



u3a
Dorking & District

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u3a
Magazine

Number 118

Spring/Summer 2026

Events - Burns Night



BURNS NIGHT AT BUCKLAND PARK LAKE - 25 JANUARY 2026 (photos Ianthe Cox)
COVER PHOTO: ST MARTINS CHURCH, DORKING (photo Chris Prout)
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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Hello everyone.

It is my pleasure to be able to sit and write to you all on a nice spring day, surrounded by flowers, bird song and 500 sheep in the field next to my house. Once again, we have come through what was a rather wet and grey winter, and can now look forward to long days for our summer.

Last time I wrote, we were about to go to the Wisley Glow evening for our pre-Christmas outing. It was a delight, apart from a little drizzle which did not detract from the beautifully lit gardens, around which we strolled at leisure, having been fortified with a delicious cream tea. Since

then, we have celebrated Christmas, Burns Night and Easter, and had several outings, some of which are detailed in this magazine.

In January this year, Jim Docking the founder of our Dorking & District u3a, celebrated his 90th birthday, and I was privileged to be invited by the family to his birthday party. Jim now resides in a residential home in Reigate.

This year is the 35th anniversary of our u3a, and I consider it needs to be celebrated. Our next major event is the traditional Pimm's and Cake Picnic at Buckland Park Lake on Wednesday 17 June starting at 12noon and finishing at 4pm. I want to dedicate this event to this great achievement by Jim, without whom we would not be here.

Hopefully we will be able to welcome Jim to this event. We are hoping to get as many pictures of the start in 1971 to date to celebrate our 35 years. Should any of you have any pictures please can you contact me or Beryl as soon as possible.

Importantly, please come to the Picnic – all details and arrangements for booking your place are on the website. The cost is £12pp to include entrance and refreshments. There will also be music provided by our own groups. Bring your own picnic. You do not have to belong to a group to attend this function - all mature adults are welcome.

In order to keep ourselves in good health, both mentally and physically, it is good to Live, Laugh and Learn, and that is what our u3a is all about. So please join in with all our planned events. We work very hard to provide a good variety of activities to try and satisfy us all. Your membership is very important to us. I look forward to seeing you at the Picnic and also at the AGM on 8 July 2026.

With very best wishes
lanthe



COMMITTEE NEWS

WELCOME!

A warm welcome to the following new members, who have joined since Summer 2025. Our next coffee morning for new members will be on **Wednesday 24 June 2026** 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.

Elizabeth Acland	Ian Hawkins	Katherine Montgomery
Lillian Artes	Charles Hellier	Naomi Neville
Ernest Birse	Caroline Hopley	Fi Patterson-Fraser
Gillian Birse	Clifford Irish	Susan Penfold
Linda Camp	Kevin Irvine	Penny Shaw
Tracey Cronk	Terry Jeffrey	Anne Walker
Trudi Curtis	Vicki Judd	Eddie Warans
Valerie Dexter	Jane Le Cluse	Jen Warans
Catherine Garrish	Andrew MacRae	Audrey Webb
Hazel Gregory	Moira MacRae	Frederick Webb
Peter Harris	Mary Mitchell	Edward Wilde

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



Thank you to all who have renewed your subscriptions for 2026/27, which were due on 1 April 2026.

Anyone who has not renewed by 30 June will be marked as '*lapsed*' and will no longer receive communications from us (including monthly Newsletters, magazines and links to monthly meetings).

Subscription rates remain at £18 for individuals/£30 for joint membership for two people at the same address.

Please note, if you used direct debit (GoCardless) for your 2025/26 subscription you must set up a new direct debit mandate for 2026/27, 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 or ring 020 3949 0707.

John Sinclair

COMMITTEE NEWS

HOW WE COMMUNICATE



Over the last months we have been reviewing the ways we communicate with our members. With over 650 members, it is important that we keep them informed of what we do, and how they can get involved, so that everyone feels they receive value for their membership.

We appreciate that not everyone is computer confident or on email. While we feel the website is the first port of call for up-to-date information regarding our activities and meetings, we also provide information in a number of other ways.

1. Our principal method of communication is our **website** which everyone can access – existing and prospective members alike. It has to be our main method of communication. While it puts the onus on you to go and look for information you can 'log on' whenever you want. The main content of the website includes:
 - The Home Page, introducing D&D u3a, and what we do
 - Committee Members and their roles
 - How to join D&D u3a and subscription details
 - A résumé of interest groups, with organiser contact details and venues
 - A calendar of all events and meetings
 - Details of all our Monthly Meetings, Days Out, Residentials, Events.
 - Information on the Surrey u3a Network Study Days
2. The **monthly Newsletter**, emailed at the beginning of every month, serves as a monthly reminder of forthcoming meetings and events. It will also contain information about changes to groups or the start-up of new groups.
3. The **annual Handbook** is published and delivered to new and existing members giving a full listing of all groups at the time of publication, leader contact details and venues. It also contains:
 - The programme of Monthly Meetings and planned Study days;
 - Planned Days Out, Residentials and Events;
 - Committee information and details of the Annual General Meeting.
4. The **Magazine** is published twice a year – autumn/winter and spring/summer. It mostly provides Committee and group news, reports and photographs of Days Out, Residentials and Events.

Recognising that not all members use technology, we feel it beneficial that we continue to keep in contact with all our members and that the Website is not an alternative to the handbook and magazine.

COMMITTEE NEWS

5. Social Media: **Facebook**

In the last few months, we have been developing a **Facebook** presence, as an additional form of information, and the monthly reports show that its use is growing. We feel that photographs provided by members will help our Facebook page to remain personal to D&D u3a. Please give us feedback, particularly on the Handbook and Magazines. We do these hard-copy publications for you, and they take a lot of effort to put together. Do tell us what you think – do you want to keep receiving one or all, or are you content with just the electronic communications? Please complete the member survey on page 27 and return to John Thom, 25 Highacre, Dorking RH4 3BF or respond by email to johnthom@dorkingu3a.org.uk.

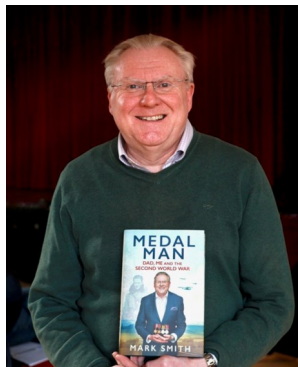
John Thom – Communications Officer

DOGS - at Monthly and Group Meetings and on Trips

As we have been asked about members bringing dogs to D&D u3a events, we should clarify our guidance on this. Only '**Assistance Dogs**' are allowed: no other dogs may be brought to meetings. Members may be asked respectfully to produce documentation supporting the dog's registration as 'Assistance/Support Dog'. Extra consideration should be given to the length of the journey and members should be aware that comfort breaks are normally only every 2-3 hours. Depending on the coach company, there may be other issues that don't allow for a dog on board. Please check with the organisers at all times before bringing your assistance dog to a meeting or on a trip.

THE BARRIE FRIEND MEMORIAL LECTURE

On Tuesday 21 April, Mark Smith of Antiques Roadshow fame gave a talk to a packed audience in Old Barn Hall, Bookham on the *Battle of the Somme 1916* which kept the audience spellbound. (Photos by Paul Smith)



GROUP NEWS

ARCHAEOLOGY

Our active group meets monthly with individual members taking turns in giving presentations. In February, Joan Judge gave a short but very interesting presentation on the Book of Durrow, an illustrated manuscript dating back to around 700AD which contains the vulgate text of the four gospels. Vulgate is the principal Latin version of the Bible prepared by St Jerome in the 4th century AD. This predates the Book of Kells which is a 9th century manuscript containing the Four Gospels in Latin. In April, David Draper gave a talk on Desert Kites-Constructs only seen from the air. In September Pat Smith will give a presentation on 'Neolithic Orkney'. We plan a visit to Lullingstone Roman Villa in July.

Although the group is currently full, we are always pleased to hear from potential new members. Please contact Peter Horitz on 07493 657664.

GENEALOGY - On Being English



Of course I'm English! I was born in a north-west suburb of London, between Cricklewood and Willesden Green, recently countryside. I went to English schools, my friends were all English.

One day, when I was 17, a friend commented on my mother's accent! Admittedly, every other year we visited my grandparents in Copenhagen. But my mother was educated at the Sorbonne, and we both loved the cinema. My other grandma, living near us, used to whisper in my ear '*remember you're a Viking!*' But she came from Australia, where my father was born. He had a veterinary science

degree from Melbourne University.

In 1914, thanks to a wealthy uncle, my father came to London to obtain a medical degree from Middlesex Hospital. Having survived the trenches in France, he eventually became a London GP in 1922, a job he adored.

It was not until I started researching my family here that I discovered I was descended from King Canute! Both my father's parents had emigrated to Australia from Denmark, and my mother's father had come from the same small town in Jutland. DNA testing showed that I was 90% Danish-Norwegian. So, I nearly was Viking. But of course, I'm English.

Joyce Kingsley-Jones

NOTE: We have two Genealogy groups : **Genealogy for Beginners** run by Karl Barclay and another for more advanced members run by Sally Hulbert.

ART FOR PLEASURE - Painting Japanese-style



A couple of us in the group have been exploring the intricacies of **sumi-e** or ink painting, a traditional ink painting technique which originated in China and Japan. Unlike western painting that often seeks to replicate reality with meticulous detail, **sumi-e** relies on spontaneity and minimalism to convey the essence of a subject. Using rapid brush strokes to create depth and texture, the monochrome ink and empty spaces

are just as important as the painted areas as they contribute to the overall sense of balance and harmony. Flowers, birds, animals and landscapes are particularly ideal subjects for sumi-e because they allow the artist to express the meditative simplicity of the art through the fluidity of the brushstrokes.

Our little group is now moving to the Community Room at Nower House which not only provides us with a comfortable space to work in but also refreshments. This has the space for us to include regular card crafts and a relaunched quilting group that new members can join. If you are interested in coming even on an ad hoc basis, please contact me for more details. We meet on the 4th Thursday afternoon at 2pm.

Beryl Sinclair



CARD GAMES PLUS - Sound out our ace of clubs!

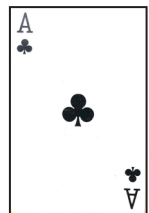
Our group has welcomed several new members in recent months, but we still have space for a few more. So why not come along and *sound out our ace of clubs* on the first or third Wednesday of each month? We regularly play Canasta, Predictive Whist and Rummikub.

Our principal mantra is that the afternoon should be **fun**, and we can become quite spirited at times. Apart from Bridge, which would be too serious for us, we are quite open to other suggestions for games.

All this, plus tea or coffee and biscuits at half time - what could be more tempting?

Depending on the numbers playing each time, currently we each pay £3/£3.50 to cover the hire of St John's lovely hall and the refreshments. You are assured of a warm welcome, even in winter, as the hall has an air source heat pump which runs continuously in cold weather, so it never cools down.

Mike and Bridget Giles



ART & ARCHITECTURE – Should art be political?



The group not only looks at the lives of known and not so known artists, but also considers themes that promote discussion. Recently we looked at the role of art as a platform for political debate. In his treatise 'What is Art?', Leo Tolstoy defines art as a means of communication that conveys emotions and connects with people, emphasising its moral implications and societal role. Social art

generally aims to raise awareness and provoke empathy towards marginalised groups, while political art specifically critiques or supports existing political systems or ideologies as a tool for change.

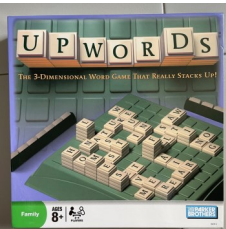
Political art encompasses a wide range of forms, such as Banksy's street art or the installation art *Fons Americanus* by Kara Walker, each uniquely contributing to social discourse on political issues.

Looking at works such as Picasso's *Guernica*, Delacroix's *Liberty Leading the People* and Turner's *The Slave Ship*, we concluded that art can range from protest art to historical representations that comment on political events and power dynamics. Movements like Black Lives Matter allow artists to use their work to amplify voices and promote change in attitudes.



We continue to meet on the 4th Wednesday afternoon of every month (except August) at St Joseph's Church Hall and always welcome new members.

*Beryl Sinclair &
Roger Stones*



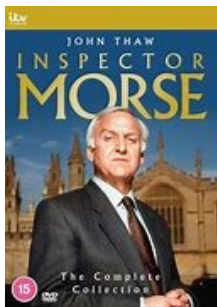
UPWORDS

If you enjoy playing Scrabble you will enjoy Upwords. Unlike, Scrabble you build your letters upwards to change words on top of those on the board.

The venue at Esquire Coffee is very sociable. Come and join us every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm.

Sue Jex

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS - Never a Cross Word!



Many of you will remember that fictional TV detective Inspector Morse was an avid crossword enthusiast. His creator Colin Dexter who, as well as being an author, actually set cryptic crosswords, remarked that crossword solving was the only one of Morse's vices that prolonged his life!

As we get older it is important to do all that we can to maintain and improve cognitive functions and memory. Mental challenges and social interactions are a great way to do this, and all of these elements come together in the new u3a Cryptic Crossword Group.

A small group of crossword enthusiasts (cruciverbalists) meet to work together to solve a cryptic crossword - while learning from each other and improving our skills.

Cryptic crosswords are typically found in the broadsheet newspapers (especially The Times, Guardian, Financial Times and Independent) and some magazines. Solving them involves reading the clues the **right** way, understanding and recognising the crossword conventions within the clue.

The current group is now full but do let Beryl know if you would be interested in joining or indeed leading a further group.

Andy Tanner

LINE DANCING - It's (not quite) all change for the group!



At the end of March our group bid a sad farewell to our teacher Sue Kelly. She stepped in to teach us in 2021 when the group could fully resume sessions following Covid. Ably assisted by her friend and music maestro Cathy, she led us through a variety of dances, building up our pace and repertoire. We matched her enthusiasm if not her grace!

Sue and some of the Dorking line dancers took part in the national Let's Dance Day recently, when the Surrey Keep Fit Association held a day of varied dance styles to encourage people to experience dance for the benefit of their health and mental well-being. Sue took one of the four sessions, teaching line dancing with a Latin theme to a packed hall of appreciative participants.

We are now looking forward to welcoming our new teacher. Luckily she can teach us on Fridays so it's not quite all change: same venue (Follett Hall), same day but new time 12.30-1.30pm, and new teacher - Kate Dawson. Kate teaches in Horsham but is keen to come to us twice a month and we are delighted to be moving ahead with her.

Gill Crooks

CURRENT ISSUES 2 - Lively discussion the u3a way!



D&D u3a members all have views about the world we live in today. We run two well-attended Current Issues groups that provide an opportunity for members to review and discuss issues of global, national and local importance through analysis and discussion of recent news reports.

Over the last year Group 2 has delved into an eclectic mix of topics, ranging from overseas aid, the woes of the prison service, funding the NHS and the pros and cons of electric cars. The group has also considered the impact of President Trump's policies on the USA and the world, whether our electoral system produces effective government and '*an ageing population – are we the problem?*'

The group is a great forum to express views, learn from other members' contributions and widen understanding from background information circulated before each meeting, providing perspectives not always reported in the mainstream media. Current Issue 2 aims to be a diverse, friendly, inclusive group which follows the u3a motto - Learn, Laugh, Live. The group is happy to welcome new members who can contact Ian Norman iannorman6@outlook.com

CURRENT ISSUES 3 - What are the current issues schools and colleges are tackling?

Our last Current Issues 3 meeting was led by Pat Hand who outlined some of the problems schools are currently facing.

Educating young people and the pace of change is a truly challenging task. There are significant current issues in education today that surface from social, technological and academic changes happening now.

Teachers and learners have to manage the growing need to balance traditional literacy with new digital literacy skills. Generally, there is a decline in reading and writing skills with a decrease in reading comprehension and writing quality. Digital media and short-form content (e.g. social media like TikTok or Instagram, texting, etc) have impacted on attention spans and vocabulary. Reading is a foundation life skill which opens doors to other learning and the national target is for every child to be reading to a good standard before leaving primary school.

Artificial intelligence and technology integration in the form of tools like ChatGPT and Grammarly are reshaping how students approach writing and language learning. By the time many children start infant school they are familiar with using a mobile phone, tablets, game apps and scrolling, but may have limited

experience of books or conversations about stories.

Teachers face challenges in promoting original, critical thinking and learning how to make effective use of AI tools to support learning.

Educational assessment is transforming from rote memorisation testing to evaluating higher order skills such as critical thinking and creativity, while enabling faster, personalised feedback. Teachers are increasingly using 'open AI' assignments where students are encouraged to use generative AI and then reflect on, improve or critically evaluate the content.

Poverty and poor housing are the longstanding issues that undermine children's ability to achieve good learning outcomes. Not all students have equal access to quality teaching, resources or ready access to computers and online learning tools. The impact of the pandemic and closure of schools was particularly difficult for children and families living with social and economic disparities. Subsequent research shows the impact on learning outcomes has continued, including a worrying rise in the number of students missing school regularly. Staff training is being provided in many schools to support mental health issues and there is strong government pressure to ensure students attend regularly.

In an effort to deal with long standing educational challenges in difficult economic times, the Department of Education has recently published the schools' White Paper, ***Every Child Achieving and Thriving***, alongside a consultation on special educational needs and disability (SEND) reform, called ***Putting Children and Young People First***.

Pat Hand

READING FOR PLEASURE - It's more enjoyable together!



Our April meeting provided a lively, interesting discussion - Liz had chosen the book ***The Winds from Further West*** by Alexander McCall Smith. It tells the story of Neil who, after a failed career and relationship, goes to find solace on the Isle of Mull.

We all commented on the characters and storyline not necessarily agreeing with each other! We have now decided on our programme for the rest of the

year, a wide variety of book choices which I'm sure will encourage more lively discussions and add interest to our meetings.

Jill Roome

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY – Do ants have brains?



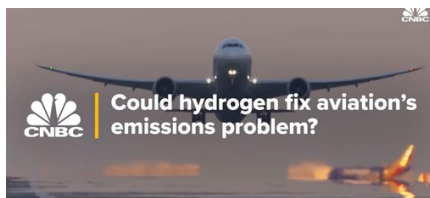
Our group, led by Richard Rumble, meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Lincoln Arms. Our members have a wide range of backgrounds including Computing, Energy, Civil Engineering, Biochemistry and Physics. We try to find subjects of topical interest, particularly those which involve

several scientific or technical disciplines.

Recently we focused on Artificial Intelligence - we looked at how AI researchers have studied the brains of insects to help improve understanding of neural networks and considered how AI has solved the protein folding problem which enables scientists to design new drugs much more efficiently.

In the energy field, we looked at alternative energy sources such as hydrogen to fuel cars and aircraft. It is already used as a fuel in spacecraft, and we have been following the progress of the Artemis project which will take humans back to the moon in the near future.

We use videos such as Ted Talks from YouTube and other sources to stimulate our discussions. New members are always welcome and we can often provide lifts to the meetings if needed. We are also able to use Zoom to include members who can't get to the meeting.



Bob Crooks

SINGING FOR PLEASURE - They say that singing is good for the soul, it's certainly good for the spirit!



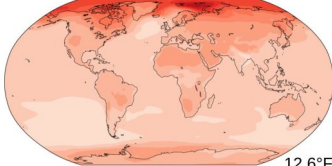
We never meet without a lively chat, before the start of the session, during the coffee break and on the way home! Now is a good time to join - our group has just started a new set of songs from well-known films. There's a wide variety and they're all ones that you've probably heard of before. We meet twice a month for a two-hour session, with a break and an experienced Music

Director to help us. So if you would like a pleasant, relaxed, and sociable morning, twice a month, this is the group for you. Contact: meikebuckl25@gmail.com

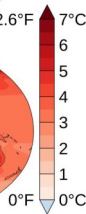
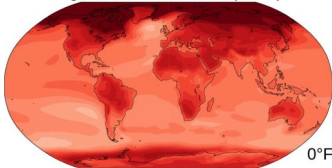
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - Global Warming and our Grandchildren's World

The March Study Day was co-presented by our very own Dr Colin Summerhayes, member of Cambridge University's Scott Polar Research Institute, and Prof Mark Williams of the University of Leicester. Colin helps run our D&D u3a Environmental Issues group which meets monthly every 4th Wednesday morning at the URC.

Warming distribution at 1.5°C (2.7°F) average



Warming distribution at 4.0°C (7.2°F)



The four talks focused on how, since 1950, we have been changing the planet in the Anthropocene, a new epoch of geological time characterized by human impacts.

One of the key features of the Anthropocene is global warming, which made 2024 the world's warmest of the past 2000 years. Rising temperatures are melting polar and alpine ice, raising sea level and changing climate. This is down to our burning of fossil fuels, which add to the air greenhouse gases that warm the atmosphere, including water vapour evaporated from the warming ocean. Warming is

happening faster globally than at any time in the past 60 million years. Sunspots are at much the same level as they were in 1750; we can't therefore blame the Sun for the increasing warmth.

The warming is melting polar ice, which is slowly raising sea level. Warming and ice melt will continue long after we stop burning fossil fuels, until the land, air and ocean return to an equilibrium state. Our global coasts and cities are at risk. So is our water supply. We should stop burning fossil fuels and replace them with renewable energy as soon as practicable. Humans and their farm animals now dominate animal life, causing a major decline in biodiversity. Future geologists will see our time as one dominated by chicken and cattle bones. We have also polluted the environment with chemical and plastic waste, even consuming microplastics hidden in food. These changes happened because our antiquated global economic system sees the air and the ocean as valueless externalities. Whilst we are all increasingly aware of the global warming effects, what we perhaps don't appreciate is that we will not escape from these serious environmental problems unless we change our economic system.

Colin Summerhayes

SUGGESTED READING:

Not the end of the World, by Hannah Ritchie

Clearing the Air, by Hanna Ritchie

Despite it All, by Fred Pearce

Doughnut Economics, by Kate Raworth

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES – Fairtrade



It's not all cerebral work in our group. Sometimes we get to sample some goodies (bananas, chocolate, coffee, tea) bought in the shops the previous week. This was the challenge set by Sheila Pearson - to bring in a selection of fairtrade products and talk about their provenance. Fairtrade products are actually more prolific in our shops than we think and it's just a matter of scouring the shelves for the familiar trademark. And there are special sites now that sell luxury goods such as leather handbags, sandals and cotton shirts. I found a site selling beautiful interior design furnishings - not cheap, but unique because they are individually handcrafted.

Try Sheila's quiz – it's a bit of an eye opener.

QUIZ: Answers are on page 26.

1. *When did Fairtrade start? (a) 1990; (b) 1991; (c) 1992*
2. *In how many countries does Fairtrade operate?*
3. *What was the first Fairtrade product? (a) chocolate; (b) coffee; (c) bananas*
4. *When did we get the familiar Fairtrade mark? (a) 2000; (b) 2001; (c) 2002*
5. *What was the first Fairtrade product in the UK? (a) tea; (b) chocolate; (c) sugar*
6. *How long have Fairtrade bananas been sold? (a) 10 years; (b) 20 years; (c) 30 years*
7. *Which UK retailer first sold Fairtrade bananas? (a) the Co-op; (b) Sainsbury's; (c) Waitrose*
8. *Which brand of ice cream is Fairtrade?*
9. *How many Fairtrade products are listed on the Sainsbury's site? (a) 20; (b) 30; (c) 40*
10. *How many FT products does Lidl sell? (a) 20; (b) 50; (c) 100*

INDOOR BOWLS



The season drew to a close with a very fitting and well-deserved presentation. Nine of us met irregularly over the winter months at the Horsham Indoor Bowling Club, drawing for partners on each occasion. I must say that each week the person drawn to partner David had a broad smile on their face – and with very good reason! Quite simply, his pairing ended all but one session with the best score line and he emerged head and shoulders above the rest, a worthy winner of the splendid trophy, presented by organiser Ann Watney. Thank you Ann for organising a great season. Now we move to the green at Pippbrook Bowling Club for the summer. (Photo: Ann Watney presents the trophy to David Anscomb)

John Thom

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES - The Peacock Butterfly (see back cover photo)

According to one of the world's biggest insect monitoring surveys, increasingly warm weather over the last half century partly driven by climate change has helped some British butterfly species to flourish. But data collected over half a century shows many of the UK's most distinctive butterflies are in steep decline. The species which are doing well include the Comma, Red Admiral and Large Blue, some of which are now wintering in the UK as the climate warms.

A recent news report suggests that the Peacock Butterfly (*Inachis io*), found throughout temperate Asia and as far as Japan, is a colourful and common local resident. After wintering as an adult in trees, dense undergrowth or inside buildings (including the pill boxes on the North Downs), it reappears in spring to mate and breed. The back cover photo shows one feeding on bluebells in April.

Hibernation may begin as early as the first weeks of August. The eye spots on the upper fore and hind wings have been shown to deter predators. It can also make a hissing noise by rubbing its wings together (like a snake?). The underwings, however, are a dull dark brown or black, resembling a dead leaf.



The caterpillars are deep black with rows of finely branched spikes and with white dots on each segment. They tend to congregate on their favoured food plant, hops or nettles, until pupation (see photo).

This species is expanding its range and is not known to be threatened. It uses a wide range of sources for nectar and other nutrients - dandelions, thistles,

Buddleia, flowers of herbs etc. and tree sap and decaying fruit. It is a welcome visitor to our gardens and a reminder that the warmer weather has arrived.

Robert Edmondson

GARDENING 2 - To prune or not to prune, that is the question!

In early March, a small group visited Polesden Lacey Rose Garden where Senior Gardener Janine talked through what it takes to rejuvenate older roses and in particular the pergola. Many of the climbing roses have reached the end of their lifespan or are suffering from poor soil conditions. Winter (December to February) is the ideal time to prune most fruit trees and bushes while they are dormant.

The main aim is to remove the **“three Ds”** — dead, damaged, and diseased wood - along with any branches touching the ground (otherwise known as wildlife’s lunch!). The main lesson: light pruning is better than over-pruning.

Future topics will cover sowing seeds, soil improvement and plant propagation. This month Dorking Library launched a Seed Library in collaboration with Guildford Seed Bank. The aim is simple - to make it easier for people to grow their own plants, share seeds and support local biodiversity.

Ollie Mann & Beryl Sinclair

MILITARY HISTORY - Churchill's Mavericks

During WW2, SOE (Special Operations Executive) set up a special unit for



guerrilla warfare, named Military Intelligence (R). The R standing for reconnaissance but it was just a name. Special people were recruited into the unit with expertise in thinking for themselves and the use of special explosives.

The unit was commanded by Colonel Gubbins who only reported direct to Churchill. Gubbins recruited explosives experts like Major Macrae who, desperate to develop an underwater mine, set up a special weapons station in 1940. Macrae was a caravan enthusiast and knew an exceptional caravan designer and engineer Cecil Clarke.

Clarke was recruited into the unit and with Macrae began thinking about an underwater explosive. Clarke went to Woolworths and bought up a large quantity of tinned sweets and strong magnets. He then filled the tins with explosives over the magnet. The problem to solve was an underwater detonator. He tried Alka Seltzer but it dissolved too quickly. As he was thinking about the problem he saw his daughter spilling aniseed balls on the table. He put one in his mouth and bingo!



The final problem was to ensure that the tube to the detonator was covered by a waterproof membrane. The answer was a condom! So, the two men visited the various pharmacies buying up large quantities of condoms and earning a reputation of being dirty old men.

There were many more '*Maverick*' exploits like the dry dock at St Nazaire which was the only dry dock which could take the largest battle ship in Europe – Tirpitz. Commander Stephen Beattie drove HMS Campbeltown loaded with 4.2 tons of explosive at 18 knots against the dock's doors. The Germans taunted him until a massive explosion occurred a few hours later.

Jim Barnes



UKULELE - The D'Ukes go West!!

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

Saturday morning saw us in the sitting room putting together and practising a few numbers for our afternoon get-together with the Weymouth Ukuleleans. Meeting and playing along with an unfamiliar group is always slightly intimidating, but we were very warmly welcomed by around 20 Ukuleleans in the busy bar area of the Kings Arms. We proceeded to entertain the regulars with many songs, both in our separate groups and all together, accompanied by various instruments including tambourine and spoons! After a fantastic couple of hours with our voices starting to fail, we sadly said goodbye to our new friends and made our way back to Portland House.

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

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

John Hammond



LOCAL HISTORY - Tunnelling under Dorking

Dorking may be a historic market town, surrounded by beautiful countryside, but below the town's surface is a hidden honeycomb of galleries, wine vaults, stairways, wells and chambers! The Dorking 'caves' are, technically speaking, tunnels, entirely manmade. The main parts of the caves were excavated in the late 1600s and may have been mined for building sand and stone. They were however principally used for the preservation and storage of wine. Many of Dorking's pubs had cellars and vaults, some with a labyrinth of tunnels.

The last remaining entrance to the caves is located beside the War Memorial in South Street. Having donned safety helmets our Dorking Museum Guide, Gwen, led us into the large upper level consisting of a system of four inter-connecting galleries. Along two of these are wine vaults dating to approximately 1815. Gwen related the amusing tale of the 'Naughty Boys Entrance'. A set of steps led to lower levels which are characterful, narrow and darkened. There are candle recesses marked by soot. The walls are covered with centuries of inscriptions, principally dates and initials, which were carved into the soft walls lit only by the light of flickering flames.

The network of short tunnels and flights of steps intercept three vertical well-shafts and descend about sixty feet below street level. We were led to a narrow stone-cut staircase to the lowest passage, at the far end of which is a small circular igloo-shaped room known as the 'Mystery Chamber'. It has a peripheral circular carved stone bench. Gwen told us theories of smugglers, criminal, political or clandestine religious gatherings.

We would like to thank Dorking Museum for their very informative tour.

Paul Smith & Val Rayner



PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP - Autumn Colours

A lucky 13 members of the Photography group had good reason to make the most of any autumn sunshine when they took part in a St Francis Challenge devised and adjudicated by the group's Angela Rixon ARPS.

Taking the letters of the saint's name as her cue, Angela suggested nine objectives from which to submit a set of seven autumnal photographs. They were: Scenic, Three of a Kind, Framed, Reflected, Abstract, Natural design, Creative, Isolated, and Shades of Autumn.

At the group's December meeting the images were shown and scores were awarded. Top honours were shared by Dave Anscomb and Mike Docker but Angela found much to praise among all the entrants.

Winning entries and many more stunning photographs by group members can be found on the website.



Photographers in the frame: some of the St Francis Challenge winners
(photo by Paul Smith)

MONTHLY MEETINGS

THE GHOST WRITER

Neil Hanson, 14 January 2026



How many of us could write their own life story? If we started, we'd probably give up after the first page. And if we did write it, and read back to ourselves, would we manage to get past the first couple of pages?

Yet how many autobiographies are published each year? Famous people – dare I say 'celebs' – all think that their life story has to be in print, for posterity. Do these budding 'authors' sit at their computers and do it themselves? Of course not, they are too busy partying or on the red carpet to do such a mundane thing as put pen to paper, as it were.

So they get someone to do it for them – a 'ghost writer'. But when the book is published, whose name is on the front cover? Not that of Neil Hanson, the speaker at our January meeting. No, of course not. It is their own name, bold as brass. Normally Neil will not even expect a mention – he just takes the money and

runs - paid up-front of course, in case the book flops! How many of the words in the book actually come from the mouth of his subject, and how many are his own, we asked?

'That will vary enormously – from some, a lot. From others, quite the other extreme'. Some of his subjects are highly literate and verbose, others not so much!

Neil's clients include household names – an American showbiz legend, England's most famous cricketer, a celebrated actor, one of Britain's most decorated soldiers and an England football manager. They also include less celebrated men and women who have led extraordinary lives or achieved remarkable things, who have real stories to tell – like Keith Jessop, a diver who recovered millions in gold from a wreck off Edinburgh. Neil got his name on the front cover of that book as co-author. And there is Ken Connor who spilt the beans on the SAS. And he has 70 or so books written in his own name.

He has written for many famous people – household names in the worlds of showbiz, acting and football. *'Many with narrow minds and broad egos!'*, as he puts it.

So next time you buy a biography, just think – you may well have sat, listened to and even met the author – the 'real' author, that is!

John Thom

EUROPE IN SPACE

Geoff Saunders, 8 April 2026



We were pleased to welcome our very own Geoff Saunders to our April Monthly Meeting for his very topical talk 'Europe in Space'.

Geoff's informative and engaging presentation showed us how Europe, including the UK, is a key player in space exploration – a fact overlooked by many. And what good timing for a talk on space, with the Artemis II mission nearing completion. This provided an illustration of how little we talk about Europe in Space. While there was no European astronaut on this mission, the crucial Service Module that took the

Orion capsule to the moon and back was provided by the European Space Agency.

Geoff's talk included information on various European Space missions, past, present and future. Mars exploration will continue with a British built rover landing next year, while the Jupiter mission underway at present will take several more years to arrive at the giant planet.

A European rocket took the James Webb telescope to its place 1,500,000 km from Earth. And there is usually a European astronaut on the International Space Station, though sadly Geoff's application to be an astronaut was not successful. We all depend on the space industry for travel, communication and science, so it's good to know that Europe and the UK benefit from this major industry.

Geoff Saunders / Denise Hooker



Picnic in the Park Wednesday 17 June 2026

12noon - 4pm

BUCKLAND PARK LAKE

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

Bring a picnic and enjoy the music and fun. Entry £12pp.

For further information and bookings go to

www.dorkingu3a.org.uk or

contact Ianthe Cox on 01737 843105 or email

lanthecox72@gmail.com

Postal and Foundling Museums - 4 February 2026



We were blessed with a lovely sunny day for our trip to London in early February which was in two parts, with a morning visit to the Foundling Museum and an afternoon visit to the Post Office Museum.

The Foundling Museum visit began with the story of the Foundling Hospital, UK's first children's charity and public art gallery supported by Handel and leading 18th century artists such as Hogarth. Although the museum was opened in 2004 the Foundling Hospital was established in 1730 to care for babies who had been abandoned into their care. It was established by Thomas Coram who campaigned long and hard until he received a Royal Charter from King George II.

We split into two groups and our guided tour was led by someone with an in-depth knowledge of social history and who was able to bring to life, by means of curated items, what would have been a very hard way of life for the abandoned children. The artwork displayed was given depth of meaning by the guide's knowledge.

The afternoon was spent very enjoyably in the Postal Museum where we learned the origins of the post offices as we know them today. Under Henry VIII, a system of ensuring letters were delivered as soon as possible was established by setting up stables or 'posts' throughout the country. Horses and riders were based at these 'posts' to ensure swift passage from post to post of documents. Hence the name of Post Office.

The museum itself was very interesting with a full-scale model of a bright red mail carriage as well as many other fascinating exhibits detailing the history of our mail and post offices.

A highlight of the day for some was the Mail Ride where we took an underground train looping under Mount Pleasant through tunnels that are only 7ft wide at their narrowest point. The ride was narrated by a Mail Rail engineer and the train stopped at two station platforms where films about the history of Mail Rail were projected onto the walls.

When we got off the underground train there was an area which simulated the feeling of being on a mail train as letters were sorted/distributed/collected on the long journey from London northwards to Scotland.

All in all, a very enjoyable and enlightening day!

Deanne Rhodes & Pamela Miller

BURNS NIGHT - TOAST TO THE LADDIES AND LASSIES



I'm no great speaker I'll admit,
I lack the words, I lack the wit,
But thank yee ALL for your kind cheer.
Before I toast the laddies here,
On history's lovers I'll speculate,
Without their women, they're not so
great.
Romeo 'n Juliet met a tragic end,
'cos his honour he would defend!
Vicky 'n Albert had a good thing -
SHE ruled the land, **HE** wasn't king.
Cathy was Heathcliff's great paramour;
They would ramble 'cross the moor.
But when Cathy died, he was bereft;
He turned to drink and then to theft.
Robin the Hood was a great catch
His fair Marion was a feisty match.
Mark Anthony and Caesar too
Left Rome to plot and Egypt woo.
But lost their empire and their head
In proud Queen Cleopatra's bed.
King Henry's acts I can't condone
Poor Anne Boleyn lost her throne.
Without the bonnie lassies' grace

The world is much a sadder place.
It takes a team to make things happen,
So, the men here present I will champi-
on.

They lift and mend when we cannot,
Invented fire, the sailor's knot.....

LADIES - raise a glass and think

You're not enslaved to the kitchen sink.

And **SIRS**, if in life you would succeed,
Robbie's warning you should heed.

As the noble poet says in his wee verse
Your lives could be a darn sight worse.

....*"Husband, husband, cease your
strife,*

Nor longer idly rave, sir;

Tho' they are your wedded wife,

yet they are not your slave, sir.

One of two must still obey,

Is it man or woman say;

If 'tis still the lordly word,

Service and obedience;

They'll desert their sovereign laird,

And so goodbye allegiance

(Poem Beryl Sinclair)



RESIDENTIAL

The Historic Houses & Heritage of North Wales

1st – 5th October 2026

Five days - four nights half board from £879. Includes half-board accommodation at the 3* Celtic Royal Hotel at Caernarfon, travel and guided tours, entrance fees to non-NT properties; boat and train excursions. Extras: insurance £38; single room supplement £129; gratuities / lunches.

DAY 1: DEPART – ATTINGHAM PARK

Departure from our designated pick-up points. En route to our hotel we visit **Attingham Park** (NT) in Shropshire, an elegant 18th century mansion, and home to a fine collection of ambassadorial silver, Italian furniture and Grand Tour paintings.

DAY 2: CAERNARFON CASTLE & PENRHYN CASTLE

Morning visit of **Caernarfon Castle** including a 45-minute cruise from Caernarfon on board the 'Queen of the Sea' to enjoy spectacular views of the Castle, the Snowdonia mountain range, Llanddwyn Island, and the Isle of Anglesey. Tour of **Penrhyn Castle** (NT), a dramatic neo-Norman fantasy castle, with restored Victorian kitchen and other servants' quarters.

DAY 3: WELSH HIGHLAND NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY & PORTMEIRION

In the morning, enjoy a one-way scenic excursion on the **Welsh Highland Narrow Gauge Railway** from Caernarfon Station to Porthmadog. In the afternoon, there is leisure time in the village of **Portmeirion**, designed and built by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis between 1925 and 1975 in the style of an Italian village.

DAY 4: BEAUMARIS CASTLE & PLAS NEWYDD COUNTRY HOUSE & GARDENS

Blue Badge guided tour of **Beaumaris Castle** in the morning. Beaumaris Castle on the Island of Anglesey was built as one of the 'iron ring' of North Wales castles by the English monarch Edward I, to stamp his authority on the Welsh, but was never finished as money and supplies ran out before the fortifications reached their full height. In the afternoon, we visit the **Plas Newydd Country House and Gardens** (NT). Associated with the 1st Marquess of Anglesey, who commanded the cavalry at the Battle of Waterloo, Plas Newydd is a beautiful 18th century country house with spectacular views across the Menai Strait to Snowdonia.

DAY 5: BODNANT GARDENS

On our return home, we visit the 80-acre **Bodnant Gardens** (NT), located above the River Conwy, the gardens feature huge Italianate terraces and stunning views across Snowdonia.

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



South East u3a Forum Summer School

Monday 7 – Thursday 10 September 2026
University of Chichester

Course list and details are posted on the Forum website southeastu3aforum.u3asite.uk/2026-2/ and bookings will go 'live' at 11.00am on Friday 8 May 2026.

The 13 courses on offer this year are:

AI – Beginners; **Art History** – The Male Gaze; **Craft** – English Paper Piercing – Beginners; **Jazz Appreciation** – Introduction; **Life Story** – Social History; **Linguistics** – Onomastics: What's in a name?; **Mahjong** – Beginners; **Mathematics** – for Life **MPT** - Memory, Perception & Thinking; **Poetry** – Australian; **Philosophy** – Introduction; **Spanish** – Beginners; **Otter's Restaurant**, **Chapel Courtyard Yoga** – Seated, Mat and Standing.

The prices for 2026 summer school are as follows:

En-Suite Accommodation £390.00	Standard Accommodation £360.00
Non-Residential with dinner £220.00	Non-Residential no dinner £175.00

The residential prices include accommodation, all meals and refreshments offered at break times and Welcome and Farewell drinks on the first and last evenings, both prior to dinner. Also, the evening entertainment is included, available on campus each evening at 8pm.

Full information on all aspects of this Summer School can be found on the South East u3a Forum's website: southeastu3aforum.u3asite.uk/2026-2/



PHOTOS: MAHJONG: LATIN; YOGA (SUMMER SCHOOL 2025)

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.

The following study days are planned for 2026:

Friday 15 May - **Truth, Lies, Risk & Reason**, presented by Philip Harris, Emeritus Professor of Physics, University of Sussex

Friday 19 June - **The History of Theatre**, presented by Giles Ramsay

Friday 18 September - **The Bayeux Tapestry**, presented by Imogen Corrigan

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

Friday 20 November - **The Music and Satire of Gilbert and Sullivan**, presented by Bernard Lockett, Gilbert & Sullivan Society

At some study days, students of the Menuhin School will perform musical interludes during the lunchtime break.

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.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Autumn/Winter 2026 issue of the magazine will be due next November. I would welcome short articles, reports on group activities and visits, book reviews and photographs **by mid October** please.

Beryl Sinclair

Calendar of Events: May – December 2026

May 2026	13	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	The Wicked Wit of Winston Churchill, speaker Stewart Linford
	15	<i>Study Day</i>	Truth, Lies, Risk & Reason, speaker Professor Philip Harris, Emeritus Professor of Physics, University of Sussex
June	10	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Death by Shakespeare, speaker Kathryn Harkup
	17	<i>Event</i>	Summer Picnic, Buckland Park Lake
	19	<i>Study Day</i>	The History of Theatre, presented by Giles Ramsay
July	8	AGM <i>Monthly Meeting</i>	D&D u3a AGM at 2pm followed by Not Just Safaris, speaker Sue Flipping
September	9	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	The Golden Age of Travel 1836-1936, speaker Ian Porter
	18	<i>Study Day</i>	The Bayeux Tapestry, presented by Imogen Corrigan
October	14	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	1066: What actually happened and why?, speaker Steve Bird
	16	<i>Study Day</i>	World Affairs in Middle East & Africa: Iran, Saudi Arabia, South Africa & Nigeria, presented by Steve Bird
November	11	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Let's we Forget: Remembrance & Poetry of the Great War, speaker Jonathan Jones
	20	<i>Study Day</i>	The Music and Satire of Gilbert and Sullivan, presented by Bernard Lockett, Gilbert & Sullivan Society
December	9	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Walking with Polar Bears, speaker Gillian Lloyd

ANSWERS TO FAIRTRADE QUIZ ON PAGE 13

1. Fairtrade began in the UK in 1992, with a coalition of Oxfam, CAFOD, and Traidcraft.
2. Fairtrade operates in over 70 countries worldwide.
3. The first 'Fairtrade' product was coffee from Mexico, sold in Dutch supermarkets in 1989.
4. In 2002. The FAIRTRADE mark was designed to symbolise the blue sky of potential and the green of growth. The figure of the producer has an arm raised in celebration of human determination.
5. Green & Black's Maya Gold chocolate.
6. Nearly 30 Years. In November 1996, the first-ever shipment of Fairtrade labelled bananas destined for large-scale retail arrived in Rotterdam from Ghana.
7. The Co-op in the year 2000.
8. Ben and Jerry's.
9. Forty.
10. According to their website, Lidl GB sells over 100 different Fairtrade certified products throughout the year.

Member survey - please respond

We are slowly moving away from printed information towards electronic information via the Website, the Monthly Newsletter and occasional E-mails.

Currently the only printed information we produce and distribute to all members are:

- ◆ An annual Handbook with the annual programme, and gives details of all the groups available (at the time of printing, although others get added during the year)
- ◆ A spring/summer Magazine that looks back at what has been happening over the past six months, with reports on meetings, days out, residential visits, etc.
- ◆ An autumn/winter Magazine, which does the same as the spring/summer for the second half of the year.

Printing and postage are expensive with over 650 members to cater for, and of course most are hand delivered by our able volunteers. We are NOT suggesting that we cease production of any of these publications, but we do not want to waste your money on unnecessary print runs. Therefore, we should like to know which members would like to continue receiving printed copies of these publications. We are taking this opportunity to include a simple yes/no questionnaire for each. You can either respond by email johnthom@dorkingu3a.org.uk or drop off your tear off sheet at the next Monthly Meeting.



Please TICK ONE of the following boxes for each publication:

	ANNUAL HANDBOOK	SPRING/SUMMER MAGAZINE	AUTUMN/WINTER MAGAZINE
YES – I /we would like to continue to receive this			
NO - I/we do not need/wish to continue to receive this			

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR NAME(S)

.....
 (Responses will be kept confidential, but we need to know who you are so we can count you 'in' or 'out'. One response per household, please.)

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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 have suggestions regarding topics and/or speakers for monthly meetings, please get in touch with Denise Hooker dorkingu3ameetings@gmail.com. Thank you.

13 May 2026 - 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 humidior 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

Speaker **GILLIAN LLOYD** presents 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.

Interest & Activity Groups

Details of current interest groups can be found in the handbook or on the Dorking & District u3a website www.dorkingu3a.org.uk. Members may join as many groups as they wish. Just contact the group leader(s) for further information. If you have difficulty in joining a group or have suggestions for new groups, please contact the **Membership Secretary** by emailing johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk.

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BOWLS - OUTDOOR GROUP (May –Sept)

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WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

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Dorking & District u3a Groups - When do we meet?

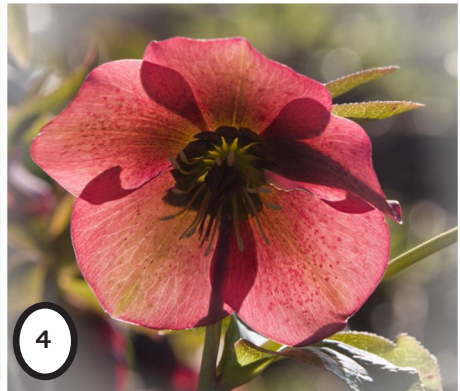
		1st in month	2nd in month	3rd in month	4th/last in month
Monday	am	Singing for Pleasure	COMMITTEE MEETING Reading for Pleasure	Plant Lovers Singing for Pleasure	
	pm	Bridge German Conversation Mahjong	Bridge Local History 2 Mahjong	Bridge German Conversation Mahjong	Bridge Mahjong
Tuesday	am	Badminton 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 Philosophy (online) Science & Technology	Art & Architecture
Thursday	am	Guitar	Guitar	Guitar	Guitar
	pm	French Conversation Pickleball	French Intermediate Pickleball	Dorking Readers French Conversation Pickleball	Pickleball Art & Craft
Friday	am	Gardening 2 Line Dancing Ukulele	Gardening 1 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

D&D u3a - Moving to the Sound of Music



1. THE D'UKES GO WEST (photo John Hammond); 2. SINGING FOR PLEASURE AT NOWER House (photo Denis Kellaway); 3. DANCE 2B FIT APRIL 2026 (photo Michelle Samman)

Photo group: Signs of Spring!



1. PEACOCK BUTTERFLY (Robert Edmondson); 2. GIANT GALANTHUS (Faith Docker);
3. SPRINGTIME (Caroline Brown); 4. SPRING HELLEBORE (Steve Hooker); 5. HONEYBEE ON SPRING
CROCUS (Robert Edmondson); 6. SIGNS OF SPRING (Chris Prout) (All photos are copyright)