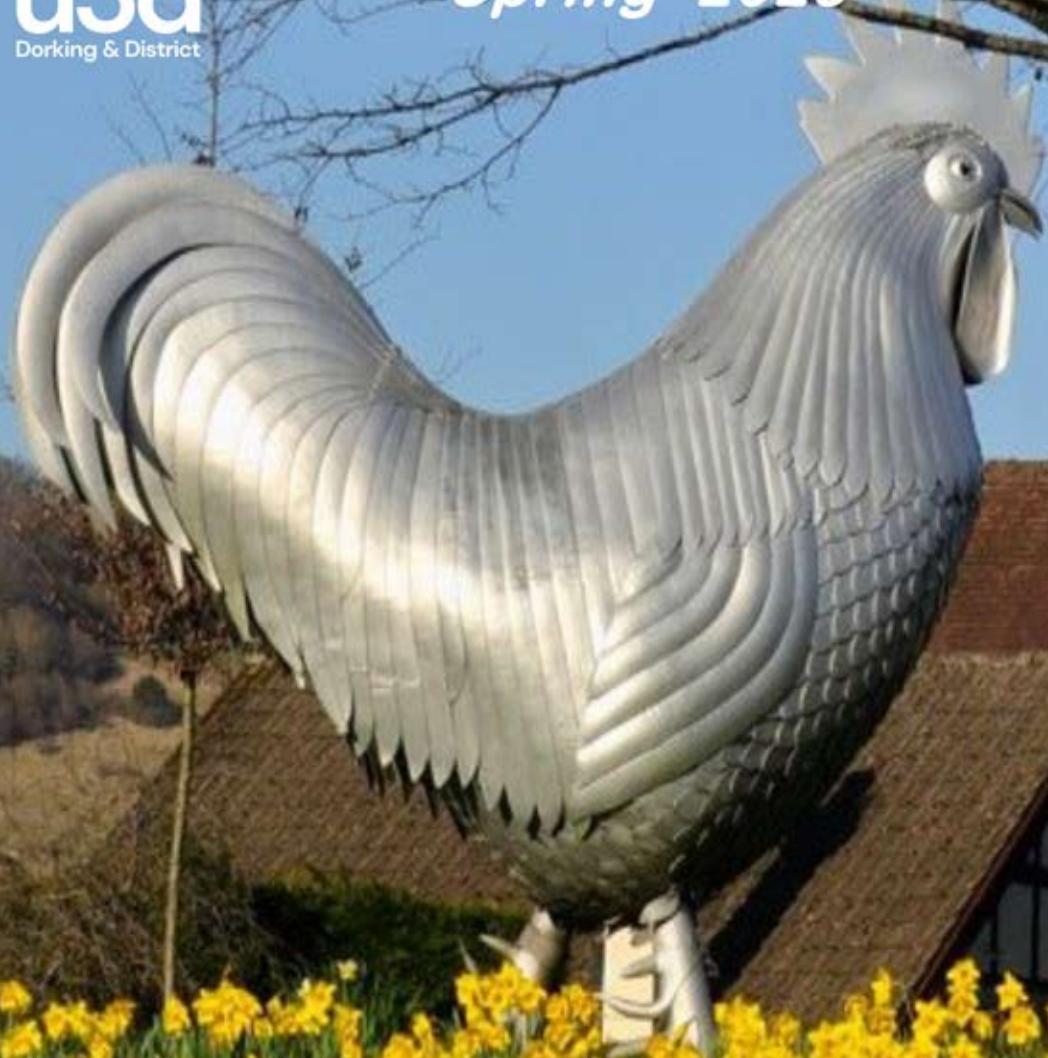




**u3a**  
Dorking & District

*Dorking & District u3a  
Newsletter  
Spring 2025*



Number 115

Spring 2025

## Burns Night - 25 January 2025



1. PIPING IN THE GUESTS; 2. PIPING IN THE HAGGIS; 3. ENJOYING SCOTTISH FAYRE;  
4. AULD LANG SYNE (photographs lanthe Cox)



### Hello everyone

Much has happened since the Winter newsletter and having survived a cold wet Winter; we can now look forward to enjoying the lighter evenings and the better weather.

In January we held an Extraordinary General Meeting at which you kindly elected me as your chairman. I will do my best to keep our Dorking u3a a happy and successful organisation, where we can age disgracefully and have some fun. Age is a number, and while there are some creaks and groans, we can be a vibrant society which is young at heart. We are very fortunate in having a really good enthusiastic committee, without whose support I could not fulfil this role.

Our first Committee meeting in February concentrated on establishing the Committee structure. The main body of the committee remains the same, but we are lacking a Vice Chairman. However, we have introduced some new roles on the Committee, namely:

**Group coordinator** – responsible for looking after our Groups. Our membership is increasing rapidly and we need more groups to support their interests. More group leaders are also required.

**New Members Coordinator** – to look after our new members and act as a mentor if required

**Communications Coordinator** – to assist in the production of the Monthly Mailer and ensure our members are kept informed.

**Days Out Assistant** – to share the responsibility of running our Days Out  
Our March Committee meeting agreed to introduce a Facebook page to aid our communications. It will be integrated with our Mailer, Newsletter and Handbook. We will monitor its usage.

Sadly, we lost a long-term member, Barrie Friend, who was the instigator of the highly successful Military History group. Military History is now being successfully run by Jim Barnes. Our monthly meetings are being ably run by our Meetings Coordinator and we will look forward to a talk by Jim Barnes in May on *How I met Barnes Wallis – and the Dambusters*. This is particularly pertinent to VE Day and its memories and to his daughter Elisabeth Gaunt, who is a long standing u3a member.

Our next Day Out is to Kelmscott on 17 April – all details inside this newsletter. We are holding a Quiz Night on 28 April at the Rialto in Dorking, the details are inside this letter and on the website etc., I encourage you to join in a fun evening.

Our first residential trip this year leaves on 1 May to go to North Yorkshire, with a busy and varied programme. Additionally, we have another trip planned in October to go to Cheshire and North Wales. Details are available on the website or from me. These trips are fun and very friendly.

Finally, do not forget to book to come to the Picnic at Buckland Park Lake in June. Full details are on the website.

May I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

*Ianthe*

## MEMBERSHIP

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### WELCOME!

A warm welcome to the following new members, who have joined since July 2024. Our next coffee morning for new members will be on **Wednesday 4 June 2025** at 10.30am at St Joseph's Church Hall. If you have recently joined the u3a but not attended an introductory meeting before, you will be very welcome.

Jenny Baker	Martina Harrison	Ian Pryde
Edward Bellingham	Anthony Hewing	Glynis Quinlan
Sharon Benson	Claire Holland	Frances Randall
Anne Bissell	Philip Holland	David Richardson
Stephen Busby	Lita Hutchins	Liz Richardson
Linda Croll	David Johns	Rosemary Shields
Dawnie Evans	Roy Jones	Susan Smith
Mark Evans	Jo Judge	Colin Swift
Meryl Evans	Stephen Kennedy	Hilary Swift
Bobbie Everson	Anne Lamb	Derek Wheeler
Andy Halsted	Gordon Mersh	Gwynneth Wheeler
Pat Hand	Carole Morris	Colin Wilby
Robin Hand	Ian Norman	Doreen Wilkins
Eleanore Hargreaves	Winifred Philp	Susan Young

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thank you to those of you who have renewed your 2025/26 subscriptions, which were due on 1 April 2025. Anyone who has not renewed by 30 June will be marked as 'lapsed' and will no longer receive communications from us (including Newsletters, Monthly News bulletins and links to Monthly Meetings).

Subscription rates have increased to £18 for individual or £30 for joint membership for two people at the same address. This is the first time we have increased fees in the last 10 years.

Please note, if you used direct debit (GoCardless) for your 2024/25 subscription you must set up a new direct debit mandate for 2025/26, as **the mandate is for a one-off payment** only.

If you have any queries or need further help with your membership, please contact me at [membership@dorkingu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@dorkingu3a.org.uk) or ring 020 3949 0707.

*John Sinclair*

## MEET THE COMMITTEE

In January we welcomed new members to our Committee. Their support and wealth of experience will be invaluable to the future success of our u3a.

### **Judy Perry - Days Out Assistant**

Judy was minutes secretary for several years but took a leave of absence whilst living in Devon.

Now back in Dorking, Judy is helping with the Days Out. Her main interests are croquet, creative writing and dogs.



### **John Thom - Communications Coordinator**

John has had a career in market research in the veterinary and agricultural sectors, helping launch new products. He ran his own company for 15 years and retired in 2015. He is very involved in a number of local charities including Rotary, focusing mainly on youth activities, and the Holmwood Village Produce Committee. He is also an editor of Dorking Talking Newspapers and helps produce the Art Society monthly newsletter. He will take on some of the communications including the monthly mailer to u3a members. He believes that as in all



things, "one gets as much out as one puts in".

### **Karl Barclay - New Members Coordinator**

Karl's career in the armed forces and the Foreign Office means that he has spent some 22 years outside the UK. He has worked in a number of countries including Argentina, Hong Kong, Singapore and West Germany during the Cold War. When he retired he settled in Dorking and joined the u3a in order to meet local people. He will be supporting the Membership Secretary and will be the main contact for new members.



## DORKING & DISTRICT U3A AGM

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 9 July** at 2pm at St Joseph's Church Hall. Further information and nomination papers will be sent out in June.

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2025

For the **SUMMER NEWSLETTER**, we would welcome poems, articles and stories (no more than 300-400 words), photos and group information, to reach the Editor by **END MAY 2025** at the latest. Thank you.

## HOMAGE TO BARRIE FRIEND



Despite the cold late January weather, Randalls Park Crematorium chapel was packed. Barrie's eldest son, Oliver read an eulogy which told of Barrie's long career in the pharmaceutical industry in which he latterly became a consultant.

Barrie always had a great spirit of adventure - in his youth he became a Queen's Scout. In his later life he took a postgraduate degree, an MBA and studied the Great War in depth. As well as focussing on the battlefield locations, actions and their significance, he had a particular interest in the human aspect. It led him to qualify as a battlefield tour guide,

incredibly knowledgeable and personable. Some here today will remember the thought-provoking tours, in which he made many events come to life. The Dorking and District u3a Military History group was founded and led by Barrie for many years.

Marilyn, Barrie's wife of some 25 years, recalled their round the world tour on their yacht and she has written a book *Fear and Freedom* recounting their exploits. Below we reproduce a summary of a talk Barrie gave in January 2018. Barrie was an excellent sailor and came first in one race of 500 competitors.

To the recessional music of *Sailing*, by Rod Stewart, followed by *Layla* by Eric Clapton, one of his sayings still resonated. Even in ill health towards the end, when people asked how he was, his cheerful answer was always "Tip Top".

*Paul Smith*

### **CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE WORLD WITH BARRIE AND MARILYN FRIEND** (report by Ianthe Cox)

*"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you did NOT do, than by the ones that you did. So, throw off the bowlines. Sail away from safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, dream, discover."*

This extremely wise quotation by Mark Twain was the start of an enthralling account of a sailing trip around the world undertaken by Barry and Marilyn and

another couple between 2004 and 2009. In total, they covered 55,000 nautical miles crossing the major oceans of this world.

The boat was refitted for ocean sailing in Dubrovnik, which was the first leg of their journey. In total, they spent 6-9 months in the Mediterranean, getting to know the boat and experiencing life on board.

The boat was a 17.5 metres 44-ton ketch named *Lady in White*, originally based at Gosport in Hampshire. She was a bilge keeler (twin fins so she could go aground if required) and had twin headsails to catch the lighter trade winds, in addition of course to the mainsail, plus a powerful engine and a large fuel tank. Well-equipped for ocean sailing, she had two double cabins with heads (loos) and showers, and a galley complete with oven, fridge, freezer, microwave and washing machine. There was a chart table for navigation, a water maker to desalinate the sea water for drinking, two Parker Knoll reclining chairs and a myriad of essential stowage and other necessities for onboard living. The radio and electronic navigation equipment was also repeated in the dog house on the deck.

Food stowage had to be carefully planned. Apart from essential stores, dry and tinned, it was necessary to have fresh fruit and vegetables. The best vegetables for staying fresh were potatoes, onions and white cabbage. They rigged a supply of baskets to carry fresh fruit and other vegetables. Bananas were hung from the back stay and were bought green. The important fact was never to take cardboard on board in case cockroaches were inhabiting it. Meat was frozen or stowed in the fridge. Fish was freshly caught, Dorado being a tasty catch.

Barry pointed out the difference of equipment on his boat compared with the boat Sir Francis Chichester sailed single-handed around the world. Chichester's boat was just 8.2 metres

and had no electronic navigation, water-maker, fridge, freezer, or microwave. It made Barrie realise what an achievement that voyage had been.

Serious sailors will always ensure they cover every aspect of safety on board. Life jackets, safety lines, radio contact, and weather forecasts are all vital wherever you are sailing. Tiredness is a serious danger, and it is vital to have a 'watch' system for night sailing so that crew members get adequate rest.

The Mediterranean is often regarded as an easy place to sail as it is non-tidal and almost like an inland waterway – but how wrong can you be! The wind can increase quickly and unexpectedly, causing rough short seas, which mean that the waves are steep. Barrie instanced their voyage from Sicily to Tunisia in what they understood were going to be light winds. They had obtained the weather forecast which had predicted winds on the beam of 4-5 knots. But several hours into the sail, the wind increased dramatically and the sea got very rough. They experienced 40-foot waves astern. Nearing Tunisia, they had entered the traffic separation zone, which is rather like a motorway and usually very busy. They finally reached their destination but had difficulty entering the harbour because of rough seas. The lesson learned was always get several forecasts and always wear life jackets. Also, easily-handled food as it is not always possible to go below to prepare anything .

Further dangers are pirates, and these come in two forms: uniformed and Long John Silvers. The main areas for

pirates are Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Aden and the Red Sea. Boats can be impounded for no real reason except to demand money for release on the grounds of incorrect paperwork. The Long John Silvers operate in Pirate Alley from the Gulf of Aden through to the Red Sea. In 2009, there were 211 attacks of which 74% were in Pirate Alley. There are naval ships to protect the commercial shipping but not specifically for the pleasure sailor. The pirate boats are small vessels with big outboard motors and guns. A couple had been taken as hostages to Somalia and finally released after a payment of £1million.

The crew covered approximately 130 nautical miles a day on their long journey. The first ocean crossing was from Las Palmas in the Canaries to St

Lucia as part of the ARC race that starts in November every year. The crossing took over three weeks; the celebrations in St Lucia were memorable!

Having traversed the Panama Canal, they entered the Pacific Ocean and headed for Galapagos where they spent six heavenly weeks. They sailed from Galapagos to the Marquesas, on to New Zealand, up to Indonesia and then headed home.

The delights were of sunrises, sunsets, the stars at night where there were no other lights, the fishing, the islands, the friendly people and the sense of having achieved something tremendous. A trip of a lifetime but probably not to be repeated! The boat has now been sold and life has resumed back on land....

## FOXGLOVES

"The Foxglove, with its stately bells  
Of purple, shall adorn thy dells."

*David Macbeth Moir*



According to Richard Mabey in *Flora Britannica* the foxglove defines a particular time of year, the end of Spring and the beginning of high summer.

It is a conspicuous and colourful member of the native flora, common in our local fields and woodland edges and is welcomed in our gardens too (see cover photos).

It may grow up to two metres tall. With its tubular, tapered purple or white flowers, it has evolved to be specially attractive to the larger long tongued bees as a major source of both pollen and nectar. Of particular interest are its diverse adaptations for efficient pollination by the visiting bees.

The protruding front lip of the flower acts as a 'landing stage' and the dark spots inside act as 'nectar guides' to the feast at the base. The numerous hairs inside the outer edge of the flower deter small insects which would not contribute to the pollination of the flower.

*Robert Edmondson*



## GROUP NEWS

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### CULTURE COMPANIONS GROUP CONTINUES TO THRIVE

Since the beginning of the year, the Culture Companions have experienced a whole range of music and drama from the exquisite playing of the Brodsky Quartet to the rock musical **Rent**; from a wonderful production of **Murder on the Orient Express** to an evening of Burlesque.

Our Spring programme is in full swing and I am taking bookings for:

11 April: Leith Hill Music Festival's **Will Todd's Passion Music** (Dorking Halls)

12 April: Elgar's **The Dream of Gerontius** (Dorking Halls)

3 May: **Boys from the Blackstuff** (The Yvonne Arnaud)

17 May: **Baroque Variations** (St Martin's Church, Dorking)

24 May: Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra concert (details soon)

After our successful day trip to the Van Gogh exhibition, we're off to The Courtauld Gallery to see the **Goya to Impressionism** exhibition on 9 April.

Another early booking is to the **Opera at Grange Park** at West Horsley. We are blessed to have the highest standard of opera on our doorsteps. It's a wonderful experience, not just the opera itself but the picnicking in the grounds in the long dinner interval. This year because we're a group of eight, we have been able to book a whole box (a new experience for most of us) and we are ready to dress up and enjoy **Madama Butterfly** on 22 June.

The Culture Companions group brings together people who wish to go out, especially on a Saturday evening to enjoy music and theatre but who do not want to go by themselves. We car share. For further information and to book tickets contact me, Helen Mardell, at [helen.mardell@gmail.com](mailto:helen.mardell@gmail.com) (01306 880061)



### SINGING FOR PLEASURE

The Singing for Pleasure group was delighted to perform at the Nower House Care Home, to a very appreciative audience who enjoyed songs from Oklahoma, South Pacific and The Sound of Music.

The singers particularly appreciated the baked scones and tea which ensured a happy and relaxed afternoon for all.

*Denis Kellaway*

## PLANT LOVERS

Spring is here at last and Plant Lovers are enjoying the spectacle of shoots pushing up through the damp soil and the annual magic of snowdrops and crocuses unfurling. At our February meeting, we talked about how we could extend our knowledge of gardening on a variety of soils. Most group members have sandy soils, and it would be so good if gardeners with clay and chalk soils joined our group. If this is you, please contact Cathy. If you have sandy soil, don't be put off - a warm welcome awaits you too.

The group meets on the third Monday morning of the month to talk about what is happening in our gardens and appraise our successes, failures and problems. Then we focus on a pre-selected topic. Last month it was *'What is the one plant we cannot do without in our garden?'* Answers included



Nandina domestica or 'Fire Power' for prolonged winter colour; varieties of Daphne for perfume and Photinia for a colourful hedge. The group is friendly and informal and sessions always finish with a good chat. In April we will visit Dunsborough Park in Ripley to see their amazing display of tulips.

To find out more, please contact Cathy Guy [cathyguy330@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cathyguy330@yahoo.co.uk) or Margaret Ashdown [margaret51ashdown@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret51ashdown@btinternet.com).

## INVESTMENT AND MONEY

Last year, was a stand-out year for the group. For a start, we changed our name from Portfolio Management, partly because we believed that the word 'portfolio' was poorly understood, and partly because we wanted to broaden our discussions from a narrow focus on Stock Market investments. We still construct 'dummy' portfolios and monitor them from month to month, but we also talk about savings, insurance and other financial products. Membership is good - sadly, we have lost one or two members, but they have been replaced by 'new blood' who have made strong contributions. With ten members, including three ladies, we are close to optimum size, but have not closed the group.

In 2024, stock markets were extraordinary. In over a dozen years in this group, the risk profile of individual portfolios has varied enormously, but the annual outcomes have been remarkably similar. This year was different. Our average capital appreciation was 20%, comfortably beating the 5.7% of the FTSE 100, but the dispersion was unprecedented. I did not expect Trump to be elected, and counted on lower interest rates and pro-growth policies from a new UK government. I was wrong, so my gilts and small company 'growth' stocks fell sharply and my 10-stock portfolio fell by 24% over the year.

Another member, however, focused on large cap US technology and defence stocks and generated a stunning profit of 76%. What you have in your ISA really matters!

Our venue remains cracking value. In addition to the free car park and a handy kitchen (we enjoy coffee and cakes), the furniture has been upgraded and free wi-fi has been provided, yet fees for the afternoon have been held at £20.

*John Holder*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (NEW)**

As we all know the world we live in is increasingly threatened by changes to our environment; and this new u3a group is being set up to investigate this. Group members will determine the exact agenda, and agree which issues are to be looked at in detail. Going forward, members will be asked in turn to take an issue which matters to them and research it to present to the rest of the group; members can work in collaboration if they wish, using whatever material they feel appropriate.

Visits will be an important part of the activities, and in due course we hope to arrange informative and inspirational speakers to talk to the group and the wider u3a community.

Possible global subject areas include deforestation; air pollution; loss of biodiversity and habitats; threatened species such as polar bears and penguins; and managing our responses to extreme weather events. At a local level, subjects might be why the green belt matters or the pollution of local rivers.

As well as increasing understanding of the issues, the group will consider possible schemes to protect the environment, and the actions individuals and organisations might take.

**Venue:** Putty Cakes, West Street, Dorking

**Date and time:** The first meeting will be on **Wednesday 23 April** and thereafter on the 4th Wednesday 10-11.30am (arriving at 9.50am to order coffee - and perhaps cake!). To register your interest in joining this group - please contact Beryl Sinclair, [dandu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dandu3asecretary@gmail.com).

## **CURRENT ISSUES 2 (NEW) - RETIRED BUT NOT RETIRING?**

*Why would anyone want to work beyond retirement age?* This is the question the Current Issues group has been debating over the last two months.

For many, the physical demands and the fast pace of work, including commuting nationally or even internationally mean that carrying on past retirement is not possible or desirable. Changes in work practices and technologies require constant retraining which might lead to burn out. For some people, in spite of the experience they bring to the workplace, working past retirement may lead to stagnation and a lack of fulfilment in a competitive job market where younger candidates are often preferred.

A recent study by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) found that in 2018, 61% of older workers had experienced ageism. That number increased to 78% in 2020.

For the self-employed, there may be less of a clear-cut break as people continue to manage their own work environment and hours and may also be less inclined to risk a complete cessation in work.

In November 2023, a report for The Institute for Fiscal Studies suggests that paid employment declines significantly after age 55. For men aged 55, 81% are in paid work, falling to 44% by age 65. For women, employment rates fall from 74% to 34% over the same ages, although the disparity in figures may be due to the fact that women are often care givers or support the next generation by providing child care. Again, the IFS report shows that 50% of men and 41% of women still working at age 74 are self-employed.

Of course, money is an obvious incentive for those working beyond retirement, particularly for those who still have dependents or mortgages. Surprisingly, however, people with average levels of wealth are more likely to work in the run up to state pension age. Employment rates for those above the state pension age are highest among wealthier people.

Apart from the obvious benefits of increased income, other benefits include maintaining social interaction and mental stimulation. The potential downsides include reduced free time, stress from adapting to a new work environments or techniques, and possible conflicts with family commitments and leisure activities one might want to pursue in retirement.

UK productivity is in decline partly due to a rise in the ageing population (people living longer and healthier lives) and a lowering of the birth rate (1.44 children on average per woman in 2023 in England and Wales, a decline from 1.55 children per woman in 2021 and the lowest birth rate since records began in 1938).

The questions remain: *How can an older workforce benefit the economy? Should governments and employers work together to provide incentives such as more flexible working arrangements, reduced tax rates on post-retirement earnings and even social contribution credits?*

Ultimately the decision to work or not work will depend on so many factors personal, financial and social, that there is unlikely to be a one size fits all solution. What is important is that we all feel that we are able to lead productive lives that enhance our well-being and personal sense of value.

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NOTE: Due to popular demand, we are starting a third Current Issues discussion group. For more details and to register interest, please send an email to [dandu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dandu3asecretary@gmail.com).

## Monthly Meetings

Meetings take place in St Joseph's Church Hall, Dorking RH4 3DL 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 contact John Sinclair 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 John know. If you have suggestions regarding topics and/or speakers for monthly meetings, please get in touch with Denise Hooker [dorkingu3ameetings@gmail.com](mailto:dorkingu3ameetings@gmail.com)

### 9 April

#### THE AGINCOURT ARCHER



In a dramatised monologue, a 14<sup>th</sup> century archer tells of his experiences at the battle of Agincourt and

their affect on him and his family.

Speaker **SIMON WATERFIELD** includes historical anecdotes, reproduction historical artefacts which are used as part of the drama to bring history and the archer's story to life.

### 14 May

#### THE STORY OF THE DAMBUSTERS

**Military History member JIM BARNES** traces the British and French development of this iconic supersonic aircraft, from technical achievement and profit to the crash that should never have happened and the human errors that contributed to it. His talk finally looks at how Concorde might be resurrected and take to the skies again!

### 11 June

#### JORDAN: THE DESERT HIGHWAY

Walk in the footsteps of T E Lawrence with speaker **JAN PARSONS** as she takes us on a journey through the stunning scenery of Jordan's Grand Canyon, visiting Jerash, Amman and the Desert Castles en route to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Petra, with its warren of caves, temples and tombs, meeting shepherds and local people along the way.



### 9 July

#### BEES & HONEY: TRADITION, MYTH, SYMBOL & MAGIC

Beekeeper and amateur entomologist **PETER SMITH**, looks at the causes of declining numbers of insects



and pollinators on which we depend for food. He looks at what is being done to help curb this decline and what we as individuals can do. Peter works closely with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and is currently mapping bumblebee populations on the North Downs.

## ***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](http://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** by emailing [johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk](mailto:johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk).

### **ARCHAEOLOGY**

Peter Horitz: 01306 898057  
[peter.horitz@uwclub.net](mailto:peter.horitz@uwclub.net)

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### **ART GROUP**

Beryl Sinclair: 020 3949 0707;  
[dandu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dandu3asecretary@gmail.com)

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### **ART & ARCHITECTURE**

Roger Stones 01306 886754  
[roger.stones@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.stones@btinternet.com)  
Beryl Sinclair: [dandu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dandu3asecretary@gmail.com)

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### **BOWLS – INDOOR GROUP** (Oct – April)

Ann Watney: 01306 889115  
[ann.watney@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.watney@btinternet.com)

### **BOWLS - OUTDOOR GROUP** (May –Sept)

David Pettman: 01306 883043  
[david@pettman.co.uk](mailto:david@pettman.co.uk)

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### **BRIDGE**

Sue Greenacre: 01306 886832  
[suegreenacre49@gmail.com](mailto:suegreenacre49@gmail.com)  
Lesley Pearce: 07954 381873  
[lesleypearcemassage@gmail.com](mailto:lesleypearcemassage@gmail.com)

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### **CARD GAMES PLUS**

Mike Giles: 01306 884598; 07710 500116  
[mibridge@mac.com](mailto:mibridge@mac.com)

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### **CREATIVE CRAFTS**

Deanne Rhodes: 01737 844768  
[deannerhodes@btinternet.com](mailto:deannerhodes@btinternet.com)

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### **CULTURE COMPANIONS**

Helen Mardell: 07894 859162  
[helen.mardell@gmail.com](mailto:helen.mardell@gmail.com)

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### **CURRENT ISSUES 1**

Andrew Gibbons: 01306 742650  
[andrew.gibbons@pobox.com](mailto:andrew.gibbons@pobox.com)

### **CURRENT ISSUES 2**

Ian Norman: 07921 492790  
[iannorman6@gmail.com](mailto:iannorman6@gmail.com)

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### **CURRENT ISSUES 3 (NEW)**

Philip Holland: 07528 703759  
[philholland1954@btinternet.com](mailto:philholland1954@btinternet.com)

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### **DIY DRESSMAKING**

Angela Day: 07762 752322  
Jenny Mann: [u3adressmaking@gmail.com](mailto:u3adressmaking@gmail.com)

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### **DORKING READERS/FRIDAY READING CIRCLE**

Beryl Sinclair: [dandu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dandu3asecretary@gmail.com)

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### **DANCE 2B FIT**

Diane Prout: 07799580906  
[diane.prout@btopenworld.com](mailto:diane.prout@btopenworld.com)

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### **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Beryl Sinclair: 020 3949 0707;  
[dandu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dandu3asecretary@gmail.com)

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### **FRENCH CONVERSATION**

Angela Day Tel. 07762 752322  
[angela\\_m\\_d@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela_m_d@hotmail.co.uk)  
Christine Lawrence: 01306 882316  
[french@dorkingu3a.org.uk](mailto:french@dorkingu3a.org.uk)

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### **FRENCH LUNCH**

Geoff Saunders: 01306 884812  
[geoff.m.saunders@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.m.saunders@gmail.com)

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### **GARDENING**

Vivian Wildman: 01306 644950  
[vivian.wildman.12@gmail.com](mailto:vivian.wildman.12@gmail.com)

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### **GENEALOGY**

Sally Hulbert: 07770 874769  
[hulberts\\_molev@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hulberts_molev@yahoo.co.uk)

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### **GERMAN CONVERSATION**

Bob Crooks: 01306 740062  
[robertcrooks@rocketmail.com](mailto:robertcrooks@rocketmail.com)

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### **GUITAR**

Brian Joannou: 01306 887411  
[brian.joannou241@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.joannou241@btinternet.com)

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**INVESTMENT & MONEY**

John Holder: 01737 845907  
[holdj851@gmail.com](mailto:holdj851@gmail.com)

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**JIGSAW EXCHANGE**

Hilda Burden: 01737 842516

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**LINE DANCING**

Gill Crooks: 01306 740062  
[gillcrooks1@gmail.com](mailto:gillcrooks1@gmail.com)

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**LOCAL HISTORY**

Paul Smith: 01306 640791  
[paul3msmith@hotmail.com](mailto:paul3msmith@hotmail.com)  
Valerie Rayner: 01306 640791  
[raynervj@gmail.com](mailto:raynervj@gmail.com)

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**LUNCHEON CLUB**

Tony Parker: 01306 884050  
[bacdocs7@gmail.com](mailto:bacdocs7@gmail.com)

---

**MILITARY HISTORY**

Jim Barnes: 07967392532  
[jimbarnes31@gmail.com](mailto:jimbarnes31@gmail.com)  
Contact: Liz Lockhart-Mure: 01737 844173

---

**PHILOSOPHY ONLINE**

Virginia Wheeler  
[virginia.s.wheeler@gmail.com](mailto:virginia.s.wheeler@gmail.com)

---

**PHILOSOPHY**

Marjorie Hudson: 01306 888281  
[hudmarjorie@gmail.com](mailto:hudmarjorie@gmail.com)

---

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

Faith & Mike Docker: 01306 501640  
[faith.docker@gmail.com](mailto:faith.docker@gmail.com)  
[michael.docker@gmail.com](mailto:michael.docker@gmail.com)

---

**PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP**

John Sinclair: 07817 454301  
[johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk](mailto:johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk)

---

**PILATES**

Janet Hoad: 07802 377873  
[jahoad@hotmail.com](mailto:jahoad@hotmail.com)

---

**PLANT LOVERS**

Margaret Ashdown: 07944 176399  
[margaret51ashdown@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret51ashdown@btinternet.com)  
Cathy Guy: 07878 825412  
[cathyguy33@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cathyguy33@yahoo.co.uk)

**READING FOR PLEASURE**

Jill Roome: 01306 883023  
[e.taylor40@btinternet.com](mailto:e.taylor40@btinternet.com)

---

**ROCK & POP**

Jeff Smith: 07846 670967  
[smiff.house@outlook.com](mailto:smiff.house@outlook.com)

---

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

Richard Rumble: 01372 450142  
[richrumble747@gmail.com](mailto:richrumble747@gmail.com)

---

**SCRIBBLERS**

Gillian Williamson: 0798 9962237  
[rowewill@aol.com](mailto:rowewill@aol.com)

---

**SHAKESPEARE & HIS CONTEMPORARIES**

Jackie Rance: 01306 887416  
[jaxrance@gmail.com](mailto:jaxrance@gmail.com)

---

**SINGING FOR PLEASURE**

Meike Laurenson  
[m Laurenson@talktalk.net](mailto:m Laurenson@talktalk.net)

---

**SPANISH (Beginners / Conversation)**

Beryl Sinclair: [dandu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dandu3asecretary@gmail.com)

---

**TEXTILES & TEA**

Juliet Eberle: 01306 884569  
[juliet.eberle@ntlworld.com](mailto:juliet.eberle@ntlworld.com)

---

**UKULELE**

John Hammond: 07847 674338  
[jbw.hammond@gmail.com](mailto:jbw.hammond@gmail.com)

---

**UPWORDS**

Sue Jex: 01306 882673  
[suelucas51@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:suelucas51@yahoo.co.uk)

---

**WINE APPRECIATION**

Geoff Saunders: 01306 884812  
[geoff.m.saunders@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.m.saunders@gmail.com)

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**WORDS, WORDS, WORDS**

Rosemary Harbridge: 01306 881520  
[rharbridge@sky.com](mailto:rharbridge@sky.com)

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## DAY OUT

# Weald and Downland Living Museum

## Monday 2 June 2025



The Weald and Downland Living Museum is a hidden gem some 10 miles North of Chichester, for those who want to see, touch and even smell what life was like for rural communities in times gone by. Set in a picture perfect setting (BBC's the Repair Shop is filmed there), it's home to over 50 rescued rural buildings telling the story from Anglo-Saxon to Edwardian times. There is much to see including homes and historic gardens, farm animals, farming heritage craft and a trade workshop. Our visit includes a private tour of the Gridshell workshop and artefacts store which houses just some of the 16,000 items that make up the artefacts collection.

A café provides hot food, sandwiches and snacks and there are also picnic tables for those who prefer to bring their own food.

Please note that the site covers a large area, and therefore may not be suitable for those with mobility problems.

### PLEASE NOTE COACH DEPARTURE TIMES:

- 9.00am Brockham (bus stop near Oakdene Road)
- 9.10am Dorking Halls
- 9.15am Opposite Waitrose
- 9.20am Bus Stop near Knoll Road

**COST:** £50 pp to include coach and driver's gratuity.

*(Photographs courtesy of Paul Smith)*





## DAY OUT

### Chartwell, Westerham

**Thursday 17 July 2025**

Having successfully visited two National Trust properties last year, we thought that a visit to Chartwell this year would be an appropriate location as we commemorate the end of WW2 80 years ago.

Chartwell was the much-loved family home of Sir Winston Churchill, the place that brought him comfort and inspiration. Having bought the estate in 1922, Churchill lived there until his death in 1965, saying that *'a day away from Chartwell is a day wasted.'*

The house is filled with treasures, gifts and personal belongings of the Churchills giving a glimpse into the private world of one of Britain's greatest leaders. The rooms have been arranged and decorated as it was in the 1930s.

We will have a timed entry to the house with a self-guided system in place to allow you to

explore at your own pace. There are printed information sheets in each room explaining items of significance as well as stewards who will answer any questions. Additionally, there is an opportunity to visit Churchill's studio which houses the largest single collection of his paintings. There are also extensive grounds including a swimming pool which was a favourite of the family but now managed for the wildlife and a separate rose garden designed by Lady Churchill.

We are planning to arrive in plenty of time for us to visit the café before the house opens where we may enjoy a morning coffee and also perhaps have lunch there, the cost of which would be at your expense. Equally you may wish to bring a picnic. The shop at Chartwell is one of the largest in the National Trust so that too may be of interest!

#### **PLEASE NOTE COACH DEPARTURE TIMES:**

9.00am	Brockham (bus stop near Oakdene Road)
9.10am	Dorking Halls
9.15am	Opposite Waitrose
9.20am	Bus stop near Knoll Road

We intend to depart for home at 4 pm.

Cost for National Trust Members: £22pp to include coach and driver's gratuity

Cost for non-National Trust Members: £41.80pp to include NT entry, coach and driver's gratuity



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Spring Quiz Night Monday 28 April



By popular demand we are holding another quiz evening at the **Rialto Lounge**, 33 South Street, Dorking, on **Monday 28 April**.

Teams comprise six people and the cost is £60 per table (£10 a head), which includes a pizza/pasta buffet main course and eight exciting rounds of quizzing.

Entry is at 6.30pm, the meal is served at 7pm, and the quiz will follow. Meanwhile, you can

irrigate your mind by buying your drinks and desserts at Rialto.

Team leaders are asked to book their table using the form which is on the website [www.dorkingu3a.org.uk/events/event/quiz-night-5/](http://www.dorkingu3a.org.uk/events/event/quiz-night-5/). For further information contact Rosemary Harbridge at [rharbridge@sky.com](mailto:rharbridge@sky.com)

### Dorking & District u3a Picnic in the Park Wednesday 18 June 2025 12.30h – 16.30h **BUCKLAND PARK LAKE** *Park Lake Drive, Buckland, Betchworth, RH3 7FE* Bring a picnic and enjoy the music and fun.



**£10pp to include entry fee, cakes, Pimm's, tea & coffee**

For more information or to book visit

[www.Dorkingu3a.org.uk](http://www.Dorkingu3a.org.uk) or contact lanthe Cox on 01737 843105 or email [lanthecox72@gmail.com](mailto:lanthecox72@gmail.com)

# RESIDENTIAL TRIP

## **RHS Garden Bridgewater & the Heritage of Cheshire & the Welsh Borders 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Five days - four nights half board from £729

### **DAY 1: DEPART – PACKWOOD HOUSE**

En route we visit the NT's Packwood House, a 15<sup>th</sup> century mansion restored by Graham Baron Ash in the 1920s after decades of disrepair. We then check into the 3\* Best Western Forest Hills Hotel on the outskirts of Frodsham.

### **DAY 2: ANDERTON BOAT LIFT VISITOR CENTRE & CRUISE; WALKING TOUR OF CHESTER**

An appointed Blue Badge guide will accompany the group on a visit to the Anderton Boat Lift Visitor Centre where we will enjoy a boat excursion on the River Weaver and through the Anderton Boat Lift, built in 1875 by Edwin Clark. The afternoon will be dedicated to a walking tour of Chester, its Cathedral and 13<sup>th</sup> century 'Rows'.

### **DAY 3: PONTCYSYLLTE AQUEDUCT CRUISE; LLANGOLLEN; ERDDIG**

Our Blue Badge guide will take us on a morning excursion across Telford's Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. A leisurely lunch in Llangollen will be followed by a visit to the NT property of Erddig.

### **DAY 4: RHS GARDEN BRIDGEWATER; DUNHAM MASSEY**

We enjoy a morning visit to RHS Garden Bridgewater which includes one of the largest walled gardens in the UK as well as Chinese gardens and Victorian greenhouses. It is also the site of the restored lost gardens at Worsley New Hall in Salford. We go on to visit NT's Dunham Massey, an elegant Georgian mansion with sumptuous interiors and treasures.

### **DAY 5: BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR AT THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY**

En route home, we stop at Stratford upon Avon to enjoy a behind the scenes tour to the RSC to discover its origins.

For more information and to book phone Ianthe Cox on 01737 843105 or email [ianthecox72@gmail.com](mailto:ianthecox72@gmail.com)



# 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 German Conversation	Bridge	Bridge German Conversation	Bridge
Tuesday	am	Dance 2B Fit Military History Shakespeare & his Contemporaries (online)	Dance 2B Fit Luncheon Club Scribblers	Dance 2B Fit Shakespeare & his Contemporaries Words, Words, Words	Dance 2B Fit
	pm	Photography Pilates 1, 2 & 3 Textiles & Tea	Pilates 1, 2 & 3 Upwords	Philosophy Pilates 1, 2 & 3 Textiles & Tea	Archaeology Pilates 1, 2 & 3 Upwords
Wednesday	am	Current Issues 1	French Lunch	Current Issues 2 Local History Science & Technology	Environmental Issues
	pm	Card Games Plus Dressmaking Genealogy Philosophy (online)	MONTHLY MEETING	Card Games Plus Philosophy (online)	Art & Architecture
Thursday	am	Guitar Rock & Pop	Guitar Rock & Pop	Creative Crafts Guitar Rock & Pop	Guitar Rock & Pop
	pm	French Conversation	Spanish Conversation	Dorking Readers French Conversation Photography Workshop	Art Group Spanish Conversation
Friday	am	Line Dancing	Gardening Ukulele	Line Dancing Ukulele	Current Issues 3 Ukulele
	pm	Indoor bowls (Oct-April) Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept)	Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept)	Indoor Bowls (Oct-April) Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept)	Friday Reading Circle Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept) Investment & Money

## BUT IS IT ART?

To quote Tolstoy's seminal work **What is Art?**, "We call beauty ... that which affords us a certain kind of pleasure." So, I was amused to receive this little anecdote from Barbara and David Jones.



*David and I drink tea, red bush tea, turmeric tea, and, more recently, David has added fruit tea to his repertoire. Putting wet tea bags in the compost bucket leads to mould so we dry the used bags before disposing of them. We now had a collection of brown, reddish brown, yellowish and rather attractive pink bags. And in a variety of shapes and sizes too.*

*When the electrician came to move a thermostat and the cables in the kitchen, we were left with a white space on the wall that cried out to be covered with something stylish! The tea bags were duly stuck on with double sided sticky tape. The pink ones faded after two or three months but we didn't really notice. When an adult grandson came to visit and asked: 'What are these tea bags all about?', I replied indignantly: 'Don't you recognise ART when you see it?'*



For all the budding artists like Barbara and David out there, I am pleased to announce that we are relaunching an Art Group on the fourth Thursday of the month, 2-4pm at Crossways Baptist Community Church. This small group is about fun and relaxation, allowing members to develop their own interests, share skills and experience working in a variety of media and on a range of subjects including landscapes, still life and portraiture.

There is no formal teaching - members learn from one another in a friendly environment.

Some sessions may have a more thematic approach under the guidance of video instruction or a specialist artist.

If you enjoy painting or drawing in any medium and want to share your love of art in a relaxed atmosphere, then please consider joining this very friendly group. There will be a small charge per session to cover the cost of refreshments and the use of a studio at Crossways Baptist Community Church.

The first meeting will be on **Thursday 24 April** at 2pm. For more information or register an interest, please contact Beryl Sinclair [dandu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dandu3asecretary@gmail.com).

## DAY OUT - THE CHICHESTER EXPERIENCE (9 February)

Chichester is a pretty town with a very special theatre, and we were privileged to be given a fascinating backstage tour. Built in 1962, the Grade II listed Chichester Theatre was constructed of concrete for £130,000. not a lot of money even then. It was the brain child of local optician Leslie Evershed-Martin. He wanted a theatre for everyone and basically crowd funded the construction cost by selling lottery tickets. The stage is a *thrust* (visible from all angles); there are no boxes and even the dressing rooms have no hierarchy.



The first director was Laurence Olivier. Originally, the theatre ended immediately behind the stage. Scenery was hoisted by two poor chaps standing outside on the grass, often in the rain. Presumably, it could be quite cold on stage too. Since then, the theatre has been improved and extended, at a cost far greater than the original £130,000.

After a break for lunch, we were treated to a performance of the award winning play which took the Edinburgh Festival in 2024 by storm, *Pride and Prejudice*\* (\*sort of).

Now it is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man, whether or not in possession of a fortune, might have been in need of a good wife to interpret the plot, particularly if his classical education had not included Jane Austen's novel (and also, if he hadn't seen the film with Keira Knightley!). Unusually, this version of *Pride and Prejudice* was portrayed from the point of view of the servants. Five very talented young actresses interpreted the goings on from the point of view of those below stairs. They played all the parts - Mrs Bennet, her daughters, both Darcy and Bingley, Mr Collins, and others, with fast costume (and the odd wig) changes, although half the time their costumes were merely their servants' dresses with a suitable jacket on top. But never for one minute did the audience not know who they were.

The cast also sang, danced, and cavorted in a manner of which Jane Austen would definitely not have approved, with modern songs and regional accents as befitted servants of the time, and quite a few references to rivers and wet shirts. Who could forget Colin Firth in THAT shirt?

At the final curtain, many members of the audience rose to their feet to give the five exhausted cast members a standing ovation.

Thank you to Jackie Rance and Deanne Rhodes for organising a really great day out, much enjoyed by all, whether they knew what on earth was going on or not.

Judy Perry

## SCRIBBLERS - THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND!

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Sorry, we're not open yet. Oh, you're from the Scheme I assume. Welcome, come in. We don't often get people from them. Yes, do come in. And let me introduce you to Mabel, Mikey. Mabel is one of our most trusted volunteers. Been here for years. Mikey's from the Scheme, Mabel. YES, THE SCHEME! Mabel sorts out the jumpers. You'd be amazed how many jumpers we get. Full of holes most of them.

Yes, it does look a bit like a jumble sale. At least it doesn't smell so much these days – most people wash things before they come in but not always....

Finished your coffee? Good. So, can I show you around? That pile came in yesterday. Quite honestly Mikey, we're often overwhelmed. We're like people's dustbins – they don't like to throw things away, so they give them to us. We're a dumping ground for unsaleable rubbish a lot of the time, 'though things we sell do raise some money for the blind.

We sort them into dresses/jumpers/men's clothing – we get a lot of clothes from dead people but most people who give things aren't... dead, I mean. We sometimes find things in pockets too - letters, bills, even money. One time, we found a squashed ham and tomato sandwich. Been there for months. Smelt quite awful. DISGUSTING, WASN'T IT MABEL, THE SANDWICH!

Poor Mabel – she's a little deaf but she's good at jumpers...and socks... SOCKS, MABEL, SOCKS. Not – oh, dear...

Yes, you're right, Mikey. Since my Jimmy died, I've been very lonely. I miss him so much: we got on so well but I don't want to get another one. Jimmy? No, dear, he was my dog! My husband sits at home watching TV or reading the paper...

Oh no, Mikey, we can't sell **THEM!** It's illegal! Here, I'll take them. The vicar normally disposes of them. Not sure how, but that's what he does.

We always keep an eye out for exciting things. Yes, good quality labels, or bric-a-brac. There was the time when we had that picture. REMEMBER, MABEL? THE PICTURE! It was quite beautiful, and framed. Looked like a famous name in the corner, but I can't remember who. Some modern artist. And the music box – we had it tinkling away in here all afternoon. But they were forged apparently - worth nothing.

Yes, bric-a-brac is always popular. People head straight for it. We once had a set of that strange-looking pottery with the angles and bright colours. You know the one... The vicar took that away as well – he's very good at finding out if things are genuine or not! He came back with £5 for it. Yes, the set! What a shame. It might have brought in a lot of money for the blind if it had been genuine. But a fiver's a fiver and better than nothing!

The vicar? Now that you're asking, he won't be in for a while. Taking a little break poor man. He works so hard, visiting lonely old people or helping us by collecting things from folk who can't get to the shop. Sometimes he even works here, chatting to customers and taking their money. He has a way with the older ladies.

Well, thank you so much for popping in, dear. I'll let the Scheme you were here. Oh, you're not from the Scheme? WHAAAT? You're an investigative reporter? No, I can't believe that. Surely not. You think HE did that – and ... the Church Restoration Fund as well? ... I have to sit down dear, help me. Yes, some water, thank you. Our dear vicar. It can't be true. Why only last week he took an ugly metal statue for us and came back with £10! And the wonderful sermon he preached about 'the blind leading the blind' - he said afterwards that he had us in mind when he spoke.

Pat Smith

## NONE SO QUEER AS FOLKI

*I'm indebted to u3a member Julia Forsyth for allowing me to quote some amusing extracts from her memoirs, **Diary of a Rural Saddler**. Cartoonist Kate Scurfield has also kindly granted permission for us to reproduce one of the many comical line drawings, reminiscent of my favourite artist, Thelwell. Thank you.*

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### Putting the cart before the horse?!

I've just been out to the distressed father of a pony owner. Apparently, as soon as he decided to buy his daughter a pony, he ordered a saddle from a mail order catalogue. The saddle arrived before the pony and, surprise, surprise, didn't fit. Everything was wrong - the size, the width, the shape and the leather was hard as a board. When I suggested he sent it back, he told me he had bought the saddle a full year before the pony!

### Little or large?

A man bought his wife a pair of jodhpurs and some jodhpur boots. He was convinced that he knew her size but when she came in a few days later to change them, we had such a laugh because the jodhpurs were two sizes too big and the boots were three sizes too big! Fortunately, she could see the funny side of it too! But I pity him when she got home!

### Check this out

One of my favourite customers has just been in to the shop. it's a horse with a bank account in his own name. Fortunately, he allows his human to sign the cheques.





## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### THE HISTORY OF PLACE NAMES, Tony Painter

In February, geographer and former MoD Map Research Officer, Tony Painter, gave a talk on the history of place names; he included a number of anecdotal examples of how names came about and how map-making has changed over the years, particularly after WWII.



He began by looking at Dorking and the surrounding area explaining that Surrey place names often reflect a Saxon heritage. Indeed, the name Surrey is itself derived from *sūþrige* meaning "southern kingdom or region". The names of many towns and villages hint at the Saxon tribes (e.g. Woking; Godalming) or prominent geographical features. Guildford takes its name from *gilden* (golden) and *ford* possibly because of the riverbank's yellow sands or the golden flowers growing along the river. The name Redhill is thought to be derived from *horig scylf* meaning "muddy slope", while the Mixen in the parish of Weymouth was the site of many shipwrecks and gets its name from *mixen* (dung-heap).

In most cases it's difficult to know exactly where place names come from. For example, Spook Hill may have originated from the old English word *puca* for 'goblin.' But it may also be derived from the word *spoke* (pole) and then later altered. Place names can

also reflect the old occupations that took place there, as in Hammersmith or Abinger Hammer.



Place names might also reflect historically significant events (Battle) or commemorate great men and women although after the war, European or Germanic sounding town and street names were changed, such as Hitler's Walk, because they were judged offensive. In 2017, following the Jimmy Savile debacle, local councils were warned against paying homage to local celebrities with plaques, footpaths and municipal buildings in case the individual's reputation became tainted.

New names were introduced by the Post Office in an effort to avoid confusion. For example, 'Cranley' became 'Cranleigh' to distinguish it from 'Crawley'. Some names like St David's were altered because computerised postal systems could not cope with the apostrophe.

From the 1700s, black and white markers were placed at remote crossroads to indicate the direction to

the nearest town or village although some fingerposts were painted red, possibly to mark the site of gallows or to guide illiterate travellers or prisoners destined for deportation towards the ports.

Tony closed his entertaining talk by mentioning the so-called 'Soviet Spy Maps' drawn up between 1950 and 1997, during the Cold War by the Soviet Union military; 103 areas were mapped,

covering 80 towns and cities, and including features that were not on Ordnance Survey maps from the same period. Furthermore, the Russians spelt many town names phonetically so that places are often unrecognisable. The stories go that the Russians pretended to be fishing along the coastlines or to be sightseers having picnics close to military sites !

## THE LIFE OF DAME AGATHA CHRISTIE, David Allen



Most of us love a good murder mystery and there's no lack of thriller writers to keep us enthralled. But the old favourites still inspire and in March, David Allen's talk on Agatha Christie, fully illustrated with old photographs and period clips, packed the hall.

When Agatha was born (September 1890), her wealthy American father Frederick Miller, and mother, Clara, had settled at Ashfield, a large home not far from Torquay, together with their two older children. The family lived a comfortable existence until Agatha was five; then failing fortunes caused them to move to France. After the death of her father in 1901, Agatha attended a number of boarding schools, taking

piano and singing lessons at which she excelled. She could have been a professional pianist had it not been for her extreme shyness.

In 1910, Clara's health and the need to economise prompted another move, this time to Cairo. In 1912, after a whirlwind romance, Agatha married Archie Christie, a subaltern and qualified aviator who had applied to join the Royal Flying Corps. She continued her wartime work as a nurse and in 1917, qualified as an apothecary. Following a bet with her sister Madge, Agatha decided to write a detective story and Poirot was born as the hero of ***The Mysterious Affair at Styles***.

After numerous rejections, the manuscript was finally accepted. In 1926, her next novel ***The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*** was to make her the most famous writer of murder mystery novels of all time. In the same year, her beloved mother died and she discovered that Archie was having a relationship with fellow golfer Nancy

Neele. Bereft, Agatha disappeared for several days, prompting a media frenzy; after 11 days, she was found suffering from amnesia in Harrogate; she never spoke of these events.

In 1929, following a chance meeting with friends, she travelled on the Orient Express to Baghdad and crossed the desert to the archaeological site at Ur, where she met Max Mallowan, a 25-year-old archaeologist. Their marriage in 1930 was followed by a prolific output of novels. Max travelled widely and was subsequently stationed in Cairo during the war; so Agatha wrote sometimes two or more books a year. In 1938, she sold Ashfield and settled at Greenway in Devon .



In 1975, her very last Poirot novel *Curtain* was released. When Agatha died on 12 January 1976, lights were dimmed in West End theatres.

### FRIDAY READING CIRCLE

As chance would have it, our selection this month was Kate Atkinson's *Death at the Sign of the Rook*. The plot revolves around a murder mystery weekend at Rook Hall, a stately home and hotel in Yorkshire. As guests gather to solve a fake murder, the private investigator Jackson Brodie and DC Reggie Chase are drawn into a complex web of art theft and murder. What makes the novel interesting are the frequent references to Christie thrillers and the use of detective fiction tropes culminating in a farcical and incongruous denouement. An intriguing novel if perhaps not Atkinson's best.

### HISTORY WALKS



We no longer offer a dedicated D&D u3a Walking group, although walks in and around Dorking are organised by Mole Valley - check out their spring and summer schedule on [www.molevalley.gov.uk/ramblers-wellbeing-walks](http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/ramblers-wellbeing-walks).

Over the summer I would like to run a couple of leisurely local walks with a history theme, but need one or more people to help me plan and advertise them. If interested, please contact me on [dandu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dandu3asecretary@gmail.com). Thank you.

Beryl

## SOUTH EAST U3A FORUM SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

### 1- 4 September – University of Chichester

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This year, the courses on offer at the Summer School are:

<b>AI</b> – Artificial Intelligence	<b>'Operatunity'</b> - Opera Appreciation
<b>History</b> - Roman	<b>Patchwork</b> - Beginners
<b>Italian</b> - Intermediate	<b>Philosophy</b> - Introduction
<b>Latin</b> - for Roman Britain & Beyond	<b>Poetry</b> - Australian poets
<b>Mah Jong</b> - Intermediate	<b>Walking</b> - A Coastal Delight
<b>Mathematics</b> - People & Paradoxes	<b>Yoga</b> - Mat, Standing & Seated
<b>Memory, Perception &amp; Thinking</b>	

The costs for 2025 Summer School are as follows:

Residential - En-Suite	<b>£405.00</b>	Residential - Standard	<b>£375.00</b>
Non-Residential with dinner	<b>£240.00</b>	Non-Residential no dinner	<b>£180.00</b>

The residential prices include accommodation, all meals and refreshments offered at break times and a 'welcome' drink on the first evening, with a 'farewell' drink on the last evening, both prior to dinner.

Each evening, there will also be entertainment on campus; this is included in the price for summer school. But, if you would like to attend the theatre on the Tuesday evening, this comes at an extra cost – ticket prices will be available after the Chichester Festival Theatre has released their seasonal programme.

Full information about the Summer School and how to book can be found on the South East u3a Forum's website <https://southeastu3aforum.u3asite.uk/2025>

**IMAGES ARE FROM SUMMER SCHOOL 2023**



## SURREY 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 you should send a completed booking slip, with a cheque for £12 for members (£15 for non-members or registration on the day) or £7 for online attendance via 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](mailto:surreyu3astudyday@outlook.com).

For help to print out forms or if you would like transport to attend the study days, please contact Beryl Sinclair on 020 3949 0707.

### THE COMMITTEE

**IANTHE COX - Chairman** 01737 843105; [dorkingu3achairman@gmail.com](mailto:dorkingu3achairman@gmail.com)

**JOHN SINCLAIR - Treasurer (interim) / Membership Secretary**

020 3949 0707; [johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk](mailto:johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk)

**BERYL SINCLAIR - Secretary / Groups Coordinator** [dandu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dandu3asecretary@gmail.com)

**ROSEMARY HARBRIDGE - Minutes Secretary / Sub-editor** [rharbridge@sky.com](mailto:rharbridge@sky.com)

**MICHAEL DOCKER - Webmaster** 01306 501640; [michael.docker@gmail.com](mailto:michael.docker@gmail.com)

**DEANNE RHODES - Days Out** 01737 844768; 07770 273407;

[deannerhodes@btinternet.com](mailto:deannerhodes@btinternet.com)

**JUDY PERRY - Days Out** 07984 324942; [judyperry9@btinternet.com](mailto:judyperry9@btinternet.com)

**DENISE HOOKER - Monthly Meetings Coordinator**

[dorkingu3ameetings@gmail.com](mailto:dorkingu3ameetings@gmail.com)

**JOHN THOM - Communications Coordinator** 07768 397731; [john@jandcthom.co.uk](mailto:john@jandcthom.co.uk)

**KARL BARCLAY - New Members Coordinator** 07836 366235;

[karlbarclay@virginmedia.com](mailto:karlbarclay@virginmedia.com)

**CHRIS HALL - Committee member**

### RESIDENTIALS

**IANTHE COX** 01737 843105; [ianthecox72@gmail.com](mailto:ianthecox72@gmail.com)

### EDITORIAL TEAM

**BERYL SINCLAIR - Editor** 020 3949 0707; [dandu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dandu3asecretary@gmail.com)

**ROSEMARY HARBRIDGE - Sub-editor** [rharbridge@sky.com](mailto:rharbridge@sky.com)

**MICHAEL DOCKER - Webmaster** 01306 501640; [michael.docker@gmail.com](mailto:michael.docker@gmail.com)

**NICK EDWARDS - Distribution** 07761 757790; [needwards@hotmail.com](mailto:needwards@hotmail.com)

**PRINTER - Eyes Wide Digital** 01306 875150

## Calendar of Events April – December 2025

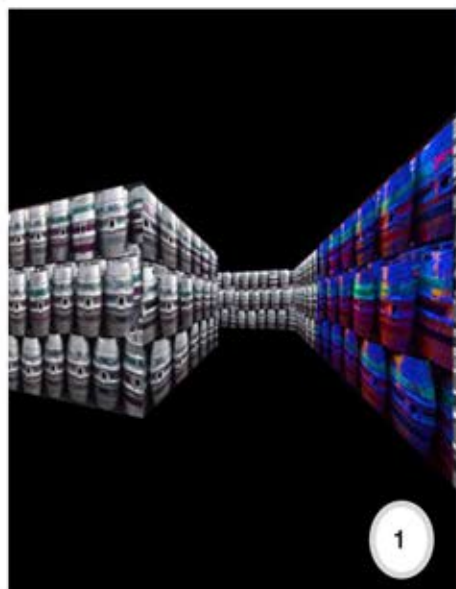
<b>April</b>	9	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	The Agincourt Archer, speaker <b>Simon Waterfield</b>
	11	<i>Study Day</i>	Vincent van Gogh & Painting in the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century France, presented by <b>Leslie Pitcher</b>
	16	<i>Day Out</i>	Visit to Kelmscott Manor
	28	<i>Event</i>	Quiz Night at Rialto Dorking
<b>May</b>	1-5	<i>Residential Trip</i>	The Historic Houses & Heritage of North Yorkshire
	14	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	When I Met Barnes Wallis and the Dambusters – the Dams Raid, <b>Jim Barnes</b>
	16	<i>Study Day</i>	The Asian Century, presented by <b>Steve Bird</b>
<b>June</b>	2	<i>Day Out</i>	Weald and Downland Living Museum
	11	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Jordan: The Desert Highway, speaker <b>Jan Parsons</b>
	18	<i>Event</i>	<b>SUMMER PICNIC</b> - Buckland Park Lake
	20	<i>Study Day</i>	NHS Reform, presented by <b>Catherine Heffernan</b> (tbc)
<b>July</b>	9	<i>AGM Monthly Meeting</i>	<b>Dorking &amp; District u3a AGM</b> at 2pm followed by Bees & Honey: Tradition, Myth, Symbol & Magic, speaker <b>Peter Smith</b>
	17	<i>Day Out</i>	Chartwell
<b>September</b>	10	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	AI - The Good & the Bad, speaker <b>Alan Freeland</b>
	19	<i>Study Day</i>	Vulcan & Concorde, speaker <b>Guy Bartlett</b>
<b>October</b>	6-10	<i>Residential Trip</i>	RHS Garden Bridgewater & the Heritage of Cheshire & the Welsh Borders
	8	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Landscapes of SE England, speaker <b>Dr Geoffrey Mead</b>
	17	<i>Study Day</i>	Guiding, Ghosts & Gossip at Royal Palaces, presented by <b>Sarah Slater</b>
<b>November</b>	12	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Working with the Ghosts of Hampton Court Palace, speaker <b>Sarah Slater</b>
	21	<i>Study Day</i>	Iron & Rivets, from Electronics & Jets, to Robots & AI, speaker <b>Richard Marks</b>
<b>December</b>	10	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	The Wonders of Winter, speaker <b>Louise Camby</b>

## *Springtime in Dorking*



1. BEE FEEDING ON FOX GLOVE NECTAR (*Robert Edmondson*); 2. HONEYBEE ON SPRING CROCUS; 3. FEEDING TIME (*Mike Calvert*); 4. GIANT GALANTHUS (*Faith Docker*);  
Cover photograph: ROUNDABOUT SPRING (*Paul Smith*)

## Photography Group - Formation



1. BARRELS (*Robert Edmondson*); 2. FEATHERS (*Julia Forsyth*);  
3. COLONNADE (*Millicent Lake*); 4. CHICHESTER CLOISTER (*Chris Prout*)