



**u3a**

Dorking & District



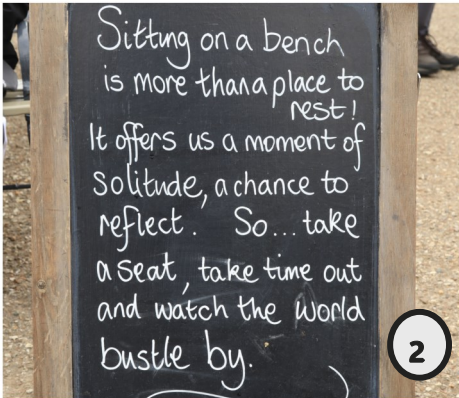
*Dorking & District*

*u3a*

*Lady Mabel College  
Physical Education  
Handbook 2026*

Commissioned by the Lady Mabel College of Physical Education Old Students' Association, this stained glass panel records and celebrates the College's important role in the history of Wentworth Woodhouse, the close links with the people of the village and the radical changes in the concept of Physical Education pioneered by Sir Alec Clegg.

## D&D u3a Residentials 2025



1.WENTWORTH WOODHOUSE CHAPEL; 2. PAUSE FOR THOUGHT; 3. ERDIGG; 4. YORK MINSTER NAVE 5. HARROGATE - PSYCHE & CUPID (Cover & residential photographs copyright Paul Smith )

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We hope you can find activities or events that appeal to you. You need to be a u3a member to join these. In the group listings, both email and telephone contacts are given where available. Just ring the phone number or send an email for further particulars from the group leader. If venues are not specified, groups may be meeting in a member's home; this may restrict the number of members who can join in.

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# Welcome



Welcome to the new Dorking & District u3a Handbook for 2026.

The purpose of the Handbook is to showcase to our members and potential members the activities that our vibrant organisation can offer you.

There are details of over 60 groups, covering a huge variety of subjects, probably enough to cover all our needs.

Between us all, we have a wealth of experience learned throughout the years of our lives. Our groups offer the opportunity to expand our knowledge or learn something new. Groups are run by the members and do not have tutors as such, with the exception of our exercise groups, where it is a legal requirement. Some groups are run from members' homes keeping cost to a minimum, others meet in a paid venue which will incur costs which are covered by members of the group.

I also encourage you to look at what else we offer: Days Out, Residential Trips and a variety of events, as well as the Surrey u3a Network Study Days, held in the Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon.

In all cases we are looking to enjoy the experience and have fun. I therefore encourage you to read our Handbook, and join us in celebrating the fact that we are retired and wonder how on earth we found time to work!

*Ianthe Cox*  
*Chairman*

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## Monthly Meetings

Meetings are currently held at St Joseph's Church Hall on the second Wednesday of each month (except August), starting at 2.30pm. No need to book. Doors open at 2pm and members are welcome to enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of cake before the meeting starts. Meetings may also be transmitted via Zoom for those who cannot attend a face-to-face meeting. You'll find details of all our monthly meetings on the Dorking u3a website [www.dorkingu3a.org.uk](http://www.dorkingu3a.org.uk)

### 14 January 2026

#### THE GHOSTWRITER

NEIL HANSON, a successful author with 70 books to his name, has not only published his own, much-acclaimed work, he has also worked as a "ghost writer". His clients include famous people including a legendary English cricketer and one of Britain's most decorated soldiers and less celebrated men and women who have led extraordinary lives or achieved remarkable things. His amusing talk gives a privileged glimpse into the hidden worlds of his clients and also reveals the truth behind one of the most earth-shattering events of our times.

### 11 February

#### FRAUD: THINK YOU'RE IMMUNE? YOU MIGHT NOT BE!

ROGER TRISTRAM is semi retired after working in international banking, technology and consultancy. He has travelled extensively and lived in the Middle East and Scandinavia.

Roger's talk looks at the extent of personal fraud, how it's been increasing in recent years, the many different and sophisticated types of fraud, and what we should ALL do to protect ourselves.



### 11 March

#### THE SOCIAL LIFE OF TEA AND COFFEE

STEPHEN CHATER's talk considers changing fashions in non-alcoholic drinking in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and their effect on the development of the City of London and its business and cultural interests.



### 8 April

#### EUROPE IN SPACE

GEOFF SAUNDERS will be talking about the European Space Agency which must be one of the best kept secrets in the UK! He will focus on some of Europe's space missions, past, present and future with video and animation to illustrate our achievements.



### 13 May

#### THE WICKED WIT OF WINSTON CHURCHILL

STEWART LINFORD has studied his hero Winston Churchill for decades, and gained valuable insights through his membership of the International Churchill society and the creation of a special chair complete with secret humidor drawer. Drawing on the wealth of humorous stories, aphorisms and historic speeches made by the man voted the People's Greatest Briton in 2002, Stewart Linford amuses, informs and entertains.

### 10 June

#### DEATH BY SHAKESPEARE

William Shakespeare found dozens of different ways to kill off his characters, but how realistic are these deaths, and did Shakespeare have the knowledge to back them up? KATHRYN HARKUP turns her discerning scientific eye to the Bard and the varied and creative ways his characters die in this rollercoaster of Elizabethan carnage, poison, swordplay and bloodshed, with an occasional death by bear-mauling for good measure.

### 8 July

#### NOT JUST SAFARIS

Africa has become synonymous with wildlife reserves and safaris but every country on the continent has so much more. In this talk, using personal experience and images, SUE FLIPPING takes us on a virtual trip through South Africa's Garden Route and exposes the troubled history of the country.

### 9 September

#### THE GOLDEN AGE OF TRAVEL 1836-1936

IAN PORTER's talk starts with the coming of the railways and goes on to look at the growing popularity of foreign travel, the great age of the luxury trips and ocean liner cruises and finally considers how world politics and disasters ended the golden age of travel.

### 14 October

#### 1066: WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED

On the anniversary of the Battle of Hastings STEVE BIRD takes us through the day of battle and explores the decisive role that personalities, local history and forests played in the build up to and the campaign itself.

### 11 November

#### LEST WE FORGET: REMEMBRANCE & POETRY OF THE GREAT WAR

JONATHAN JONES looks at how we commemorate the events of the Great War - the Cenotaph, the Unknown Warrior, Poppy Appeal and the Torch of Remembrance. There will be readings of WW1 poetry, including Rudyard Kipling, Rupert Brooke, Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon.

### 9 December

#### WALKING WITH POLAR BEARS

Not too many people get to see Polar Bears in the wild, unless it's from a Tundra Buggy or perhaps from the deck of cruise ship. Speaker GILLIAN LLOYD has encountered a spectacular and truly unique experience of 'Walking with Polar Bears'. Her own photographic images which accompany the talk include landscape, wildlife and some very special and unique memories of Polar Bears in their natural habitat.

## ***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	
	pm	Bridge German Conversation Mahjong	Bridge Local History 2 Mahjong	Bridge German Conversation Mahjong	Bridge Mahjong
Tuesday	am	Badminton Dance 2B Fit Military History Shakespeare & his Contemporaries (online)	Badminton Dance 2B Fit Luncheon Club Scribblers	Badminton Dance 2B Fit Shakespeare & his Contemporaries Words, Words, Words	Badminton Dance 2B Fit
	pm	Photography Pilates 1, 2 & 3	Genealogy for Beginners Pilates 1, 2 & 3 Upwords	Philosophy Pilates 1, 2 & 3	Archaeology Pilates 1, 2 & 3 Upwords
Wednesday	am	Current Issues 1	Cryptic Crosswords French Lunch	Current Issues 2 Local History	Environmental Issues
	pm	Astronomy Card Games Plus Genealogy Philosophy (online)	MONTHLY MEETING	Card Games Plus Mahjong Philosophy (online) Science & Technology	Art & Architecture
Thursday	am	Guitar	Current Issues 3 Guitar	Guitar	Guitar
	pm	French Conversation Pickleball	French Intermediate Pickleball	Dorking Readers French Conversation Pickleball	Pickleball Art for Pleasure
Friday	am	Gardening 2 Line Dancing Ukulele	Gardening Ukulele	Line Dancing Ukulele	Ukulele
	pm	Indoor bowls (Oct-April) Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept)	Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept) Reading History Circle	Indoor Bowls (Oct-April) Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept)	Friday Reading Circle Outdoor Bowls (April-Sept) Investment & Money

## Interest Groups

### GROUP ATTENDANCE

Please be aware that many home-based groups have limited space and therefore can only accept a small number of members. It would help group leaders if you could notify them when you are unable to attend a session. In the event of consistent non-attendance, group leaders may offer your place to someone on the waiting list.



#### ARCHAEOLOGY

4th Tuesday, 2.30-4.30pm Venue: Lincoln Arms, Dorking  
Peter Horitz: 01306 898057; [peter.horitz@uwclub.net](mailto:peter.horitz@uwclub.net)  
Our small group of Archaeology enthusiasts meets at The Lincoln Arms to share aspects of archaeology which are especially interesting to them and to discuss the history of excavations in this country and abroad. We occasionally invite speakers on specific topics and organise trips for our members. We are always happy to welcome more members.



#### ART & ARCHITECTURE

4th Wednesday, 2-4pm; Venue: St Joseph's Church Hall  
Roger Stones: 01306 886754; [roger.stones@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.stones@btinternet.com)  
Beryl Sinclair: 020 3949 0707; [dandu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dandu3asecretary@gmail.com)  
Our friendly group meets once a month to discuss artistic trends past and present, and share in research on particular topics and occasional visits to exhibitions. This year, we continue to explore key artistic movements such as Neo-Impressionism and Bauhaus. We will also consider how art and architecture reflect and influence society, culture and even politics.



#### ART FOR PLEASURE

4th Thursday, 2-4pm; Venue: various  
Beryl Sinclair: 020 3949 0707; [dandu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dandu3asecretary@gmail.com)  
This small group is about fun and relaxation, allowing members to paint and draw different subjects (landscapes, still life and portraiture) in a variety of media. There is no formal teaching – members learn from each other in a friendly environment, although we plan to include some online masterclasses as well as visits to local artist workshops to guide and inform our artistic endeavours.

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## **ASTRONOMY**

1st Wednesday, 2-4pm; Venue: Zoom

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

Currently, a small group of D&D u3a members attend an online session led by the Guildford u3a group. Sessions include night sky highlights for the month and focus on space news and discoveries.

We plan to organise occasional face to face meetings (in the evening!) to carry out sky observations and photography.

If a beginner, there are some excellent free materials offered by the OU which could supplement your existing or perhaps not so existing knowledge.



## **BADMINTON**

Every Tuesday 10am-12 noon Venue: Oddfellows Hall

Nicholas Jupp: 07881 587134; [nbjupp@gmail.com](mailto:nbjupp@gmail.com)

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





## BOWLS

Bowls is a friendly and sociable activity. It offers a great way to get gentle exercise and meet other people. New members attend a taster session to assess their level before joining a group. The basics of the sport are easy to learn. The more you play, the better you get.

We run two bowls groups, both of which welcome new members.

### **OUTDOOR BOWLS - Summer** (late April to mid September)

Every Friday 2.30-4.30pm; Venue: Pippbrook Bowling Club (behind Mole Valley District Council Offices in Dorking; parking permits can be available for when you are playing) David Pettman: 01306 883043; [david@pettman.co.uk](mailto:david@pettman.co.uk)

*Charges:* £5 per session (charges waived if you do become addicted and decide to join the bowling club).

*Equipment:* Bowls and other equipment are available, but please wear comfortable clothing and flat-soled shoes. Initial coaching and further guidance are available.

### **INDOOR BOWLS - Winter** (October to April) alternate

Fridays - 2-4pm; Venue: Horsham Indoor Bowling Club, Broadbridge Heath, near Horsham, behind Tesco.

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

*Constraints:* Because of limitations at Horsham, initial coaching needs to be obtained – either with the Summer Group, or with a bowls club before joining this group.

*Charges:* £7 per session.





### BRIDGE

Every Monday 2-4pm, Venue: the Christian Centre, Dorking  
Sue Greenacre: 01306 886832; [suegreenacre49@gmail.com](mailto:suegreenacre49@gmail.com)  
Lesley Pearce: 07954 381873;  
[lesleypearcemassage@gmail.com](mailto:lesleypearcemassage@gmail.com)

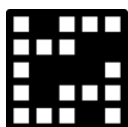
Have you previously played Bridge or would you like to play again? Are you a little rusty or don't feel too confident? Come and join us. We play in the Christian Centre café on Mondays at 2pm. We are a mixed ability group, very friendly and there is always someone to help you.



### CARD GAMES PLUS

1st & 3rd Wednesday 2-4.30pm; Venue: St John's Church  
Community Building, North Holmwood  
Mike Giles: 01306 884598; 07710 500116; [mibridge@mac.com](mailto:mibridge@mac.com)

Come along and give us a try! We don't take ourselves too seriously, we just enjoy ourselves! Our most popular games are Canasta and Contract Whist, but we often play other games such as Rummikub and Triominos. A session costs around £2.50, depending on the number of players, to cover hall fees and refreshments.



### CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS

2nd Wednesday 10am-12 noon; Venue: various  
Lyn Groves: 01306 898339; [lyngroves@talktalk.net](mailto:lyngroves@talktalk.net)

Cryptic crosswords are both challenging and enjoyable due to the hidden or secret nature of the clues. They require solvers to use lateral thinking and wordplay to arrive at the answers. Come and exercise your mind in a friendly setting to solve word clues and complete puzzles.



### CULTURE COMPANIONS

Time, date & venues are notified by email  
Helen Mardell: 01306 880061; [helen.mardell@gmail.com](mailto:helen.mardell@gmail.com)  
Plans are made quarterly and emailed to members. We like going to concerts and the theatre, usually in Dorking or Guildford and generally on a Saturday evening.

The group leader reserves and generally pays for a block of seats four weeks before the event. Members need to confirm as soon as possible after receiving the programme which events they wish to attend. We organise car share.



## **CURRENT ISSUES 1**

1st Wednesday 10.30am-noon; Venue: home-based

Andrew Gibbons: 01306 742650;

[andrew.gibbons@pobox.com](mailto:andrew.gibbons@pobox.com)

Our round-table discussions on topical issues involve prior reading of articles compiled by a group member and circulated each month. Recent meetings have focused on protecting human rights, Surrey local government reform, the next general election, what education is for, the Gatwick Airport expansion and the 2025 Budget.

## **CURRENT ISSUES 2**

3rd Wednesday 10-11.30am; Venue: Various

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

Our group has delved into an eclectic mix of topics over the last year, ranging from overseas aid, the woes of the prison service, funding the NHS and electric cars. More recently we considered '*an ageing population - are we the problem?*'. It's a great forum to express views, learn from other members' contributions and widen our understanding from background information circulated before each meeting, providing perspectives not always reported in the mainstream media. 2026 will surely bring challenging new events on which we can flex our minds and, as before, the group will agree topics which we believe are important to our daily lives.

## **CURRENT ISSUES 3**

2nd Thursday 10-am-12 noon; Venue: United Reform Church

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

This third group provides members with an opportunity to review and discuss matters of global, national and local importance through analysis and discussion of recent news reports.

If you read a newspaper or follow radio or television news programmes, this could be the group for you. Members should be prepared to read around each monthly topic.



## **DANCE 2B FIT**

Tuesday 10.30-11.30am

Venue: Wescott Reading Room, RH4 3NP

Diane Prout: 07799 580906; [diane.prout@btopenworld.com](mailto:diane.prout@btopenworld.com)

Brighten your week and join us at our Dance 2B Fit class, we dance (gently) to favourite tunes, toning and stretching our upper bodies, knees, hips and brains! We puff a lot, laugh a lot and generally feel better for spending an hour in each other's company.



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

Group 1: 3rd Thursday 2.30-3.30pm;

Group 2: 4th Friday 2-3pm; Venue: Dorking Library

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

We all love reading but sometimes wish we could share that love of literature with others, explore the themes and discuss what makes the characters tick! The joy of book groups is that we try out recommendations from others and expand our appreciation of different genres and authors.

Dorking Library hosts two reading groups for u3a members.

They provide the space and the books, and we provide the enthusiasm and suggestions for titles we would like to borrow.

There may be some cost to cover reservations.



## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

4th Wednesday 10-11.30am; Venue: various

Pat Smith: 07867 558284; [pat2africa@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pat2africa@yahoo.co.uk)

Andy Tanner 07850 734428; [andyjtanner@me.com](mailto:andyjtanner@me.com)

The aim of this lively and friendly group is to provide a forum for members to research and discuss environmental issues.

The over-arching framework is to focus on what sort of world we leaving to our grandchildren and great-grandchildren using as the mantra: *"our present, their future"*.

As well as increasing our understanding of the issues, the group will consider possible schemes to protect the environment, and the actions individuals and organisations might take. We hope to make some visits this year.



## **FRENCH CONVERSATION**

1st & 3rd Thursdays 2.30-4pm: Venue: various  
Angela Day: 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)

We meet in each other's houses, each member taking a turn in leading the session, finding a topic of interest, sometimes an item of news, a quiz or game, an exercise to improve our command of the language, a play, or we just chat in French.



## **FRENCH LUNCH**

2nd Wednesday 12.30-2pm, Venue: various  
Geoff Saunders: 01306 884812;  
[geoff.m.saunders@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.m.saunders@gmail.com)

We meet around 12.30pm in Dorking, on the second Wednesday of each month for an informal lunch at various locations. Topics of conversation vary widely, covering travels, holidays, children and life in general. Most of the conversation is in French. If you would like to join in with this easy-going group and hone your language skills while having fun, just get in touch. New members are always welcome.



## **GARDENING 1**

2nd Friday 10am-noon; Venues: various  
Vivian Wildman: 01306 644950

At our meetings we focus on particular topic such as how to take cuttings and seed planting. We also discuss problems we face in our gardens, and sadly there are many, but our knowledgeable group can usually help and there is always plenty of advice to be had. As all good gardeners, we all exchange plants too!

We are a lively and friendly group, but as we meet in each other's homes and gardens, space is limited.



## **GARDENING 2**

1st Friday 10am-noon; Venues: various  
Ollie Mann: 01306 742054

This second gardening group follows the same principles as Gardening 1, with members sharing horticultural successes - and failures! Garden design and ecological principles are of particular interest and we plan to visit local gardens to hone our skills.



## GENEALOGY

1st Wednesday: 2-4pm; Venue: Lincoln Arms, Dorking

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

These days there is a huge amount of information about our ancestors online, and much research can be done in your living room. However, this online information is of variable reliability. The joy of our small group is the support, advice and discussion which we share each month, ensuring that we maintain our enthusiasm for the secrets of our family's history.

An increasingly popular option is to have your DNA tested, the value of which is another research area we explore. We also share high points when one of us makes a breakthrough in our research - perhaps uncovering the source of a story told by Granny, or finding an ancestor with a skill that we recognise in ourselves.



## GENEALOGY FOR BEGINNERS

2nd Tuesday: 2-4pm; Venue: Lincoln Arms, Dorking

Karl Barclay: 07836 366235; [karlbarclay@virginmedia.com](mailto:karlbarclay@virginmedia.com)

Given the success of Sally Hulbert's Genealogy Group, we have started a second group specifically to help those who are just beginning their family history research.

The aim of the group is to help members understand how to go about their research, where the pitfalls are and which aids to research they should consider. We also share advice on the types of records that are available, including online resources and how to access them, as well as the best way to record and collate information required to start a family tree.



The group can accommodate up to five members, keeping it small enough to allow everyone to share progress and learn from each other until they are confident enough to move to the main group.



### GERMAN CONVERSATION

1st & 3rd Monday 2.15-4.30pm; Venue: various

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

We are a small friendly group who share an interest in German language and culture. We meet on the first and third Monday afternoons each month, in each other's homes. We aim to practise reading, listening and speaking through a variety of activities. We welcome new members with some knowledge of the language even if it's a bit rusty.



### GUITAR

Every Thursday 10am-12.30pm

Venue: St John's Community Building, North Holmwood

Brian Joannou: 01306 887411;

[brian.joannou241@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.joannou241@btinternet.com)

We are a group of Acoustic Guitar enthusiasts who enjoy 'jamming' together, focusing on supporting each other in rhythm, harmony, melody and song arrangements.

This group is not for beginners, as an ability to read guitar tablature, and a knowledge of guitar chords and strumming patterns is essential.



### INVESTMENT & MONEY

4th Friday 1.30-4pm; Venue: Hamilton Room, Betchworth

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

Our group shares the enjoyable and generally profitable hobby of investing in the stock market, either in collective funds or in individual stocks. We discuss the impact of current affairs on markets, exchange investment ideas and construct dummy portfolios, which we follow throughout the year. Our friendly mixed group sometimes meets for a bite to eat in the Dolphin before our sessions and we welcome new members.



### **JIGSAW EXCHANGE**

Hilda Burden: 01737 842516; [hildaburden@gmail.com](mailto:hildaburden@gmail.com)

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

There is a £2 joining charge which entitles you to have one puzzle and exchange it as many times as you wish for 50p each time. If you want more than one puzzle at a time you can have as many as you want for an initial charge of £1 each, then just 50p for each puzzle exchanged.



### **LINE DANCING**

1st & 3rd Friday 10.45-11.45am;

Venue: Follett Hall, URC, West Street, Dorking

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

Line dancing is a great way to exercise both body and mind.

At the end of the hour of upbeat music we leave the hall invigorated and uplifted! We learn new dances and revisit old favourites, gradually building up our repertoire and pace.



### **LOCAL HISTORY 1**

3rd Wednesday 10.30am-noon; Venue: various

Paul Smith & Val Rayner: 01306 640791

[paul3msmith@hotmail.com](mailto:paul3msmith@hotmail.com); [raynervj@gmail.com](mailto:raynervj@gmail.com)

### **LOCAL HISTORY 2**

2nd Monday 2.30-4pm; Venue: Lincoln Arms

John Sinclair: 020 3949 0707;

[johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk](mailto:johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk)

Become a past master! Ever wondered why something in Dorking, or the surrounding district, is called the name it is? Want to discover something new, from bygone days? Our groups can provide fascinating facts and insights into local history and heritage. Understanding is enhanced by group research and debates, visits and guided walks. There is always something new to learn.

Due to demand, we offer two local history groups. For more information contact Paul, Val or John.



### **LUNCHEON CLUB**

Tony Parker: 01306 884050; Venue and dates: various  
If you would like to spend a relaxed time chatting with like-minded people over a meal or a coffee, please contact Tony to find out when and where the next meeting will take place. In the event of no reply, please be sure to leave a message, with a few convenient times for you to be called back.



### **MAHJONG**

John Thom: 07768 397731: [johnthom@dorkingu3a.org.uk](mailto:johnthom@dorkingu3a.org.uk)

Every Monday, 2.00-4.00pm;

Venue: Beare Green Village Hall

Having started in November 2025, we are a small group but are very open to more members. We are a complete mix of standards and experience, so if you are interested, do not hold back. If you have never played before, we will all learn as we go along! Like most games, the basics are relatively straightforward, and we have sets of rules to outline these, and fuller copies giving the intricacies. Ideally we play in tables of four, and each table can play at its own level. If you think it could be for you but you have never played, you are welcome to come and watch before committing. Each session costs around £3, depending on numbers, to cover room hire and refreshments. Parking is plentiful and free.



### **MILITARY HISTORY**

1st Tuesday 9.30am-noon;

Venue: Cricket Pavilion, Brockham, RH3 7JT

Jim Barnes: 07967392532; [jimbarnes31@gmail.com](mailto:jimbarnes31@gmail.com)

Our non-academic group aims to increase the knowledge and understanding of 'all things military'. We run monthly talks followed by discussion.

We also enjoy visits to sites of military interest such as Southwick House where much D-Day planning was undertaken. Our monthly Newsletter offers background news on other military topics such as *Policing of Surrey in Wartime* and keeps the group membership informed.

Information about our talks can be found on the D&D u3a website. Sounds interesting? Come to a meeting - you will be warmly welcomed.



## PHILOSOPHY

3rd Tuesday 2.30-4pm; Venue: various

Roger Walsom: 01306 880840; [rwalsom@hotmail.com](mailto:rwalsom@hotmail.com)

We continue to explore aspects of philosophy using John Cottingham's *Anthology of Western Philosophy* as a guide. Having considered 'Beauty and Art', 'Human Life and its Meaning' and 'Mind and Body', we then completed the section on 'Language and Meaning', referencing works by Descartes, Locke, Russell and Wittgenstein.

As usual, topics raise more questions than they give answers. We are now covering the section on 'The Self and Freedom', which includes extracts from Hume, Freud, Hobbes and Sartre. Meetings include presentations and lively discussions.



## PHILOSOPHY ONLINE

1st & 3rd Wednesday 2.30-4pm; Venue: various

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

This group uses online materials from major universities to support learning. As each module is completed, the group selects a follow-on module from a vast choice on MOOC websites.



## PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Tuesday 2-4pm; Venue: St Joseph's Church Hall, Dorking

Faith & Mike Docker: 01306 501640;

[faith.docker@gmail.com](mailto:faith.docker@gmail.com); [michael.docker@gmail.com](mailto:michael.docker@gmail.com)



With a theme every month and occasional seasonal challenges, we give our members good reasons to take out their cameras or smartphones and share their enjoyment of this absorbing hobby. Within our friendly group we have a broad spectrum of experience, from former professionals to enthusiastic beginners, and we all learn from each other's particular areas of interest.

Our meetings comprise a review of the monthly theme, one or two short presentations on aspects of the art and lively discussions over cups of tea.



## PICKLEBALL

Every Thursday 12-3.30pm; Venue: Oddfellows Hall  
Nicholas Jupp: 07881 587134; [nbjjupp@gmail.com](mailto:nbjjupp@gmail.com)

All equipment is provided so why not come along and give it a try? You will need to wear appropriate clothing and trainers. You will need to register for a yearly Oddfellows Hall membership of £25; thereafter sessions are free. Minimal instruction given.



## PILATES

Every Tuesday; Venue: Christian Centre, Dorking  
Cost: £7 per session (increasing to £8 later in the year). Fees are payable by cheque at the start of each 6-8 week block.  
Contact: Janet Hoad: 07802 377873;

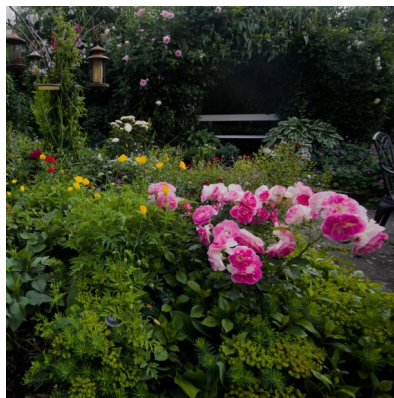
[jahoad@googlemail.com](mailto:jahoad@googlemail.com); *Instructor:* Tina Westwood

**Group 1:** 1.35-2.30pm; **Group 2:** 2.40-3.35pm;

**Group 3:** 3.45-4.40pm

Pilates is a low-impact workout designed to strengthen the centre of the body, tone muscles, improve posture and increase flexibility. Exercises are done sitting or lying on an aerobics mat. Each exercise is done slowly with precision and targets specific muscle groups.

Sessions start with a warm-up to mobilise the joints and muscles. Each exercise has specific movements and specific breathing, with few repetitions. Pilates differs from other forms of exercise in that it concentrates on the deep muscles essential for stability. It will improve your body awareness and, through specific breathing techniques, teach you how to maximise your abdominal control and strength.





## PLANT LOVERS

3rd Monday 10.30am-noon; Venue: various  
Denise Hooker [dorkingu3ameetings@gmail.com](mailto:dorkingu3ameetings@gmail.com)

Whether you're a seasoned green thumb or just planting your first seed, you're in the right place! This group is a space for garden lovers of all kinds to connect, share tips, ask questions and celebrate the joys (and challenges) of growing plants. We meet in each other's homes every month to swap advice, show off our gardens, troubleshoot problems and support each other through every season. From vegetables and flowers to houseplants – we dig it all! So grab your gloves, your watering can and your curiosity. Let's grow together!



## READING FOR PLEASURE

2nd Monday 10.15-11.45am; Venue: home-based  
Jill Roome: 01306 883023; [e.taylor40@btinternet.com](mailto:e.taylor40@btinternet.com)

Based in Westcott, our group considers a wide array of literature from around the world - biographies, travelogues, dramas and novels. Each month, we take it in turn to present a book of our choice. The more individual the choice, the better the discussion. Of course, we like to put the world to rights as well!



## READING HISTORY CIRCLE

2nd Friday 2-4pm; Venue: Dorking Library  
Beryl Sinclair: 020 3949 0707; [dandu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dandu3asecretary@gmail.com)

A history group with a difference, our members meet in the library to discuss historical fiction and non-fiction titles, with a particular focus on women who changed the course of history, starting with Matilda, Lady of the English.



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

3rd Wednesday 2-4pm; Venue: Lincoln Arms, Dorking  
Richard Rumble: 01372 450142; mobile 07789997783;  
[richrumble747@gmail.com](mailto:richrumble747@gmail.com)

Our members come from a range of backgrounds; some have worked professionally in scientific or technical fields, while others are simply interested in the exciting and amazing world of science and technology.

Members come along to each meeting with items they might have seen on YouTube or in the press and these are discussed by all for approximately 15 minutes or longer. These topics can be from any area of Science and Technology. Recent subjects have included Climate Change and Sustainability, new materials for batteries, Aerospace, SMRs (Small Modular Reactors) and the World of Plants and Insects.

The group is planning to go on two Science and Technology visits this year. Everybody is encouraged to participate in the sessions with all subjects considered.



## SCRIBBLERS

2nd Tuesday 10am-noon; Venue: various  
Gillian Williamson: 07989 962237; [rowewill@aol.com](mailto:rowewill@aol.com)

Scribblers is a friendly writing-for-pleasure group. Our writers range from absolute beginners to more experienced – we all share an enthusiasm for the written word, be it prose or poetry, and generally write for pleasure. You may be surprised to discover your hidden talent. All you need is pen and paper, a head full of good ideas on what you would like to write about and, importantly, a sense of humour. Please contact the group leader for more details.



## SHAKESPEARE & HIS CONTEMPORARIES

1st & 3rd Tuesday 10.30am; Venue: various

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

We meet twice a month, once online on the 1st Tuesday, and once in a group member's home in Westcott on the 3rd Tuesday. There is a small charge of 50p a month to cover the cost of coffee/tea and biscuits.

The Zoom group has been enjoying plays by some of Shakespeare's contemporaries. We looked at Ben Johnson's *Volpone* and Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi*. We have recently started studying one of Shakespeare's problem plays, ***All's Well that Ends Well***.

In our face-to-face sessions, we recently read ***Macbeth***.

Currently the group is thoroughly enjoying the machinations of ***Richard III***. Whenever possible, we make a point of visiting Dorking Halls to see the Shakespeare screenings. A production of ***Hamlet*** will be screened in early 2026. We are a lively group who share a love of Shakespeare's writings. We would be pleased to welcome new members.



## SINGING FOR PLEASURE

1st and 3rd Monday 10am-noon; Venue: Buckland Reading Room, Old Rd, Buckland, RH3 7EG.

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

Our friendly, relaxed group of ladies and gentlemen is led by pianist and accompanist Gina Eason. The group meets twice monthly. We welcome new members - no nerve-wracking public performances, no knowledge of complicated musical jargon needed! If you enjoy singing a variety of music, old and new, and are looking for something to lift your spirits, come and join us!



## UKULELE

Every Friday 10-12noon;

Venue: St Joseph's Church Hall, Dorking

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

Love popular music? Want to play along? Why not join us ?

Ukuleles are one of the easiest instruments to learn, and they're fun! We're an enthusiastic group, and most of us joined as beginners. We play and sing a variety of songs - old prewar standards through Elvis, the Beatles and more.

Beginners very welcome - we'll help you with one to one sessions. Come along and try it out. Bring your favourite songs. You can't help but smile when you play the ukulele! But that's not all - if you play another instrument - percussion, keyboards, wind, strings - why not try playing along with us? We're not ukulele puritans - the more the merrier!



## UPWORDS

2nd & 4th Tuesday 2-4pm;

Venue: Esquires coffee shop, Dorking

Sue Jex: 07768 816386; [suelucas51@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:suelucas51@yahoo.co.uk)

Upwords is a sort of 3D Scrabble but more fun! Come and try it if you've never played - it's very easy to learn. Tiles are placed on a board similar to Scrabble, but then other letters can be stacked on top of those already on the board to create a new word. The higher the stack, the more points are scored. We're a very friendly group and like to chat as we play. Join us - you'll be welcome.



### WINE APPRECIATION

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

This small but well-established group has one aim - discovering more about wine together. We like to learn the u3a way, sharing expertise but also working with local wine merchants and producers to find out more. Members take turns in selecting a topic (region, grape variety, colour, style, etc) and perhaps research a little with the help of professionals. No regular meeting day or location so please contact for more details. Costs are in the order of £5-£10 per session. New members are welcome. Cheers!



### WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

3rd Tuesday 10.30am-noon;

Venue: Hilliers Garden Centre, Dorking

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

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

## Dorking & District u3a

### Picnic in the Park

**Wednesday 17 June 2026 12.30–4.30pm**

### BUCKLAND PARK LAKE

*Park Lake Drive, Buckland, Betchworth, RH3 7FE*

Bring a picnic and enjoy the music and fun.



**Price (TBA) includes 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 Ianthe

Cox on 01737 843105 or email [ianthecox72@gmail.com](mailto:ianthecox72@gmail.com)

## DAYS OUT

**Friday 24 April 2026**

### **Winchester Cathedral**



Join us as we travel to the city of Winchester to experience a 1-hour guided tour of the magnificent Cathedral, planned for 11.30am. Fifteen centuries of English history lie behind the massive Cathedral you see today. It stands at the heart of historic Winchester, once the seat of Anglo-Saxon and Norman royal power, on the site of an early Christian church. It's been a place of worship ever since. When

William the Conqueror invaded England in 1066, he was quick to stamp Norman power on the city by building the magnificent Cathedral we see today.

A walk round the Cathedral takes you through centuries of English church architecture, from the massive vaults of its early Norman crypt to the ornate glories of its Renaissance chantry chapels. Over the centuries, many famous names have become part of the Cathedral's history, including Jane Austen, celebrated as one of England's greatest novelists. When she was buried in the Cathedral in 1817 at the age of 41, her original memorial stone made no mention of her books.

We will be dropped off adjacent to the Cathedral in Broadway and on arrival, tea and coffee will be provided, followed by the tour.

Members are then free to have a further wander around the cathedral and its grounds, have lunch in the Cathedral café, walk into the city to explore other visitor sites or have a look around the shops! Maps will be available at the Welcome Desk. We anticipate leaving Winchester at 4.30pm.

**Cost per person: £45.00 to include guided tour, tea/coffee on arrival, coach and driver's gratuity.**

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL NOW BE ONLY TWO PICK UP POINTS.**

Pick up times:

9:00am: Brockham (**Note the change - bus stop on Brockham Lane at the end of The Avenue**)

9:10am:Dorking Halls

Information on all days out, including prices and pick-up points will be advertised on the D&D website and in the monthly newsletter. You may also email

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

## DAYS OUT

**Wednesday 15 July 2026**

### **Waddesdon Manor**



Escape to the countryside and spend a day out at Waddesdon Manor, a French Renaissance-style chateau, built in the 1870s by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to entertain the fashionable world and house his impressive art collection, including English portraits, Dutch Old Masters and French decorative arts. It is a National Trust property managed by the Rothschild Foundation.

The gardens at Waddesdon are an exceptional example of Victorian horticulture including formal gardens, trees and walks. Highlights include an iconic Victorian parterre famed

for its seasonal bedding and an ornate Rococo-style aviary conserving rare birds. The impressive wine cellars at Waddesdon store an historical collection of more than 15,000 bottles, the most extensive collection of Chateau Lafite Rothschild of Bordeaux.

There is a gift and wine shop as well as a variety of places to eat or you can bring your own picnic.

We plan to arrive soon after 11.00 am when tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided.

We will have a timed entry to the house just after midday when the house opens.

You will have plenty of time to enjoy walking around the house and, for those who are able, you can visit the cellars with its extensive range of wines and read stories relating to some of the bottles there. The rest of the day will be at your leisure. We anticipate leaving at 4.30pm.

**Cost per person : £40 for NT Members; £62.95 for non-NT members to include coach, refreshments and driver's gratuity**

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL NOW BE ONLY TWO PICK UP POINTS.**

Pick up times:

8.30am: Brockham (**Note the change – bus stop on Brockham Lane at the end of The Avenue**)

8.40am: Dorking Halls

Information on all days out, including prices and pick-up points will be advertised on the D&D website and in the monthly newsletter.

You may also email

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



## RESIDENTIALS

### The Historic Houses & Heritage of Warwickshire & Oxfordshire

29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

**Five days - four nights from £789** to include half-board accommodation at the 4\* Chesford Grange Hotel on the outskirts of Kenilworth; all excursion travel & guided tours; entrance fees to non-National Trust properties; boat excursion on Day 4.

**Extras: insurance £38; single room supplement £119; gratuities and lunches.**

**Excursions include:** Upton House & Gardens; Stratford-upon-Avon guided walking tour (Holy Trinity Church; Shakespeare's birthplace and Anne Hathaway's cottage); Coventry New Cathedral; National Memorial Arboretum; Historic Oxford 40-minute boat cruise and guided walking tour of Oxford; Blenheim Palace.



### The Historic Houses & Heritage of North Wales

1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2026

**Five days - four nights half board from £879** to include half-board accommodation at We stay four nights at the 3\* Celtic Royal Hotel at Caernarfon, located in the centre of Caernarfon; all excursion travel & guided tours; entrance fees to non-National Trust properties; boat and train excursions on Days 2 and 3.

**Extras: insurance £38; single room supplement £129; gratuities and lunches.**

**Excursions include:** Attingham Park; Caernarfon Castle & Penrhyn Castle; Welsh Highland Narrow Gauge Railway & Portmeirion; Beaumaris Castle & Plas Newydd Country House & Gardens; Bodnant Gardens.



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

## SURREY NETWORK STUDY DAYS



**SURREY NETWORK 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 Network website.

To book you should send a completed booking slip, with a cheque for £12 for members (£15 for non-members) 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).

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - **The Story, Development & Operation of the National Garden Scheme**; presented by Clare Bevan, Clare Waters, Georgina Waters, Sarah Wilson, Vicky Flynn & Richard Claxton

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - **Global Warming & Your Grandchildren's World** ®; presented by Dr Colin Summerhayes & Professor Jan Zalasiewicz

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 - **England's Glory: Development of British Battleships, 1860-1945**, presented by Andrew Choong Han Lin, Curator at The National Maritime Museum

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - **Truth, Lies, Risk & Reason** ®; presented by Professor Philip Harris, University of Sussex

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026 - **300 Years of English Theatre: From the Rise of the Elizabethan Playhouses to the Fall of Oscar Wilde** ®; presented by Giles Ramsay

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September - **The Bayeux Tapestry: Its Creation & Its Interpretation**, presented by Imogen Corrigan, Lecturer on medieval history

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October - **World Affairs in Middle East & Africa: Iran, Saudi Arabia, South Africa & Nigeria**, presented by Steve Bird

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November - **The Music and Satire of Gilbert and Sullivan**, presented by Bernard Lockett

Some Study Days also feature lunch-hour recitals by Menuhin School pupils as indicated by ®.



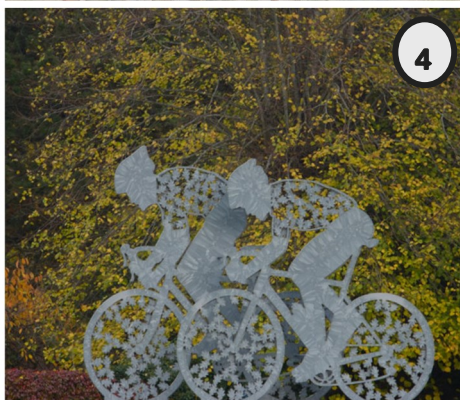
<b><i>Calendar of Events January – December 2026</i></b>			
<b>January</b>	14	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	The Ghostwriter, speaker <b>Neil Hanson</b>
	25	<i>Event</i>	<b>BURNS NIGHT</b> , Buckland Park Lake
<b>February</b>	4	<i>Day Out</i>	Foundling and Postal Museums
	11	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Fraud: Think you're immune? You might not be! Speaker <b>Roger Tristram</b>
	12	<i>Event</i>	New Members Meeting, St Joseph's Church Hall, 10.30am
	21	<i>Study Day</i>	The Story, Development & Operation of the National Garden Scheme, introduced by <b>Clare Bevan</b>
<b>March</b>	11	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	The Social Life of Tea and Coffee, speaker <b>Stephen Chater</b>
	20	<i>Study Day</i>	Global Warming and our Grandchildren's World, presented by <b>Dr Colin Summerhayes</b> and <b>Prof Jan Zalasiewicz</b>
<b>April</b>	8	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Europe in Space, speaker <b>Geoff Saunders</b>
	17	<i>Study Day</i>	England's Glory: Development of British Battleships, 1860-1945, presented by <b>Andrew Choong Han Lin</b>
	24	<i>Day Out</i>	Winchester Cathedral
<b>May</b>	13	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	The Wicked Wit of Churchill, speaker <b>Stewart Linford</b>
	15	<i>Study Day</i>	Truth, Lies, Risk & Reason, presented by <b>Prof Philip Harris</b>
<b>June</b>	10	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Death by Shakespeare, speaker <b>Kathryn Harkup</b>
	17	<i>Event</i>	<b>SUMMER PICNIC</b> - Buckland Park Lake
	19	<i>Study Day</i>	300 Years of English Theatre, presented by <b>Giles Ramsay</b>
	24	<i>Event</i>	New Members Meeting, St Joseph's Church Hall, 10.30am
<b>July</b>	8	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	<b>D&amp;D u3a AGM</b> / Not Just Safaris, speaker <b>Sue Flipping</b>
	15	<i>Day Out</i>	Waddesdon Manor (NT)
<b>September</b>	9	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	The Golden Age of Travel:1836-1936, speaker <b>Ian Porter</b>
	18	<i>Study Day</i>	The Bayeux Tapestry: Creation & Interpretation, presented by <b>Imogen Corrigan</b>
<b>October</b>	14	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	1066: What Actually Happened and Why, speaker <b>Steve Bird</b>
	16	<i>Study Day</i>	World Affairs in Middle East & Africa: Iran, Saudi Arabia, South Africa & Nigeria, presented by <b>Steve Bird</b>
	28	<i>Event</i>	New Members Meeting, St Joseph's Church Hall, 10.30am
<b>November</b>	11	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Lest we forget: Remembrance and Poetry of the Great War, speaker <b>Jonathan Jones</b>
	20	<i>Study Day</i>	The Music and Satire of Gilbert and Sullivan, presented by <b>Bernard Lockett</b>
<b>December</b>	9	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Walking with Polar Bears, speaker <b>Gillian Lloyd</b>

## D&D u3a Days Out 2025



1.COLCHESTER CASTLE & MUSEUM; 2. KELMSCOTT MANOR; 3. ROMNEY MARSH; 4. WISLEY GLOW (photographs 1. & 2. Beryl Sinclair; 3. Lita Hutchins & 4. Deanne Rhodes are copyright)

## D&D u3a Art & Photography Groups



1. **MOUNTAIN RANGE**, COLLAGE by DOROTHY JENNER; 2. **LUPINS** by SHIRLEY BAYES; 3. **NELSON** by IANTHE COX; 4. **CREATIVE** by STEVE HOOKER; 5. **SNAPE REED BEDS** by MIKE DOCKER; 6. **ROYAL SAUDI AIR FORCE** by PAUL SMITH (*all art & photographs are copyright*)