

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a large, weathered wooden sculpture of a face, possibly a religious figure, set against a background of stone columns. The sculpture is made of light-colored wood and shows signs of age and wear, with a prominent vertical crack down the center of the face. The background is a blurred image of stone columns, suggesting an indoor setting like a church or museum.

Newsletter Winter 2023-24

**D&D U3A RESIDENTIAL : HISTORIC HOUSES, HERITAGE & ART OF
NORTHUMBRIA - OCTOBER 2023**



**1. ALNWICK CASTLE; 2. LINDISFARNE CASTLE; 3. ST MARY THE VIRGIN, LINDISFARNE
(photographs Juliet Eberle); 4. THE SPANISH GALLERY, BISHOP AUKLAND; 5. & 6. THE
BOWES MUSEUM (photographs Beryl Sinclair)**



HELLO

For many, Christmas may be a time of reflection and memories but it's also time to reconnect with others and take stock of the good things we share. With the new year, comes the chance to look forward to opportunities.

It's going to be a busy year for D&D u3a as the Committee continues to plan events with Days Out, the summer picnic, Burns Night and theatre and concert outings organised by Culture Companions.

The residentials this year include a trip to Italy which seems to have been well-received by many members, and an autumn trip to the Lake District which should appeal to many steam train fans like me.

And let's not forget the groups which are increasing in number and variety thanks to the tireless support and initiative of a valued team of group leaders. New groups are opening up all the time, such as the e-biking and play reading groups. We are also considering resurrecting an astronomy group.

I should also urge you to check out the SE Network Study Day programme of lectures - there is something there for everyone. And you will meet members from other u3as across the regions. The Summer School (renamed Festival 2024) will be taking place in York this year on 18-19 July providing a variety of activities.

Thank you to all who send in articles, stories and photographs to ensure the Newsletter survives. I welcome contributions from you all.

I should also like to thank Sally Connett for her many years of work with the Days Out committee, helping to organise and publicise trips. We wish her well and will continue to enjoy her company on future days out.

Whatever you choose to join in with, we hope you will gain enjoyment and fulfilment.

The Committee and I wish you all the best for 2024.

Beryl

COVER IMAGE: DURHAM CATHEDRAL, PIETA, by local sculptor Fenwick Lawson
(photograph Juliet Eberle)

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME!

A warm welcome to the following new members, who have joined since Summer 2023. We invite them to a New Members meeting at Dorking Halls on **Wednesday 7 February** from 10.30-12noon.

Nicole Ames	Steve Hooker	Terence Moody
Paddy Baillie	Deborah Humphreys	John Northover
Jane Baker	James Jones	Wendy Northover
Steve Baker	Jennifer Jones	Patricia Ovando
Madeleine Brooks	Christine Kenward	Theresa Penman
David Bryan	Michael Kenward	Jill Rasmussen
Anthony Cartmell	Richard Knapp	Lore Ridings
Barry Chapman	Chris Kohler	Roger Roberts
Andrea Charles	Julia Lack	June Sage
John Church	John Lee	Martin Saull
Richard Congdon	Pat Lee	Paula Saull
Elizabeth KH Cotton	Peter Lester	Jonathan Schenck
Sue Eldridge	David Long	Judith Snelling
Helen Fantis	Min Long	Angela Underdown
Anne Fleming	Alan Marsh	Roger Walsom
Christopher Hall	Brian McManus	Veronica Watts
Joanna Herman	Marion Meadows	
Peter Herman	Margaret Monnery	
Denise Hooker	Dorit Moody	

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

We **WELCOME** poems, articles, photos and group information for the **SPRING NEWSLETTER** to reach the Editor by **END MARCH 2024**. 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.

COMMITTEE NEWS



WELCOME HELEN MARDELL

Helen Mardell, who lives in Westcott, has taken on the role of secretary to Dorking u3a. She is a retired Company Director who brings with her an all-round experience of management with a particular passion to deliver the best in customer care. Helen has served on the committees of two local choirs and both the General and Management Committees of the Leith Hill Music Festival.

As well as music, Helen's interests include building up her collection of art and sculptures and enjoyment of the natural world especially observing the changing landscape of the Surrey Hills in the daily walks with her dog a 2-year old golden retriever. She is a keen gardener.

BOB BROWN

5th January 1954 - 4th August 2023



Bob joined the Dorking u3a in 2016 and with his wife Caroline, was quick to be part of the Committee, he taking on the responsibility for the website and Caroline overseeing the monthly meeting speakers and publicity. Bob was devoted to the u3a movement and didn't hesitate to take on the role of Chair in 2018 when no one else would do so. He brought a fresh approach and informality to the committee. A keen and talented photographer, he set up another photography group which met regularly in the Narnia

Room. He often went on the Days Out and many of his photographs have appeared in the Newsletter and on the website.

Both he and Caroline organised a very successful summer picnic at Juniper Hall in 2018, which we have carried on since 2022.

He was very involved with Dorking Museum, digitising over 2000 historical photos. When Bob became ill in 2020, both he and Caroline stood down from the Committee but continued to keep in touch. We will remember Bob for his wicked sense of humour, his passion for IT and photography and his lust for taking life a bit less seriously than others.

GROUP NEWS

ARCHAEOLOGY - THE MYSTERY OF DORKING'S STANE STREET



If the Romans had relied on our technology, roads could have ended up as corkscrews. Using print-outs of early maps, resident archaeology expert Frank Pemberton guided the archaeology group members through possible routes of this famous Roman road from South Holmwood to Mickleham.

Often the only remains of roads are pieces of flint or unusual accumulations of gravel; the '*negative evidence*' is often powerful, as any loose stones were removed by opportunist builders from later times.

Two places, one near the Fire Station on Spook Hill, North Holmwood and the other in Redlands Wood, are indisputably Roman because of the heavily compacted layer of stone which would have formed the base layer. Modern archaeologists have tried to lever them up and found it impossible – a tribute to Roman workmanship. Or rather, to the workmanship of the 'friendly' tribes who actually built the 22ft wide road.

Frank's maps included sites of various digs and he praised the likes of well-known local historian Viv Ettlinger with her 'have trowel, will dig' approach.

Reminiscing, Frank told of the high hopes everyone had with the 'dig' on the Waitrose site. Neolithic flints, 2 bronze age burial mounds and 19th century cesspits were found but ...NOTHING Roman. Instead, Frank pointed us to Church Street and St Martin's church where archaeologists, including himself, discovered a Roman boundary ditch and traces of the elusive road. A visitor from Epsom and Ewell u3a, another Roman road enthusiast, told us that in his area Roman settlements had occurred on 3 church sites so perhaps St Martin's was following a pattern. Ironically, St Martin's in Epsom was one such church.

Frank told us that the road went up Flint Hill and probably passed close to St Martin's church, though he has his own theory about where it went after that.

He finished on a cautionary tale. Victorian archaeologists grew very excited when they discovered traces of rammed-down stones, clear indicators of a Roman road on the Denbies estate. However, also in the remains was a most un-Roman Victorian clay pipe! Trenches were dug in many parts of Dorking – South Street, Flint Hill, West St, Ridgeway Road; excavations for St Martin's Walk revealed elusive traces of Roman occupation but little to suggest a road.

Gardeners at Pixham's Patchworking Garden have unearthed fragments of Roman pottery. Further north, several slit trenches revealed little more though there is evidence of a Roman ford across the Mole near Burford Bridge.

Frank's theory? He would like to dig on Meadowbank, close to Fairfield Drive and has earmarked a few gardens which might conceal the famous road. So, if you live in numbers 82-90 Fairfield Drive, expect a knock on your door!

Pat Smith

THE D'UKES GO WEST



Members of the Dorking u3a Ukulele group (The D'Ukes - get it?) started November with a weekend of strumming and singing in Weymouth. Joined by three members of the Lewes Lewkulele group we took over our weekend accommodation, the National Trust owned Portland House, on Friday afternoon and after exploring our fabulous rooms, were soon unpacking our instruments for an informal jam session while supper was warming up.

Saturday morning saw us in the sitting room putting together and practising a few numbers for our afternoon get-together with the Weymouth Ukuleleans. Playing along with an unfamiliar group is always slightly intimidating, but we were very warmly welcomed by around 20 Ukuleleans in the busy bar area of the King's Arms.

We proceeded to entertain the regulars with many songs, both in our separate groups and all together, accompanied by various instruments including tambourine and spoons! After a fantastic couple of hours with our voices starting to fail, we sadly said goodbye to our new friends and made our way back to Portland House.

Sunday saw us in a more relaxed mode, exploring the grounds and seashore, and experimenting with various songs, our ukuleles accompanied now and then by keyboard, guitar and bodhran.

After a final Sunday evening celebratory meal, we regretfully left Weymouth on Monday morning with sore fingers and great memories.

John Hammond

PILATES



By popular request, Tina Westwood has agreed to run three Pilates sessions: 1.35-2.30pm; 2.40-3.35pm; 3.45-4.40pm. The dates for the coming term are January 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27. There is a charge for the sessions. For more information please contact Janet Hoad on jahoad@googlemail.com.

BEGINNERS PLEASE - PLAY READING GROUP



This group is already running with non-u3a members but would welcome u3a members who are interested in reading a variety of different plays over the course of the year. We meet in the Community Building behind St John's Church in North Holmwood at 2.30pm twice a month; on the first Monday and third Tuesday in the month.

Our season runs from September to May. Subs are £2 each to cover the cost of hiring the scripts. Coffee or tea and biscuits are provided. I generally obtain the texts from NEWSPAL, the New Surrey Performing Arts Library, in Ewell. Here are our play choices for the forthcoming season:

- January 24 - **Hobson's Choice** by Harold Brighouse
- February 24 - **An Evening of 1 Act Stagers for Golden Ages** by A P Brown
- March 24 - **Cagebirds** by David Campton
- April 24 - **Antigone** by Jean Anouilh
- May 24 - **The Haunted Bookshop** by L Brittney

In June, July and August we meet on the third Tuesday in the month for afternoon tea to which we all contribute a 'plate' and take turns to host.

In September 2023 DDOS, (Dorking Dramatic and Operatic Society), put on Festival 15, a showcase in which local groups participated for 15 minutes only. **Beginners Please** presented four sketches which had been written for us as rehearsed readings.

If you would like to participate in this or a similar event in 2024, that would be lovely but there is absolutely no pressure to do so. Appearing on stage is not everyone's cup of tea.

I am also the group leader of **Shakespeare and His Contemporaries** but each group is independent of the other. Contact me, Jackie Rance, on 07770 885003 or email jaxrance@gmail.com

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

On 16 October, the Dorking u3a **Singing for Pleasure** group entertained some 40 residents and staff at Broome Park Nursing Home, Betchworth – one-time family home of Sir Benjamin Brodie, Sergeant Surgeon to Queen Victoria.

Group leader: Meike Laurenson; Musical Director: Gina Eason. (Photograph Denis Kellaway)



PROPOSED ELECTRIC BIKE (E-BIKE) GROUP



I know a number of u3a members are enthusiastic e-bike riders. Like me, they enjoy being able to ride the lanes and tracks of the Surrey Hills and elsewhere with electric assistance. While still providing good exercise, e-bikes allow us to enjoy climbing hills without undue strain on

ageing bodies.

If you have an e-bike and would like to ride with other u3a members, please contact me with a view to an initial meeting to discuss ideas. If you don't have an e-bike you may want to consider a trial outing. Local bike shops are often willing to loan bikes to potential customers, and u3a e-bikers would be able to advise you on the most suitable bike for your needs.

This may not be the best time of year for cycling of any kind, but if you are interested in joining a u3a e-bike group please email me Bob Crooks at robertcrooks@rocketmail.com so that we are ready to start riding when the weather warms up.



CULTURE COMPANIONS

Welcome to the u3a group for those who wish to attend plays and concerts in company, we have a strong programme for the start of 2024. We are proposing the

following events:

- ♦ SATURDAY 27 JANUARY, 7.30pm: Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford, **'Oh What a Lovely War'** (group full)
- ♦ SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY, 3.00pm: Dorking Concertgoers, **Piatti String Quartet**.
- ♦ SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY, 3.00pm: Dorking Concertgoers, **Carducci String Quartet**.
- ♦ SATURDAY 16 MARCH, 7.30pm: Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford, **Twelve Angry Men** £46

For opera lovers and those who have never seen an opera, we have a treat in February. The Ukrainian National Opera Company is performing two operas by Puccini full of passion, friendship and heartbreak at the Yvonne Arnaud theatre: **Madame Butterfly** on FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY, and **La Bohème** on SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY. I have tickets reserved for both.

Come and join our group. Car sharing arranged for those who do not wish to drive. For tickets and information on all of these please email Helen on helen.mardell@gmail.com or phone 07894 859162.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

NOT ALL AT SEA! THE STORY OF THE RNLI COLIN BROWN – 12 JULY 2023



Having been married for 50 years to a sailor and a lifeboat crew member from Appledore in North Devon, and having owned a boat until last year, the subject of the July talk was close to my heart.

The RNLI was founded in 1824 by Sir William Hillary, himself a lifeboat man based in the Isle of Man, where at the time there were 15 shipwrecks a week. Originally called National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck, it was renamed the RNLI in 1854 when it came under the patronage of George IV, with the Royal Charter given in 1860.

The RNLI is a self-funding charity independent of government help, where 97% of the team are volunteers. It is supported mainly by legacies (65%) and donations (28%) with the other activities standing at 7%.

The RNLI is renowned for saving

lives at sea, and the lifeboat volunteers need to live or work within 10 minutes from a lifeboat station.

Cover is provided by 238 lifeboat stations all around the UK, Ireland and the Channel Islands, manned 24 hours every day. A call from the coastguard to the lifeboat station can mean the lifeboat is at sea, and can be 10 miles offshore within 30 minutes from the alarm being activated.

Colin explained that while lifesaving is their main activity, the RNLI has many other functions.

With 190 people being drowned off our coasts in one year, 250 beaches are now protected by RNLI volunteers. Many people end up being caught in rising waters because they have no knowledge of tides. Some people, especially paddle boarders, go to sea without adequate safety equipment and no means of communication. The RNLI realise that the best way of tackling ignorance is to educate people on the dangers of the sea and what to do if in trouble.

Rescuing dogs is also another occupation; there were 75 rescues last year, most of whom would have been okay on their own but very often the owner tries to save them and ends

up in trouble, while the dog has made it safely to shore!

People also get stuck in mud in river estuaries, such as the Thames, and a dedicated station, Thames Service, was brought into force after the Marchioness tragedy in 2001. This is probably the busiest station.

There are currently 449 lifeboats of various types stationed all round the UK.

In Poole, the headquarters of the RNLI, there is a memorial to over 800 safeguards who lost their lives at sea, trying to rescue others. This includes 438 lifeboat crew to date, the worst tragedy being the loss of the Penlee lifeboat and crew in 1981.

Dorking u3a visited the RNLI College in Poole in March 2018 and another is planned for 29 May 2024.

Ianthe Cox

(photograph Robert Edmondson)

WATERAID: 'CLEAN WATER, DECENT TOILETS AND GOOD HYGIENE'

NIGEL BARRACLOUGH - 13 SEPTEMBER 2023



Nigel, a speaker for WaterAid for 15 years, outlined the problems facing countries across the world, particularly in the global south. With his background in the water industry,

he was an authoritative speaker, more so because he had lived in Uganda for several years and experienced first hand the problems of living without a reliable water supply. Here's a quick quiz for starters (*read on for the answers*):

- How many people don't have a decent and functioning toilet (can be compost) in the world?
- How many people don't have access to clean water?
- How much water do you use daily (on average)?
- How much water does it take to grow 100g of coffee? This is water that could go to ordinary people and forms

only a small part of demands made by the developed world for fruits and other luxuries.

To set this in context, in 2010, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 64/292 recognizing '*the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights*'.

Thirteen years after this was passed, here are the answers to the questions above: a) 1.7 billion; b) 3 billion; c) around 100 litres; d) 1900 litres.

WaterAid does all it can to improve matters with its simple aims of 'Clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene'. Founded in 1981, with King Charles as long-time President, it has now provided clean water to 21.8 million people.

Perhaps this is a drop in the ocean (pun intended!) but each village or town with clean water has freed people from hours of thankless trudging to and from

a reliable water source, leading to higher school attendance, less sickness and lower mortality rates. The extra time enables people to focus on educating themselves and their families as well as making a living, often by growing subsistence food crops. Nigel showed us a picture of Evelyne, from Burkina Faso, whose life was changed by ready access to clean water.

Despite its considerable success and excellent reputation for reliable, long-term solutions, WaterAid's problems are increasing, largely because of climate change. More and worsening extreme weather events and long-term changes in weather patterns; more droughts; declining crop and fishing yields; loss of habitat – the list goes on. It's worth checking WaterAid's excellent website where they give several detailed case histories of their successes.

One such story that resonated with me was from the La Guajira area of Colombia where, before WaterAid Colombia began work there, around 96% of the people had no access to

clean water. Lina and Elvira had to make an hour-long journey to a neighbouring village's well whenever they needed water. Now they have a well in their village.

Nigel finished by pointing out that each year on 22 March we have World Water Day to draw attention to these problems. We take for granted the ability to wash our hands but for many in the



world this is still an unattainable luxury.

On a personal note, I have supported WaterAid for many years with a monthly donation and was pleased that the speaker's fee will go to that charity. Thank you, Nigel.

Pat Smith

THE CHOCOLATE CHALLENGE



It's New Year and you have a monster of a chocolate bar with 40 chunks to share with 39 friends. You decide to 'snap' the chocolate into pieces along the horizontal and vertical lines on the bar.

What is the most efficient way to snap the large slab into 40 individual square chunks? And how many even breaks does it

take to do it?

You may wish to find a real bar of chocolate and experiment, rewarding yourself with a piece each time you create a single chunk! (This is one of the many maths puzzles from Rob Estaway's excellent book *How Many Socks Make a Pair?*, Aurum Press)

Answer on page 24.

STUDY DAY - An utterly incomplete history of keyboards & keyboard music

Speaker Steven Devine (15 September 2023)



Speaker Steven Devine gave us a fascinating and entertaining tour of keyboard instrument history (excluding the pipe organ) not just with complementary slides and YouTube clips, but excellent demonstrations, mostly from memory, on instruments he'd brought along. He illustrated the instruments' chronological development from the 14th century, from the psaltery, through clavichords and the four members of the harpsichord family, to the development of the piano to the modern concert grand.

For each, he explained the mechanism used, involving tangents (clavichords), quills for plucking (harpsichord) and hammers (piano), the last being possible following Cristofori's invention of the escapement mechanism at the end of the 17th century. He showed how the mechanisms impacted both the playing style and the music that

was written for each instrument. He also highlighted the importance of Rhetoric in both of these.

I've always enjoyed the u3a study days but, as a piano lover - with little playing talent - this was an extra special day for me. Devine's passion for all 'things keyboard' and his commanding playing technique was evident throughout. The level of interest raised was evident by the number of people going on stage at the intervals to explore and ask about the instruments that he had brought along, including two different types of clavichord - fretted and unfretted - a harpsichord and a modern upright piano with the front removed, to expose the mechanism.

The main points that particularly resonated for me were the following.

Earlier instruments were inherently only appropriate for domestic or even personal use: a "crashing chord" played on a clavichord was almost inaudible at the back of the hall - it's a very personable instrument. But, as Steven demonstrated, it still has dynamic control; unlike the harpsichord but like the piano, it requires a precise and delicate touch to be played well.

Even the early 'square pianos' were very much for domestic use. Steven related the story, possibly apocryphal, that the great George Friederic Handel was able to practise on the clavichord secretly in the attic for many years

before being discovered by his father, who had wanted him to be a doctor.

The piano mechanism was developed along two different paths, the English and Italian/Viennese, each with advantages and disadvantages and each with strong advocates. It was the former that developed into the modern grand piano. Steven demonstrated that the Moonlight sonata played on a modern piano, exactly as Beethoven's score dictates, without dampers, sounds very curious, but it's seemingly perfect for the Viennese fortepiano for which it was written.

You'll find useful information at the Finchcocks Museum, Tunbridge Wells; their website has many illustrative YouTubes often with Steven Devine playing; his connection with the

museum goes back to childhood.

Mr Devine's presentation ended with a short video clip of a 5-metre-high vertical concert grand, by David Klavins. Its height is dictated by the length of its longest string, made without overwinding: the pianist sits on a raised platform, 4-metres above the floor. Most interesting if a tad impractical!

Tim Reynoldson



EDITORIAL NOTE: on 17 May 2024, the SE Network will be running a Study Day on **The Jazz Age & Beyond**, with films and demonstrations,

presented by Howard Lawes, a u3a subject specialist.

IN DEFENCE OF IVY

Ivy (*hedera helix*) is a vigorous, resilient and controversial evergreen plant often maligned unjustly. Recent research reported by the RHS shows that it can help to keep buildings cool in summer and less damp in winter. Ivy develops in two stages.

In the juvenile stage with the familiar lobed leaves, it provides shelter or hibernation sites for adult butterflies and moths, bats and even nesting birds. Ivy leaf is a food plant for the caterpillar of the second generation of the Holly Blue butterfly and for the larvae of several of our colourful (and harmless) moths like the large yellow Swallowtail moth, the Angle Shades and the Willow Beauty. When ivy matures and flowers, with heart shaped or oval leaves, it provides a vital source of nectar late in the year for many pollinating insects including flies, hover flies, bees and butterflies and moths at a time (October/November) when other sources of nectar are in short supply. Its berries, which ripen to black over autumn and winter, provide a food source for many birds and small mammals during the cold months. Note however that the berries are poisonous to humans!

Far from being a parasitic plant, ivy does not 'strangle' trees and it rarely causes structural damage. But it does have enormous benefits for wildlife and perhaps we should adopt a more positive attitude to this common evergreen plant.

Robert Edmondson

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).

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.

10 April 2024

THE TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS

Actor and speaker Simon Waterfield tells the story of the farm labourers who were arrested on a trumped-up charge, suffered transportation, were freed and returned to Britain as heroes. Their battles against their landlord and employer eventually included Parliament and the King!



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 contact the group leader(s) for further information. If you have difficulty in joining a group or have suggestions for new groups, please contact the **Membership Secretary** John Sinclair on 01306 711542 or email johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk.

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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	Plant Lovers Singing for Pleasure	Luncheon 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 Luncheon Club Scribblers	Exercise for Health Shakespeare & his Contemporaries Words, Words, Words	Exercise for Health
	pm	Photography in Focus Pilates 1, 2 & 3 Quilting 2	Pilates 1, 2 & 3 Photography 2 Quilting 2 Upwards	Philosophy Pilates 1, 2 & 3 Quilting 2	Archaeology Pilates 1, 2 & 3 Quilting 2 Upwards
Wednesday	am	Current Issues Genealogy	French Lunch	Local History Science & Technology	
	pm	Card Games Plus DIY Dressmaking 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 2	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

RHS WISLEY - A GARDEN FOR ALL SEASONS

One thing the British do well, apart from scones and tea, is garden design! Whisper the names of Gertrude Jekyll or Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and for many, they bring to mind visions of willowy cottage gardens, manicured lawns and rolling landscapes of great beauty. Wisley is one such garden where you can meander at will and discover not only open spaces planted up with colourful and intriguing specimens but also smaller parterres displaying gaudy colours of exotic as well as native plants and trees.

Thirty-one u3a members were treated to a free guided tour of the gardens late September after two of our members had won a competition in TAM. Staff were happy to volunteer information and advice on how best to prune apple trees or plant out roses to best effect or eradicate those pesky weeds upon which we all wage war.

Wealthy entrepreneur George Fergusson Wilson, keen gardener and former treasurer of the RHS, established an experimental garden on the original Wisley site in 1878. The garden became famous for its collections of Japanese irises, lilies and water plants and 140 years on it is still celebrated for its plant collections. Wisley is the oldest and most diverse of the RHS gardens and is home to more than 1,000 species of rhododendron and camellia. It boasts some of the country's most beautiful trees, including the *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* and the *Pinus coulteri*.

The Water Lily Pavilion (formerly a

potting shed) proudly overlooks the Jellicoe Canal with its water fountain displays. On the day we were there, a heron paraded up and down the grassy bank, clearly unabashed by the admiring spectators who tried to capture his likeness on film.

The Bowes-Lyon Rose garden was still awash with fragrant blooms despite the battering showers. Among the plants and on the lawns, visitors can discover modern statue installations such as the 'Dancing Hares' by Sophie Ryder.

Opened in 2021, RHS Hilltop houses a permanent display; it allows visitors to take refuge from autumnal showers, enjoy homemade food and refreshments in the World Food Café and attend short educational sessions run by volunteers.

Walking back along the small paths past the Rock Garden with its stony outcrops and naturalistic planting and mini waterfalls, you discover classical statues and quirky wooden sculptures such as the mossy form of a growling grizzly. Cross a bridge, and the shady paths finally lead you back to the Walled Gardens with their manicured yew topiary cones and cascading wisteria.

One visit is not enough to take in the variety and richness of Wisley which offers up seasonal plantings to tempt visitors back again and again. We hope to organise such a return visit this spring.

Beryl Sinclair

JOIN THE U3A FOR FESTIVAL 24

Imagine reliving your **student** days – away from home with its too-familiar routine, with its mundane responsibilities and those other constraints which limit your personal time. Oh, the peace of it!

And the actual accommodation given to students these days has its attractions too of course. Let's face it, youngsters nowadays are mollycoddled. At university they get this neat bit of personal space, uncluttered, like a cell in a honeycomb. Like a monk's cell too in fact, except that this one is fitted out with all mod cons: single bed (no snoring here!), ensuite shower (quite enough for three nights), air con or heating as appropriate, and plentiful power points for all their modern devices. Wi-Fi everywhere of course. And this could be yours!

So, imagine you've got this away-from-it-all undisturbed comfort. Add on to it a rich display of delicious, fresh food, three times a day, from which you can pick ad lib your own favourites in a self-service system.

Sounds like an attractive short vacation? A nice quiet break you could enjoy once a year. Well, in 2023, it was held in Chichester, a modern University campus, and it was all laid on for us by the u3a (Southern Forum). Just an easy hour's drive away, due south from Dorking, straight down dear old Stane Street - you couldn't miss it.

Oh, and Study Groups are included in this attractive package. You get twelve seminars led by enthusiasts on a range of subjects – contemplative, physically active, mind-stretching – whatever takes your fancy. Immerse yourself, or not, as much as you like. And did I mention that Chichester's adventurous theatre was just a short walk away?

So, you see you should not be put off by the rather serious sounding name. Those of us who attended the 2023 u3a Summer School felt re-charged and re-energised, definitely not as though we had been subjected to boring old schooling for half a week! We met new people too, with the same interests as ourselves. We exchanged photos. Even contact numbers!

Gelhi Jones

EDITORIAL NOTE:

The u3a Festival for 2024 will take place over 3 days from **18 - 20 July**. It will be held at the University of York based around their exhibition centre. Again members will be running a wide variety of activities - talks, sporting events, musical entertainment and workshops which will make the 2024 u3a national festival something to remember.

Places are limited so you'll want to get your reservation in quickly. You'll be asked to select a first and a second choice. Bookings will open soon and in the meantime you can book accommodation now, although there are no more on site rooms. The cost of attending the festival will be as follows:



- Day 1, Thursday 18 July - £25 including buffet supper
 - Day 2, Friday 19 July - £10 for the full day
 - Day 3, Saturday 20 July - £5 for a half day
- Full festival includes all 3 days and a buffet supper on Day 1 - £35

For more information about the festival please check out the national u3a website

www.u3a.org.uk or get in touch by emailing festival@u3a.org.uk.

A RARELY SEEN MEMORIAL

By the side of the northbound carriageway of the A24 at Holmwood is a prominent, unusual but rarely seen memorial. Set a few metres back from the road, in a small clearing, just a few metres past the convenient concrete layby, some quarter



mile after passing Folly Lane, the memorial dates from early last century. It commemorates Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, a sporting and highly wealthy American, who spent some time in England from April 1908, to avoid the scandal of a divorce following his affair allegedly with the Cuban attaché's wife.

Whilst in England, his sport was the gentlemanly activity of coach driving, drawn by a team of horses, something he did with other wealthy young British gentlemen. He sometimes stayed at the Burford Bridge Hotel, then on the main road from London, before driving on further south to Brighton. This stretch of road, not a dual carriageway in those days, carried only a fraction of the traffic of today and was his favourite country road, as we see from the memorial.

Vanderbilt remarried the wealthy American divorcée Margaret Mary Emerson (1886–1960) in December 1911. Returning to the USA in May 1915, he drowned, when his ship, the Lusitania, was sunk by a German U-boat.

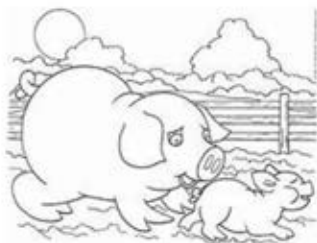
The memorial reads: *"Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, Gallant Gentleman and fine Sportsman who perished in the Lusitania May 7th, 1915. Erected on his favourite road by a few of his Coaching Friends and Admirers."*

A different age. How the road and times have changed since then!



Denis Kellaway

CREATIVE WRITING - THE TRAGIC TALE OF THE THREE PIGS



Pinky, Perky and Porky lay down in the deep, oozing mud and grunted contentedly. The day was bright, a light breeze blew and all was well with the world and soon all three were in a deep and dreamless sleep. Some time later, Pinky was woken by a strange rumbling. "What could that be?" he wondered and then he realised that it was the noise of his own empty tummy, for several hours had passed since Mr Brawn,

the farmer, had poured that morning's slop into the trough.

"Wake up, Perky, wake up Porky," he cried. "It must surely be lunch-time" and with that all three porkers struggled to their trotters and sniffed the air in order to detect some lunchtime comestible.

"Let's go and forage in the mud," suggested Perky, "for that will pass the time until supper and we may find some tasty roots."

"No, wait", cried Porky, who had detected a delicious odour, and with snout raised he stepped determinedly in the direction of the wafting smell. "There, I have it. Acorns," he cried. "Acorns.....yippeeeeeeeeeee".

"But the acorn trees are on the other side of the river and mother told us never to venture across the bridge because of the terrible, treacherous troll that lurks beneath", cried Perky.

"But mother is away now, so she will never know", said Porky. "I saw her leave for the town with Mr Brawn this morning and why she left kicking and screaming like that I really don't know. The town sounds fun and Mr Brawn promised that if we ate all our slop and got really big and fat we could go there too one day.

"Weeeeeeeell, ok Porky, you can go first and see how you get on," said Pinky and Perky in unison.

And off trotted little Porky, with a purposeful air, waving his curly tale. Trit-trot, trit-trot over the rickety bridge went he. Suddenly, up jumped the fearsome, drooling troll and, without further ado, snatched Porky and gobbled him up. Pinky and Perky watched in dismay as the last trotter was swallowed and the troll emitted a satisfied gulp followed by a large burp.

Both pigs figured that the troll must now be sated and, in any case, they were greedy little pigs in need of acorns. So, off went Pinky, trit-trot, trit-trot over the rickety bridge. But the big, bad troll was not sated and Perky watched in dismay as up jumped the troll and gobbled up Pinky, chewing until the last trotter was swallowed with a satisfied gulp followed by a large burp.

Perky was pretty cut up about the loss of his brothers but, sadly, greed was his worst enemy and those acorns smelled delicious so off he went, trit-trot, trit-trot, over

the rickety bridge. Luckily, the troll was, by now, feeling quite stuffed and let the little pig pass over and into the forest, where he gorged himself on acorns for the rest of the day.

Feeling full and dozy, Perky, decided it was time to return to the farm, convinced that the troll would still be sleeping off his pork lunch. Trit-trot, trit-trot over the rickety bridge went he, but the big bad troll was indeed awake and in need of a snack and Perky looked just the thing. The troll gobbled up Perky and as the last trotter was swallowed and wind eliminated the troll crept back under the bridge to digest his meal.

Later that evening, when the other farm animals had given up searching for the three little pigs and could only conclude they too had gone off with the farmer to town, an eerie wailing and groaning was heard coming from under the bridge. Louder and louder it sounded and then, suddenly, the bridge rose up into the air, and a much inflated troll was released up into the stratosphere. For the acorns Perky had consumed with such relish had proved poisonous to the troll who filled up with gas and floated away, never to be seen again.



Now all the animals in the farm could safely make their way over the bridge to the meadows and forest beyond, and when Mr Brawn returned from the abattoir he found his farm quite empty.

Gillian Williamson

D&D U3A RESIDENTIAL: HISTORIC HOUSES, HERITAGE & ART OF NORTHUMBRIA - OCTOBER 2023



Three months have already passed since a group of us travelled to Northumbria to explore the heritage sites and immerse ourselves in the culture and art of an area rich in history. Some of us were revisiting old memories of earlier holidays, others were drawn to the promise of historical buildings and treasured possessions. The cover photos will I hope give you some idea of the sites we visited.

En route, we stopped at the Spanish Gallery, Bishop Auckland,

home to Spanish art of the 16th and 17th centuries expressing the transience of life and human yearning for life eternal. Opened only in April 2022, the gallery is small, at less than 800sq metres, but it takes its inspiration from 13 Francisco de Zurbarán paintings which left Spain over 300 years ago and houses works by Velázquez, Murillo and El Greco. On the top floor, visitors are surrounded by remarkable physical facsimiles of great Spanish works of art made by Factum Arte and Factum Foundation using the latest digital technologies.

Alnwick Castle, home of the Percy

family since 1309 and the largest inhabited castle in the UK after Windsor, houses a fine collection of Sèvres and Meissen china and furniture. It also served as a setting for some of the Harry Potter films.

Built in late 19th century in the style of a French château and set among rolling hills of County Durham, Bowes Museum was the vision of John and Josephine Bowes who assembled an eclectic mix of European furniture and paintings by such artists as El Greco, Goya, Canaletto, Fragonard and Boucher, together with items of decorative ceramics, textiles, tapestries, clocks and costumes of local historical interest spanning the 14th to 19th centuries.

The story of the Lindisfarne Gospels is tied to the fortunes of the monastery on Holy Island, the



community of St Cuthbert and Durham Cathedral. It is believed the gospels were produced in honour of St Cuthbert who lived a life of solitude on the

Island of Farne for several years before becoming a bishop. When he died his body was taken to Lindisfarne and placed in a shrine. Many miracles were recorded there.

On our return, our final stop was at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park which was founded in 1977 and features over 80 sculptures by some of the best of modern artists, from Barbara Hepworth (*Family of Man*) to Joan Miró (*Déesse*).

For 2024, the promise is of another exhilarating cultural visit to Tuscany, home of renaissance art and epicurean cuisine.



I'm thinking of opening my humble home in Westhumble to the general public. Why? When we visited Alnwick castle, in the state rooms, along with paintings by Canaletto, Titian and Raphael and ebony and *pietra dura* cabinets once belonging to Louis XIV, stood a display of documents relating to the coronation of the 10th Duke of Northumberland and the late Queen. I recognised two of the documents as we have exactly the same at home.

My husband David's father was Air Marshall and as such, rode in the late Queen's Coronation procession in 1953. While Sir Owen was preparing to mount

his horse in Hyde Park, David (aged 16), his older sister and other relations were ensconced above a shop between Westminster Bridge and Whitehall, waiting for the procession to pass by. Meanwhile, Lady Jones was perched on a stool in Westminster Abbey, waiting for the ceremony to begin.

After the Coronation, attendees were invited to purchase a stool, not the one they had sat on but one arbitrarily allocated to them. So, we also have a Coronation stool upholstered in blue velvet similar to one at Alnwick Castle although ours is much faded now, having been used as a piano stool over the years.

Barbara Jones

Springtime Tuscany Tour

8th – 13th June 2024

Six days - 5 nights half board from £1249

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

If you love art, food and drink, then this residential trip is for you, as we explore the renaissance art of Florence, the gothic brick buildings of Siena, and the many castles, museums, and supreme works of art in between.

Day 1: Departure from Gatwick

On arrival in Pisa, we transfer by coach to the 4* Grand Hotel Tamerici & Principe in Montecatini Terme for a five-night stay on half board basis.

Day 2: Siena and San Gimignano

A morning guided tour of **Siena** takes in the Campo where the Palio horse race is run; we will also visit the Cathedral, built between 1136 and 1382 and the Piccolomini Library. In the afternoon we have free time to explore **San Gimignano**, a beautiful Tuscan village set in the heart of the Chianti wine growing region and known as the 'Small Manhattan' due to its thirteen medieval towers.

Day 3: Lucca

An excursion to **Lucca**, the birthplace of Puccini, where a regular grid of streets still follows the pattern of the former Roman colony founded in 180 BC. Discover the Church of San Frediano, whose striking façade features a colourful 13th century mosaic called 'The Ascension', and the Church of San Michele in Foro, built on the site of the old Roman Forum.

Day 4: Florence

A guided tour of Florence, the Renaissance art capital of the world takes in sights such as the Ponte Vecchio, the magnificent Duomo, Santa Croce Church, Pitti Palace and Boboli Gardens.

Day 5: Torre del Lago

We travel to **Torre del Lago** for a guided tour at the Museo Villa Puccini, which depicts the life and times of Giacomo Puccini, who lived and composed most of his operas there from 1891. We continue to Fattoria il Poggio where our guided tour of the farm is followed by an olive oil and wine tasting, followed by lunch. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure in Montecatini Terme.

Day 6: Pisa

After checking out of our hotel this morning we visit **Pisa** with a guided tour of the Leaning Tower of Pisa and Baptistry with free time prior to taking a flight back to Gatwick.



The Lake District

1st - 5th October 2024

Five days - 4 nights half board from £739

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



LITTLE MORETON HALL



HAVERTHWAITE STEAM
RAILWAY



MOSELEY OLD HALL

DAY 1: DEPART – LITTLE MORETON HALL

En route we visit the National Trust's Little Moreton Hall, Cheshire. Begun in 1504 and completed 100 years later, Little Moreton Hall is considered one of the finest timber-framed moated houses in the country. We arrive at the Damson Dene Hotel.

DAY 2: HOLKER HALL, STEAM RAILWAY & LAKE WINDERMERE

Home to Lord and Lady Cavendish, Holker Hall is framed by the Lakeland Hills. Our day then takes in visiting Haverthwaite Steam Railway and a cruise on Lake Windermere.

DAY 3: WORDSWORTH HOUSE & RAVENGLASS AND ESKDALE STEAM RAILWAY

Our Blue Badge guide will take us on a morning visit to Wordsworth's House and Garden; then we go onto Ravenglass and Eskdale Steam Railway which passes through two of the Lakeland's most picturesque valleys on its seven-mile journey to Dalegarth.

DAY 4: ULLSWATER, KENDAL & SIZERGH CASTLE

Trip to Keswick and a cruise on Ullswater (cruise ticket extra) sailing from Pooley Bridge down to Glenridding. We lunch in Kendal, the southern gateway to the Lake District, which was granted its market charter in 1189 and built largely of grey stone earning it the nickname of 'the auld grey town'. We visit the National Trust's Sizergh Castle and Gardens, a medieval house extended in Elizabethan times and surrounded by beautiful grounds.

DAY 5: MOSELEY OLD HALL

En route home, we stop at another National Trust property, 17th century Moseley Old Hall in Staffordshire, notable as one of the hiding places of Charles II during his escape to France following defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

DAYS OUT

LONDON – THE GILDED AGE WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2024

After the American Civil War, the US economy grew at lightning speed and so-called robber baron families built vast fortunes from monopolies. Mark Twain called such times 'The Gilded Age'.

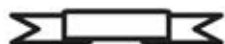
In the morning, we will explore the Gilded Age enclave between Pall Mall and The Mall and then the grand squares of Mayfair and Belgravia. For lunch, we have free time at the Royal Courts of Justice end of Fleet Street before walking down to the Embankment and Two Temple Place, a mansion built for William Waldorf Astor and one of London's hidden architectural gems.

The opulent interior is decorated with literary, mythic and historic references and this house is only opened from January to April when its guardians hold special exhibitions.

In 2024 The Glass Heart presents a bold new exploration of glass in the UK starting in the mid-19th century.

Your visit will include a guided tour of the Astor mansion interiors as well as time to browse the exhibition. We plan to leave London at 4.45pm.

COST: £65 p.p. to include morning coffee, Blue Badge Guide, entry fees and driver's gratuity.



RNLI POOLE WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 2024

We are all aware of the marvellous work done by the RNLI and this is an opportunity to visit their headquarters in Poole. On arrival at the RNLI College, we will be offered a two-course lunch with tea/coffee. We will then enjoy a 90-minute guided tour of the RNLI College, including their world-class Sea Survival Centre which hosts the wave tank and Lifeboat simulator which will give you a really good idea of the conditions faced by these volunteer crews when setting out to sea. We plan to leave the RNLI at 4.30pm.



COST: £55 p.p. to include lunch, college tour and driver's gratuity.

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF 30 PEOPLE ON THIS VISIT

Leaders: Deanne Rhodes (07770 273407) and Jackie Rance (07770 885003). Please use these numbers only in an emergency on the day of the trip.

PLEASE NOTE COACH DEPARTURE TIMES (apply to both outings)

- ◆ 8.30am: Brockham
- ◆ 8.40am: Dorking Halls
- ◆ 8.45am: Opposite Waitrose
- ◆ 8.50am: Bus stop near Knoll Road

Further information and booking forms are on the D&D u3a website or please send a cheque (made out to **D&D u3a Social Events**) to Deanne Rhodes, 9 The Avenue, Brockham, RH3 7EN to arrive no later than 14 days before the outing you are booking.

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.

FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY: A Day on the Train: Architecture, Art, Landscape & History: a Journey through Britain's Railways, speaker Paul Atterbury

FRIDAY 15 MARCH: Europe at War: Putin's War in Ukraine & the British Commitment, speaker Gordon Corrigan

FRIDAY 19 APRIL: Earth's Atmosphere - Our Life Support System, speaker Professor David Phillips, Imperial College London

FRIDAY 17 MAY: The Jazz Age & Beyond - With Talks, Film, Demonstrations & Musical Finale, presented by Howard Lawes, Woking u3a & Jazz Subject Advisor

FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER: Understanding AI and its Repercussions in Society, Now and in the Future, speaker Dr Andrew Rogoyski & Surrey University colleagues

FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER: The History of Photography, speaker Roger Mendham, President of Surrey Photographic Association

DORKING STROLLERS - WELLBEING WALKS

Want to keep active but can't always manage a long walk or difficult terrain with the walking group?

Estelle Holmes, Wellbeing Walks Co-ordinator for Mole Valley organises weekly 'Social Strolls' around Dorking or Denbies Vineyards on Tuesday or Thursday mornings at 10.30am.

Walks last 30-45 minutes and always end with a coffee or tea break.

If interested, please contact Beryl Sinclair on 01306 711542 or email estelle.holmes@molevalley.gov.uk for more information.



Calendar of Events January - July 2024

January	25	<i>Social Event</i>	Burns Night (Buckland Park Lake)
	27	<i>Culture Companions</i>	Yvonne Arnaud: Oh What a Lovely War
February	4	<i>Culture Companions</i>	Dorking Concertgoers: Piatti String Quartet
	7	<i>Event</i>	New Member meeting - Dorking Halls 10.30am - 12noon
	14	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	A Venetian Connection, speaker Paul Whittle
	16	<i>Study Day</i>	A Day on the Train: Architecture, Art, Landscape & History: a Journey through Britain's Railways, speaker Paul Atterbury
	16	<i>Culture Companions</i>	Yvonne Arnaud: Madame Butterfly
	17	<i>Culture Companions</i>	Yvonne Arnaud: La Bohème
	18	<i>Culture Companions</i>	Dorking Concertgoers: Carducci String Quartet
	21	<i>Day Out</i>	London - The Gilded Age
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
	16	<i>Culture Companions</i>	Yvonne Arnaud: Twelve Angry Men
April	10	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	The Tolpuddle Martyrs, speaker Simon Waterfield
	19	<i>Study Day</i>	Earth's Atmosphere - Our Life Support System, speaker Professor David Phillips , Imperial College London
May	8	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Where do novelists get their ideas?, speaker Bobby Darbyshire
	17	<i>Study Day</i>	The Jazz Age & Beyond, presented by Howard Lawes , Woking u3a Subject Adviser
	29	<i>Day Out</i>	RNLI Poole
June	8-13	<i>Residential trip</i>	Springtime Tuscany Tour
	12	<i>Monthly meeting</i>	Fashion on a Ration, speaker Martin Olney
	19	<i>Event</i>	Summer picnic - Buckland Park Lake
July	10	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	The Lumberjills, speaker Joanna Foat
	18-20	<i>National event</i>	Festival 24 at York University

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ANSWER TO THE CHOCOLATE CHALLENGE PAGE 10

Whatever strategy you use, it will always take 39 snaps to create 40 individual chunks. Each snap generates one extra piece of chocolate – the number of snaps needed is always one less than the number of equal chunks you want.

IN DEFENCE OF IVY (PAGE 12)

(photographs Robert Edmondson)



1. JUVENILE IVY WITH LOBED LEAVES; 2. HOVER FLY FEEDING ON IVY FLOWERS; 3. DRONE FLY ON IVY FLOWER; 4. ANGLE SHADES MOTH; 5 . MATURE IVY WITH RIPENING BERRIES.

D&D U3A WISELY EVENT - SEPTEMBER 2023



PHOTOS 1, 2 & 3: D&D U3A MEMBERS WITH RHS GUIDE (*photographs Rosemary Harbridge*) ; PHOTOS 4, 5 & 6: WATERLILY CANAL ; DANCING HARES; GRIZZLY FISHING (*photographs Beryl Sinclair*)