to St Edmund, who was brutally murdered by the Danes. Legend has it that he was beheaded and a Wolf protected his head so his followers were able to bury him intact. On a roundabout in the city there is a carving of the Wolf and St Edmund.

DAY 4

Sunday dawned bright and clear as we headed off, with Clare, to Sutton Hoo, where there is a sculpture of the original burial ship. Again, Clare gave us a detailed history of the site and Tranmer House, home of Elizabeth Pretty, owner of the area responsible for arranging the excavations giving rise to the discovery of the ship.

We walked in the footsteps of the Anglo Saxon Royalty to the burial mound of the King, believed to be Raedwald, the most powerful man and King of East Anglia who died about 624. The burial ship is 89 feet long and was unearthed in 1939. This visit tied in nicely with our earlier visit

to Woodbridge and the Long Ship, where the replica of the ship is being built. The treasures, discovered at the site, are housed in the British Museum.

Then to Snape Maltings for lunch and a tour of the Red House, where Benjamin Britten lived and composed his music. Our final visit of the day was to Aldeburgh, on the coast, where we enjoyed a beach walk and ice creams. That evening we said farewell to Claire who had proved to be such a good guide.

DAY 5

After checking out of the hotel, we headed for Lavenham, known for its beautiful medieval timbered buildings and impressive Church and Guildhall.



We were then driven to the Wimpole Estate, near Royston in Cambridgeshire. This National Trust property is a unique working estate with acres of parkland, a farm, walled kitchen garden and an impressive mansion and Chapel at its heart. We were able to lunch here and enjoy a visit of about 3 hours before setting off for Dorking. A further trip is planned this year in October to Northumbria. Details follow.

Ianthe Cox, Group Leader

THE HISTORIC HOUSES, HERITAGE & ART OF NORTHUMBRIA 1-5 OCTOBER 2023

Five days - 4 nights half board from £589

For more information and to book phone Ianthe Cox
on 01737 843105 or email ianthecox72@gmail.com



ALNWICK CASTLE



SPANISH GALLERY



LINDISFARNE PRIORY

DAY 1: En route to our Best Western hotel in Whickham, we visit the **Spanish Gallery** at Bishop Auckland, which houses one of the UK's largest collection of 16th and 17th-century Spanish artworks, including work by El Greco, Murillo and Velázquez.

DAY 2: The day includes a visit to **Alnwick Castle**, home of the Percys, Earls and Dukes of Northumberland since 1309 and a tour of **Cragside House and Gardens** (NT) with its Victorian interiors and innovations heralding a new age.

DAY 3: Enjoy a guided tour of **Durham Cathedral**, a masterpiece of Norman architecture and in the afternoon, a visit to **Bowes Museum**, created between 1862 and 1875 to house a fine collection of decorative paintings from Europe.

DAY 4: We visit Lindisfarne Priory built some 1,400 years ago on Holy Island, home to the Lindisfarne Gospels and site of early Viking raids and cult of St Cuthbert.

DAY 5: The journey home includes a stop at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park with its changing display of large bronze sculptures by Henry Moore.

WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2023

A DAY IN THE NEW FOREST



After picking up our Blue Badge guide we will stop at a 15th century pub which was once haunted by the last of the New Forest highwaymen. Arriving at midday we will be served with a lunch of roast chicken with new potatoes and vegetables or there is the option of choosing a vegetarian gnocchi. This will be followed by a dessert of sticky toffee pudding or ice-cream and a hot drink, all included in the outing price. After lunch we slip into the forest following in the footsteps of Kings and Queens, commoners and gypsies, smugglers and lovers. Your expert guide will chart a course to the heart of this enchanting world

revealing a wealth of myth and legend. You will see the Rufus Stone commemorating the controversial death of William II. We stop to visit picture postcard villages including one where Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is buried in the 13th century graveyard. We visit the deer enclosure and ornamental drive at Bolderwood where huge trees, including Californian Redwoods, line the route. We finish our tour at Lyndhurst, the "capital" of the Forest. Here we can buy a cup of tea before heading for home at 6pm.

This will be a restful day with a not too early start and the inclusion of lunch means no cooking when you get back home! We should arrive back in Dorking between 8.00 and 8.30pm.

Bookings can easily be made on line via the Dorking u3a website, making sure you mention if you require the vegetarian lunch option, or you can phone Sally Connett on 01306 740596, giving her your pick-up point, your mobile (preferable) or home phone number and whether you require the vegetarian lunch option.

PLEASE NOTE COACH DEPARTURE TIMES

9.00 am	Brockham
9.10 am	Dorking Halls
9.15 am	Opposite Waitrose
9.20 am	Bus Stop near Knoll Road

Cost: £75

∞ SAVE THE DATES - DAYS OUT ∞

APPLES & OYSTERS

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2023

The coach will take us to Faversham where we will meet our Blue Badge Guide for a tour of this historic Kentish town, with 475 listed buildings and one of the few places outside of London where a king and his queen were buried. After lunch, we plan a guided visit of the world-famous oyster town Whitstable and a breath of sea air. Tradition has it that Julius Caesar came to Britain to enjoy the Whitstable native oysters already famous 2000 years ago!

Cost: £65, including morning coffee and lunch.



CRUISING INTO CHRISTMAS!!

TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2023

By popular demand we are repeating this tour of the London Christmas illuminations. The first coach pick-up is at 1.30pm; we then drive to Greenwich to meet our Blue Badge Guide for a boat trip to Westminster Pier and a ride round the best lit streets in London, followed by a fish 'n chip supper at the wonderful Kennedy's Restaurant in Fulham.

Cost: £59, including a fish and chip supper and a hot drink.

You can book all trips online via the Dorking u3a website or you can phone Sally Connett on 01306 740596.

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.

To book members should send a completed booking slip, with a cheque for £12/£15 for a guest, in Hall or on Zoom, payable to Surrey u3a Network, or bank transfer to HSBC Account No. 11519018 Sort Code 40-27-07, to Denise Dobbs – u3a, 5 Aldridge Rise, New Malden KT3 5RJ, Phone 07964 798791 or send an email to surreyu3astudyday@outlook.com.

For help to download or print out forms please contact John Sinclair on 01306 711542.

15 SEPTEMBER 2023 - AN UTTERLY INCOMPLETE HISTORY OF KEYBOARDS & KEYBOARD MUSIC

Musician **Steven Devine** will explore the history of the piano and examine the music written for keyboards, providing live and recorded music examples on harpsichord, clavichord and piano for illustration. Not to be missed!

20 OCTOBER 2023 - PARTICLES, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING

A gentle exploration of the basic particles and fundamental laws governing our Universe, presented by **Professor Philip Harris**

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 his influence on modern artists such as Francis Bacon and Lucien Freud.

u3a Study Days

ANSWERS TO THE SUMMER QUIZ ON PAGE 10

ACROSS: (3) A **tower** of strength; (4) Neither **rhyme** nor reason; (6) A **blinking** idiot; (9) **Sterner** stuff; (10) **Melted** into thin air; (12) The **clothes** make the man.

DOWN: (1) **Foregone** conclusion; (2) Short **shrift**; (5) Something **wicked** this way comes; (7) **Jealousy** is the green-eyes monster; (8) Who would be **father**; (11) Wild-**goose** chase.

Calendar of Events July - December 2023

July	12	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	RNLI - It's Not All at Sea, speaker Colin Brown
	21	<i>Day Out</i>	Sussex Coastal Curios
September	13	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Water Aid, speaker Nigel Barraclough
	15	<i>Study Day</i>	History of Keyboards & Keyboard Music presented by Steven Devine
October	1-5	<i>Residential short break</i>	Historic Houses, Heritage & Art of Northumbria
	11	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Seaside Piers of the British Isles, speaker Graeme Payne
	18	<i>Day Out</i>	A Day in the New Forest
	20	<i>Study Day</i>	Particles, the Universe and Everything, speaker Professor Philip Harris
November	8	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Something to Shout About, speaker Jonathan Jones
	17	<i>Day Out</i>	Apples & oysters
	17	<i>Study Day</i>	Rembrandt - from Fame to Poverty & Final Acclaim, speaker Colin Wiggins
December	12	<i>Day Out</i>	Cruising into Christmas
	13	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	An Antarctic Odyssey, speaker Duncan Lavin

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D&D U3A GROUP & EVENTS NEWS – SUMMER 2023



PLANT LOVERS IN FULL BLOOM



**LUNCHEON CLUB –
NOT SO GRUMPY AT THE GRUMPY MOLE**



ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP



**ABOVE AND BELOW: SUMMER PICNIC AT
BUCKLAND PARK LAKE (photos Mike Docker)**



WALK ON THE WILD SIDE
(photographs Robert Edmondson)



RED MASON BEE ON BLUEBELL



CRAB SPIDER WITH PREY



COMMON BLUE BUTTERFLY ON BLUEBELL



NATIVE ENGLISH BLUEBELL