



Dorking & District u3a

u3a learn,
laugh,
live



**Handbook
Autumn 2023**

Dorking & District u3a Events



Clockwise: ARUNDEL WETLAND CENTRE; CHATHAM DOCKYARD MESS DECK; CHARLECOTE PARK SUTTON HOO, SUFFOLK RESIDENTIAL (photographs Paul Smith); SUMMER PICNIC AT BUCKLAND LAKE PARK (photograph Mike Docker)

Chair's Annual Report



Dear Member

I'm often asked what 'u3a' stands for? The fact that it stands for University of the Third Age belies the fact that no one person teaches, nor is it a staid institution for fusty academics. Here, '*university*' means a '*gathering of people*' interested in following a common

programme of activities. At the heart of the movement is the principle that people share experiences and expertise to develop new interests in themselves and others.

This year Dorking & District u3a has been particularly busy setting up new groups in partnership with local organisations, Badminton at Oddfellows Hall; Dorking Readers at the Library and Spanish conversation with Leatherhead u3a.

Event-wise we have continued to expand our days out and have organised two residential trips, one to Suffolk in the Spring and one to Northumbria in the Autumn. The Spring quiz night was a great success as was our annual summer picnic at Buckland Park Lakes.

September saw one of the highlights of our calendar – a guided visit to RHS Wisley after two clever u3a members won a Third Age Matters competition. Look out for more photos on this extraordinary day in our next Newsletter.

We're not complacent - we continue to explore new ventures such as theatre and concert trips under the heading of 'Culture Companions'.

These activities require a great deal of organisation, and the u3a would not exist without the army of volunteers who give of their time. As always, I stress the importance of members willing to help and share the load if Dorking & District u3a is to survive.

The cover of the handbook epitomises for me the best of the u3a movement – the pleasure of making new friends and keeping one's '*equilibrium*'.

Beryl

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. No need to book. Doors open at 2pm and members are welcome to enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of cake before the meeting starts. Meetings may also be transmitted via Zoom for those who cannot attend a face-to-face meeting. You'll find details of all our monthly meetings on the Dorking u3a website www.dorkingu3a.org.uk

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

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

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.

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.



10 January 2024

A POLICEMAN'S LOT

Retired Police Officer **NEIL SADLER** shares stories from his 30 years of service, highlighting the dangers but also the incongruities of life on the beat both in Sussex and abroad. Neil also compares the differences of being a on duty in the 1970s and today.



14 February 2024

THE VENETIAN CONNECTION



Founded in AD421 by the people of the Veneto fleeing danger from the mainland to the wild uninhabited islands off the coast, Venice grew into a powerful city-state controlling large areas of the Mediterranean shores. Our speaker **Paul Whittle** explores the main tourist sites of this UNESCO World Heritage city and its lesser-known parts.

13 March 2024

GOSH PAST, CURRENT AND PRESENT

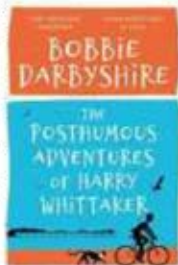
Speaker **Alan Doig** tells the history of Great Ormond Street Hospital which started life in a 17th century townhouse with just 10 beds and two physicians. It was the first hospital in the UK dedicated solely to the treatment of children. Since then, the hospital has been in a constant state of redevelopment to update ageing wards and enable us to provide increasingly innovative treatment.



8 May 2024

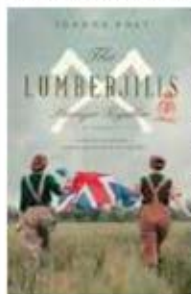
WHERE DO NOVELISTS GET THEIR IDEAS?

Author **Bobbie Darbyshire**, winner of the 2008 fiction prize at the National Academy of Writing and the New Delta Review Creative Nonfiction Prize 2010, shares her writing tips and talks about her various jobs ranging from barmaid and mushroom picker to cabinet minister's private secretary.



10 July 2024

THE LUMBERJILLS



'The Lumberjills, Britain's Forgotten Army' is a true story full of anecdotes about the girls doing their bit during the 2nd World War. **Joanna Foat** tells their story and reminds us of the incredible hard work they undertook helping to keep Britain safe.

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 or Helen Mardell on 01306 880061.

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	Plant Lovers Singing for Pleasure	Lundheon Club
	pm	Bridge 1 & 2 German Conversation	Bridge 1 & 2	Bridge 1 & 2 German Conversation	Bridge 1 & 2
Tuesday	am	Military History Exercise for Health Shakespeare & his Contemporaries (online)	Exercise for Health Lundheon Club Scribblers	Exercise for Health Shakespeare & his Contemporaries Words, Words, Words	Exercise for Health
	pm	Photography in Focus Plates 1 & 2 Quilting 2	Plates 1 & 2 Quilting 2 Upwords	Philosophy Plates 1 & 2 Quilting 2	Archaeology Plates 1 & 2 Quilting 2 Upwords
Wednesday	am	Current Issues	French Lunch	Local History Science & Technology	
	pm	Card Games Plus DIY Dressmaking Genealogy Philosophy (online)	MONTHLY MEETING	Card Games Plus Philosophy (online)	Focus on Art & Architecture (NEW)
Thursday	am	Rock & Pop	Rock & Pop Spanish (Brush Up)	Rock & Pop	Rock & Pop
	pm	French Conversation 1	Dorking Readers 1 Spanish (Intermediate)	French Conversation 1 DIY Dressmaking Photography Workshop	Spanish (Intermediate)
Friday	am	Line Dancing	Gardening Ukulele Walking	Line Dancing Ukulele	Ukulele Walking
	pm	Guitar Indoor bowls (Oct-April) Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept)	Guitar Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept) Dorking Readers 2	Guitar Indoor Bowls (Oct-April) Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept)	Guitar 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.



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 discussed Star Carr, a Mesolithic site in North Yorkshire, the stone Rows on Dartmoor, Portchester Castle, the Picts in Scotland and the whereabouts of Stane Street in Dorking. More recently we visited Chilworth Gunpowder Mills. New members are very welcome.



ART AND ARCHITECTURE

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, members exchange personal knowledge and an appreciation of art. This year we considered Colour in Art, Church architecture and the life of artist Gwen John. New members are welcome.

BADMINTON

Every Tuesday 10am-12 noon; Oddfellows Hall, Dorking

Nicholas Jupp: 07881 587134; njbiupp@gmail.com

This is a joint venture where members pay an annual membership of £25 to Oddfellows Hall - this allows them to play free throughout the year. This small group welcomes new members for friendly practice each week.

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, develop skills and have fun in an informal environment.

Members should have some knowledge of the game but in accordance with the u3a ethos the more experienced members help the less confident.

BUS PASS TRAVEL GROUP

Christine Baron chrisbaron6170@gmail.com



A new group, the Bus Pass Travel Group, has had some enjoyable, relaxed trips in our area using our bus passes and the buses that serve Dorking and district. We vary the day of the week, the bus route we use and where we go.

We have been to Shere on the 32 bus for coffee with excellent cake at The Dabbling Duck and the 21 bus to Box Hill for coffee and to enjoy the stunning view.

Future trips are in the pipeline for Haslemere, Compton and Worthing. If you are interested in giving the Bus Pass Travel Group a try, please email Christine Baron at chrisbaron6170@gmail.com.

CARD GAMES PLUS

1st & 3rd Wednesday 2-4.30pm

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 we often play other games such 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 £2.50, 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 home-based, round-table discussions on topical issues are based on prior reading of articles circulated by one of the group. Recent meetings have discussed whether maths matters, the right to protest, social media, whether economic growth is good for us, whether privatisation works, and how to win the general election.

EXERCISE FOR HEALTH

Tuesday 10.30-11.30am
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.



DORKING READERS

Dorking Library
Group 1: 2nd Thursday 5-6pm;
Group 2: 2nd Friday 3-4pm

We all love reading but sometimes wish we could share that love of literature with others and perhaps try out recommendations.

Dorking Library is now hosting two new reading groups for u3a members. They provide the space and the books, and we provide the enthusiasm and suggestions for titles we would like to share with others.

The groups meet at Dorking Library on the second Thursday (5-6pm) and Friday (3-4pm) of every month. If you are interested, we are happy to start up a third group.

For more information contact Beryl Sinclair on 01306 711542 or email dorkingu3achair@gmail.com.

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

Our group was established in 2012 and we have maintained the original number of members, who have various skills to share.



We meet every month to exchange plants, discuss problems and investigate ideas old and new. We also visit local gardens under the National Garden Scheme and have ventured further afield for lunch and a look round the Sussex Prairie Garden in Henfield.

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

1st Wednesday: 2-4pm at The Lincoln Arms

Sally Hulbert: 07770 874769
hulberts.molev@yahoo.co.uk



These days there is a huge amount of information about our ancestors online, and much research can be done in your living

room. But the joy of our small group is the support, advice and discussion which we share each month, which keeps each of us enthusiastic in our search for the secrets of our family's history. And high points are also shared when one of us makes a breakthrough in our research - perhaps uncovering the source of a story told by Granny, or finding an ancestor with a skill that we recognise in ourselves.

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 the 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

Every Friday 1-4pm at St John's
Community Building, North Holmwood
Brian Joannou 01306 887411
brian.joannou241@btinternet.com

This small group brings together Guitar enthusiasts who enjoy 'Jamming' together and playing contemporary popular music. An ability to read music or guitar tablature would be useful and is preferred, but is not a pre-requisite.



JIGSAW EXCHANGE

Hilda Burden: 01737 842516
hildaburden@gmail.com



Do you enjoy doing Jigsaw puzzles? We have over 300 puzzles to choose from, both 1000 and 500 pieces. The Jigsaw Exchange is housed at my house in Brockham. You are welcome to come any time to join and exchange puzzles. Just ring me to arrange a time.

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

Val Rayner & Paul Smith: 01306 640791

raynervj@gmail.com

Being absolutely fascinated by our local surroundings we joined the u3a Local History Group. We enjoyed the variety of topics for discussion and became completely hooked. We have discovered many interesting facts

along the way. Did you know that famous people including Sir Lawrence Olivier, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Thomas Cubitt & William Mullins are associated with Dorking?

Dorking lime was considered by many to be the best in the country and was used in the mortar for the Bank of England and Somerset House. Its hardening qualities in water were so good that it was also used in the construction of the London Docks and West India Docks in the Port of London.

We have discussed industry, shops, pubs and recently held a film show of Coronation events through the years, having researched documents and photographs. If you wish to expand your knowledge of Dorking and the surrounding area, please contact Val or Paul for further info.

NEW
From
13 June
2022

connect

**On demand bus
service for
Mole Valley**

An electric bus for you when you want it



To use this service, you will need to provide your email address or telephone number to register an account. To book call 0300 123 7751, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. You will need to provide information on:

1. Where you want to be picked up and dropped off?
2. How many passengers will be travelling?
3. When you would like to travel and what time? Remember to specify if you need to get somewhere at a specific time!
4. Whether you have mobility issues and need assistance or wheelchair access?

The connect service operates Monday to Friday 7am to 7pm and Saturday 8am to 6pm. You can book up to 7 days in advance or on the same day. A minimum of 30 minutes notice is required to communicate your booking with the driver.

MILITARY HISTORY INTEREST GROUP

1st Tuesday 9.30am-noon; Cricket Pavilion, Middle Street, Brockham, RH3 7JT

Barrie Friend: 07796 633516; barrieandmarilyn@gmail.com



The aim of our non-academic group is to increase the knowledge and understanding of 'all things military' of our 40 members. We achieve this through monthly talks followed by discussion. Members and guests contribute to the monthly Speakers' List but no member, unless they wish, is obliged to give a talk at meetings which reflect the u3a ethos of friendship. Recent talks have been on *Gas in The Great War*, *Suffolk Coast - the most dangerous in WW2* and *Churchill's most difficult decision*.

Understanding is enhanced by group visits to sites of military interest - we have recently visited Southwick House where much D-Day planning was undertaken.

Our monthly Newsletter of some 35 pages offers background information on other military topics such as *Policing of Surrey in Wartime* and keeps the membership in touch.

Our regular book swaps are a feature of the group and our annual garden meeting enhances the social side of the membership.

More information, links to our Zoom talks and the library of Newsletters can be found on the Dorking u3a website. Sounds interesting? Come to a meeting - you will be warmly welcomed.

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.



PHOTOGRAPHY IN FOCUS

1st Tuesday 2-4pm

Faith & Mike Docker: 01306 501640;

faith.docker@gmail.com; michael_docker@gmail.com



After working online throughout lockdown the Photography group started meeting again in person last summer. Since then we have had a busy year getting together regularly on the first Tuesday of the month at St Joseph's small hall.

Each month we give ourselves a theme and our photographs on the theme are viewed at the next meeting. The best of these are displayed on the D&D u3a website and some of them have been selected in the national 'u3a Eye' competition.

Group members have given presentations on photo harmony (combining photographs and music in short films), light painting, photographic composition, an international airshow, the wildlife of the Galapagos and Africa, the differences between JPEG and RAW digital file formats, photographing bluebells and insects on the North Downs, and using Lightroom software for cataloguing and sorting images.

Members have introduced us to the work of pioneering late Victorian photographer Frank Meadow Sutcliffe, the modern documentary photographer Martin Parr and the inspirational American artist Georgia O'Keeffe.

Led by two of our most experienced members we also undertook 'photo meets' at Southwater Country Park, Earlswood Lakes and Gatwick Aviation Museum in which we were tasked with finding images to illustrate a variety of subjects.

We have welcomed several newcomers to the group this year, and a survey was taken of all our members which revealed a wide variety of photographic interests which will be used to guide our sessions in the coming months.

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

3rd Thursday 2-4pm, The Lincoln Arms, Dorking

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

We aim to help members gain a greater understanding of how their digital cameras work in order to take better photographs. We advise on how to use your camera's settings, how to transfer photographs from your camera to another device (PC, laptop, or tablet) and on how to choose and use Photo Editing software, such as Photoshop. Ideally, you should have a computer and an internet connection at home, but this is not essential. Please bring your camera, a laptop or tablet and the necessary cables to connect them, when attending meetings. Proficient photographers are welcome as they can support others but beginners are especially welcome.

PILATES

Every Tuesday, Christian Centre, Dorking

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

Contacts: 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

Margaret Ashdown 07944 176399; margaret51ashdown@btinternet.com

Cathy Guy 07878 825412; cathyguy33@yahoo.co.uk

Each month, this friendly group meets in members' homes to discuss how to deal with plants and problems in our own gardens. In the finer weather, we share tips on how to improve our gardens, exchange cuttings and some small plants. We occasionally get to visit some of the beautiful open gardens in Surrey.

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

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



Based in Westcott, 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 as well!

ROCK AND POP

Every Thursday 9am - 1pm; Harvest Community Church, Goodwyns Road, Dorking
Jeff Smith 07846 670967; smiff.house@outlook.com



We are a small group of keen musicians with some experience of playing our individual instruments. We play mainly rock and pop from the 60s to the 80s, with songs from artists ranging from the Beatles, Chris Rea, Fleetwood Mac, The Eagles, Pink Floyd and others of similar genre and age.

We are always looking for more members who can sing, play keyboard and players of additional instruments (sorry but at the moment we have more than enough guitar players).

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 scientific or technical field, 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.

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

Tony Parker: 01306 884050



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.

SCRIBBLERS

2nd Tuesday 10am-noon

Gillian Williamson: 0798 9962237 ; rowewill@aol.com



Scribblers is a friendly writing-for-pleasure group. Our writers range from absolute beginners to more experienced – we all share an enthusiasm for the written word, be it prose or poetry, and generally write for pleasure.

You may be surprised to discover your hidden talent. All you need is pen and paper, a head full of good ideas on what you would like to write about and, importantly, a sense of humour.

Please contact the group leader for more details.

SHAKESPEARE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES

1st & 3rd Tuesday 10.30am

Jackie Rance: 01306 887416; jaxrance@gmail.com



Currently we meet in Westcott on the 3rd Tuesday in the month at 10.30am and on Zoom on the 1st Tuesday, again at 10.30.

Having begun Zoom meetings during Lockdown, we continue to have a monthly Zoom session during which we work through the Sonnets. We have now made our way up to the '120s' so there are still plenty to go! We usually get through 3 poems in each

meeting. If you wish to join us to study the Sonnets, contact me so I can add you to our Zoom List.

At our face-to-face meetings we read and discuss the plays. Over the past few months, we have been watching some of Shakespeare's History plays. More recently, however, we have read 'Much Ado About Nothing' having watched a Screening at Dorking Halls, and 'The Merchant of Venice', which although classified as a Comedy, does not appear to be so to modern readers. We are lucky that Dorking Halls frequently show Screenings from NT Live. The most recent Shakespeare play they screened was a dazzling production of 'Othello', which we will be reading next, followed by 'The Comedy of Errors'.

You can opt to attend either the Zoom or face-to-face sessions, or both. We would love to welcome some new members, so anybody interested please contact Jackie for more information. See above for my contact details.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

1st and 3rd Monday 10am-noon

Meike Laurenson

m Laurenson@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!



UKULELE

Every Friday (except 1st Friday)

9.30-11.45am

St Joseph's Church Hall, Dorking

John Hammond 01306 742996;

jbw.hammond@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!



SPANISH CONVERSATION (BRUSH UP / INTERMEDIATE)

Beryl Sinclair: 01306 711542; dorkingu3achair@gmail.com

For those with some basic knowledge and a wish to expand vocabulary and develop conversational fluency, a small **BRUSH UP GROUP** will meet in Dorking once a month on the 2nd Thursday mornings 10.30am -12 noon.

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.

An **INTERMEDIATE GROUP** designed to tackle more advanced conversation skills will continue to meet twice a month at Leatherhead Library on the 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoon 2pm-3.30pm. Please be advised that neither group is taught - we all support each other in our learning. For more information on both groups, please contact Beryl Sinclair.

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.

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

3rd Tuesday 10.30-noon
Rosemary Harbridge: 01306 881520;
rharrbridge@sky.com



Meeting monthly in a sociable venue in Dorking, we research and discuss the infinite variety of words, phrases and etymology, considering all forms of language and literature.

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!

WALKING

2nd & 4th Fridays at 10am
Michael 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!

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.

DAYS OUT

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2023

APPLES AND OYSTERS



We visit the little-known gem that is Faversham, a market town set among the Kent apple orchards, and the seaside at Whitstable, famous for oysters. The day includes morning coffee and lunch in a great pub.

Faversham Creek

Meet our Blue Badge guide at 10.30am in

Faversham for morning refreshments (included)

before exploring one of the most attractive and historic small towns in Kent and one of the few places outside of London where a king and his queen were buried. Back to the pub for a lunch of farmhouse ham, egg and chips or vegetarian option – individuals can sort themselves out for desserts and bar drinks as desired on the day.

Whitstable Harbour

Whitstable has picture-postcard weatherboard cottages and streets with eccentric names, such as Squeeze Gut Alley. The harbour, flanked by fishermen's huts and sail lofts was built to serve the "Crab & Winkle Line" linking Canterbury and London to the steam ships. Tradition has it that Julius Caesar came to Britain to enjoy the Whitstable native oysters, already famous 2,000 years ago! If you're not game for oysters you can always settle for a cup of tea before heading home at 4.45pm with lungs full of sea air.

Cost: £65, including morning coffee, lunch and driver's gratuity

Coach departure places and times

8.45am **Brockham** Middle Street near junction with Oakdene Road

8.55am **Dorking** outside Dorking Halls

9.00am **Dorking** opposite Waitrose

9.05am **Dorking** Knoll Road bus stop (on Horsham Road between Harrow Road East and Tower Hill Road)

BOOKING

If you are not comfortable with booking or paying online, you can book your place(s) by completing the form on page 22 and sending it to: **Sally Connett, 3 Hill View, Dorking RH4 1SY**. Please ensure that you include a cheque for the correct amount, making payment to Dorking & District u3a (name of outing). Alternatively, you can also contact Sally Connett (01306 740596) to make reservations and arrange payment.

DAYS OUT

TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2023

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.

Cost: a snip at £59, inclusive of a fish & chip supper and hot drink.

BOOKING

If you are not comfortable with booking or paying online, you can book your place(s) by completing the form on page 22 and sending it to: **Sally Connett, 3 Hill View, Dorking RH4 1SY**. Please ensure that you include a cheque for the correct amount, making payment to Dorking & District u3a (name of outing). Alternatively, you can also contact Sally Connett (01306 740596) to make reservations and arrange payment.

PLEASE NOTE COACH DEPARTURE TIMES

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

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



Event

Your name

Phone number

How many places do you require? ☐

Preferred pick-up point:

- ⇒ Brockham (Middle Street, nr Oakdene Road)
- ⇒ Outside Dorking Halls
- ⇒ Opposite Waitrose
- ⇒ Knoll Road bus top (Horsham Road)

If you have any special requirements, please write them in the box below and we will try to accommodate you.

If your trip includes a meal, please indicate if you would prefer a vegetarian option and for how many.

Please complete the form and send it with a cheque made out to Dorking & District u3a to Sally Connett, 3 Hill View, Dorking RH4 1SY - to arrive no later than 14 days before the outing you are booking.

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 /

You Tube 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.

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.

16 FEBRUARY 2024 - ARCHITECTURE, ART, LANDSCAPE & HISTORY: A JOURNEY THROUGH BRITAIN'S RAILWAYS, presented by **Paul Atterbury**, Antiques Road Show Veteran & best selling Railway Writer

15 MARCH 2024 - EUROPE AT WAR: PUTIN'S WAR IN UKRAINE & THE BRITISH COMMITMENT, presented by **Gordon Corrigan**

19 April 2024 - UNDERSTANDING AI AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS IN SOCIETY, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, presented by **Dr Andrew Rogoyski** & colleagues of University of Surrey

17 MAY 2024 - THE JAZZ AGE & BEYOND - WITH TALKS, FILM, DEMONSTRATIONS & MUSICAL FINALE, presented by **Howard Lawes**, Woking u3a & Jazz Subject Advisor

21 JUNE 2024 - TBA

Calendar of Events October 2023 - July 2024

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
	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 in Kent
	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
January 2024	10	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	A Policeman's Lot, speaker Neil Sadler
February	14	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	A Venetian Connection, speaker Paul Whittle
	16	<i>Study Day</i>	Architecture, Art, Landscape & History: a Journey through Britain's Railways, speaker Paul Atterbury
March	13	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	GOSH - Past, Current and Future, speaker Alan Doig
	15	<i>Study Day</i>	Europe at War: Putin's War in Ukraine & the British Commitment, speaker Gordon Corrigan
April	10	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	TBA
	19	<i>Study Day</i>	Understanding AI and its Repercussions in Society, Now and in the Future, speaker Dr Andrew Ragoyski & Surrey University colleagues
May	8	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Where do novelists get their ideas?, speaker Bobby Darbyshire
	17	<i>Study Day</i>	The Jazz Age & Beyond - With Talks, Film, Demonstrations & Musical Finale, presented by Howard Lawes , Woking u3a & Jazz Subject Advisor
June	12	<i>Monthly meeting</i>	TBA
July	10	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	The Lumberjills, speaker Janna Foat

The Committee

BERYL SINCLAIR - Chairman / Newsletter Editor 01306 711542;

dorkingu3achair@gmail.com

TONY PARKER - Vice-chairman 01306 884050; bacdocs7@gmail.com

HELEN MARDELL - Hon Secretary 01306 880061; helen.mardell@gmail.com

IAN THE COX - Treasurer 01737 843105; treasurer@dorkingu3a.org.uk

MICHAEL DOCKER - Web-master 01306 501640; michael.docker@gmail.com

JOHN SINCLAIR - Membership Secretary / Equipment Coordinator 01306 711542; johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk

DEANNE RHODES - Speakers Coordinator / Days Out Team 01737 844768; 07770 273407; deannerhodes@btinternet.com

LINDA WILLMOTT - Speakers Coordinator linda_susanne@hotmail.com

ROSEMARY HARBRIDGE - Minutes Secretary rharbridge@sky.com

Days Out Team

DEANNE RHODES - 01737 844768; 07770 273407 deannerhodes@btinternet.com

9 The Avenue, Brockham, RH3 7EN

SALLY CONNETT - 01306 740596; 07546 229462; sallyconnett@hotmail.com

3 Hill View, Dorking, RH4 1SY

JACKIE RANCE - 01306 887416; jaxrance@gmail.com

Residential Trips

IAN THE COX 01737 843105; ianthecox72@gmail.com

Editorial Team

BERYL SINCLAIR - Editor 01306 711542; dorkingu3achair@gmail.com

ROSEMARY HARBRIDGE - Sub-editor rharbridge@sky.com

NICK EDWARDS - DISTRIBUTION 01306 881761; needwards@hotmail.com

MICHAEL DOCKER - Web-master 01306 501640; michael.docker@gmail.com

PRINTER - Eyes Wide Digital 01306 875150

Cover photograph: *EQUILIBRIUM*, RHS WISLEY BY ROBERT EDMONDSON, MEMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHY IN FOCUS GROUP.

Dorking & District u3a Groups



Top to bottom: BADMINTON AT ODDFELLOWS HALL; ROCK AND POP GROUP; GARDENING GROUP AND PLANT LOVERS; WALKING GROUP; SPRING QUIZ NIGHT; ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP; LUNCHEON CLUB AT THE GRUMPY MOLE