

Volume 9, Issue 3 - October 2011

Fetcham In Focus

U3A

The Newsletter of Fetcham University of the Third Age

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Cover photographs by Graham/Tony (see article - page 6)

Cover design by John

Editor this Issue - Judy

Chairman's Column



In view of the fact that we are bringing Associate members to Full members

far quicker than at any time in the past, the committee has taken the step of discontinuing the twice annual meetings held at St Mary's Hall especially for the Associate Members, one in the spring and the other in the summer. These meetings have never been that well supported by Associate members even when numbers were in excess of 150 and we have had to include Full members in order not to have our speaker with an audience of under 50, including committee members and helpers.

As you are aware any Associate member may attend a particular monthly meeting, by advising our Membership Secretary, Kathy, either via the website, by email or by telephone, requesting permission to attend the meeting re-

quired. *It is important that Associate Members do not abuse this option* otherwise we will have to reconsider our decision. During the period April through to October there are normally sufficient spaces available in St Mary's Hall for several Associate members to attend. We are still attempting to bring Associate members to Full membership faster and Kathy will keep you updated accordingly.

With the AGM coming up in November, which EVERY member is entitled and invited to attend, it will be time for me to thank everyone, committee members, group leaders and helpers, for their efforts during this past year. It is also the time of year that membership renewals will be dropping through your letterboxes. If you are able to tick the 'Gift Aid' box on the form, please do so as these ticks add around the £1,000 mark to our annual income. Most of our members do this and it makes quite a difference to our U3A and helps to keep our membership fees at their current level.

One thing I have noticed during my tenure as your Chairman is the number of scams that are doing the rounds in unwanted telephone calls, unwanted emails and junk mail. I can do nothing about the junk mail other than suggest that if they enclose a return envelope, use it to return their junk. With regard to emails we do have someone we can report to, we can

forward the email to email@actionfraud.org.uk or go on line to www.actionfraud.org.uk. This is the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, run by the City of London police to gather information in order to take preventative action. So don't just delete these emails. take action.

Bryan

The Virtual U3A (vU3A), which went live in January 2009, is an online-only U3A, affiliated to the Third Age Trust. One of its principal aims is to provide the U3A experience for those who are rendered isolated in some way by circumstances or geography and unable to play a full part in a terrestrial U3A. More information is available on the public website www.vu3a.org where one can also apply for membership. Why not pay it a visit? And if you know of anyone who might benefit, please pass the information on.



The vU3A already has an active membership but is currently seeking to increase this with the hope of expanding the range of activity groups now in operation.

I hope that members, past, present and future, might be glad to learn about vU3A. Please be assured that vU3A is in no way intended as an alternative to or competition for your own U3A. It is intended to serve very specific needs.

John Pettifer

Quiz



- 1 What is the largest island in the Caribbean ?
- 2 Which South American capital city's name translates as "I see the mountain"?
- 3 Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic?
- 4 We handed Hong Kong back to China but what colony did Portugal hand back to China in 1999?
- 5 Which is Greece's largest island?
- 6 What exceptional event occurred to Fred Housego, a taxi driver, in 1980?
- 7 Which is the World's largest lake (ie area surrounded by land)?
- 8 In which city, other than London, would you find King's Cross, Paddington, Oxford Street and Hyde Park?
- 9 Who is the patron saint of dancers?
- 10 What did the early Greek explorers call the 'Strait of Gibraltar'?

Answers page 17

Outings and Theatre Trips

Greetings from Bookham from Sheila - having recently moved.

Our theatre visit to Chichester in August was a great day out. Besides enjoying a brilliant production of 'Singin' in the Rain', glorious summer sunshine encouraged many of us to lunch in the open air before the show. Hopefully, taking advantage of good group discounts for high quality productions, a visit to Chichester Festival Theatre could become a regular event in our programme, so watch out for news of 2012.

If you do have ideas or suggestions or, particularly, early knowledge of future productions at other theatres, do please contact me through the website.

Local History Research 2



The Cock Inn - 1759

The inn was built in the 18th century on the corner of Cock Lane and The Street and is shown on the 1777 map of Fetcham. The picture above shows the rear view of the Inn with the artist seated in the garden of about No 5 Hilley Field Lane! This view is the only one existing of it. Queen Elizabeth 1 is said to have drunk mead there when she visited Slyfield Manor – but there is no firm evidence for this!

It consisted of a dwelling house, garden and orchard. The licence was not renewed from 1810 onwards as there were deemed to be too many Public Houses for the Village which consisted of 364 people. The other ones were the Bell Inn and the Rising Sun.

After ceasing to be an inn it was divided into two cottages - Yew Tree and Tea Trees.

Almshouses

The original single Almshouse was built about 1813 where the Reading Room is located. It was replaced in Victorian times by 4 Almshouses. These were demolished and new ones were built on the opposite side of the road (now called Morley Court). The originals are the black and white ones. The other brick ones were built later and are now part of Morley Court.

Reading Room

The Reading Room, located on the site of the old Almshouses, was built by Squire Hankey in the 1880's as a sort of "working men's club" where villagers could meet and listen to Readings from books and current literature. The ladies of the village provided soup for the needy and school children. The Budd family, whose living quarters (located at the end of the hall) were primitive by modern standards as they had an earth floor, a tiny upstairs bedroom

and outdoor sanitation, used to serve tea to visitors. This part now forms the entrance, kitchen and toilets and has been recently refurbished. It was a tiny living quarter and the old staircase to the upper level remains. The Women's Institute (founded in 1927) used it for meetings but due to its increasing membership the room became too small. When the Village Hall was built the meetings were relocated. It is now available for hire and is used by local organisations for functions.

On Heritage Open Days, held in the Reading Room, people are able to look at various displays of Fetcham history. With thanks for their help in research to 'Goff', Alan and Liz .

We are a very new, and as yet, a very small group, just four of us. New-comers to Fetcham are still finding their way round old Fetcham with the invaluable assistance of two members who have lived in the area all their lives and have good memories! New members would be very welcome.

Mary

French Conversation Party

This year we were delighted to welcome French Conversation 3 members to our annual Bastille Day celebrations on the evening of July 14th in the Harrison Room. We endeavoured to decipher French clues posted round the room while sipping an aperitif of Kir Républiqueain before sitting down to a delicious meal of French food and wine.



Later we were challenged to a quiz on French idiomatic expressions and prizes were awarded to the winners. We rounded off the very successful evening with a rousing rendition of La Marseillaise.

Lesley

Having thrown out the challenge to group leaders and members to send in a limerick, I have been delighted to see that there is so much talent within Fetcham U3A.

As far as I am concerned all those who sent in such clever and funny limericks deserve a prize. As it was too close to call I felt the only fair way to choose a winner was to place all the limericks into a bag and draw one out - see page 20.

Jenny

Liverpool in July

In spite of an early start 43 members of Fetcham U3A enthusiastically looked forward to a varied four days travelling north.

Our first stop, apart from a comfort break, was at the last complete Victorian Pottery factory in the country - Gladstone Pottery Museum - where we had a delicious buffet lunch. Typical of hundreds of similar factories at one time in the area, we experienced what conditions would have been like for the men, women and children who had worked at the centre of the world's pottery industry, including the sights, sounds and smells. We followed the story of the WC from Queen Elizabeth 1 through to the toilet of our future and now know what a sagger maker's bottom knocker is - a valuable piece of information for any quiz!

Later that afternoon we arrived at our base for the next few days, unpacked and gathered in the bar for a drink before dinner.

Surprisingly, although most were tired after a long day, we were all



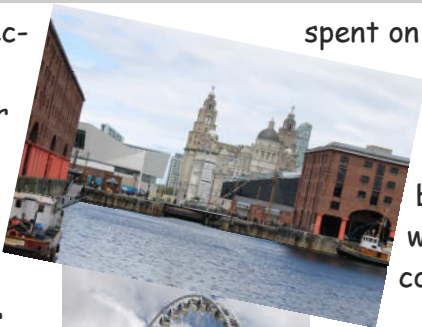
up and ready the next morning for the

Manchester Ship Canal cruise out of Salford Quays. From the boat we saw the new BBC Media Centre built on the banks of the Canal, the Lowry Gallery and Imperial War Museum North before cruising for six hours along the 35-mile canal to Liverpool. With a pleasant lady guide giving us a lively commentary as we sailed along, a clear blue sky and warmth from the sun, it was a magical day, only broken by suddenly coming up close and personal with a huge unladen oil tanker, pulled by a tug, rounding a corner towards us. Obviously our captain was aware and put us into a canal 'layby' so that the tanker could pass.

We then travelled via one of the Mersey tunnels to Birkenhead to visit Port Sunlight, exploring Lord Lever's vision - the founding of

the village, the architecture, soap making and village life at the Lever Gallery and Museum.

The next day we altered the itinerary slightly as the weather forecast was not good, and spent a full day in Liverpool. With so much to see we dived in and out of museums, galleries, cathedrals and the Liverpool Eye and managed to avoid the heavy rain. The rebuilt Albert Dock housed several museums and the Tate Gallery of Liverpool. The red sandstone Anglican Cathedral and the beautifully modern Catholic Cathedral were within walking distance of each other and, although there were long queues to get into the Beatles Experience at Albert Docks, several members were successful. The Liverpool Eye gave a good overall view of the area. A lot of money is being



spent on redeveloping Liverpool but they still have a long way to go before it is anywhere near complete.

Our last morning saw us at the Anderton Boat Lift. A wonderful construction. For 125 years this impressive Victorian monument served a purpose very

different to the peaceful passage of colourful narrow boats between the River Weaver and the Trent & Mersey Canal 50ft above, linking the canals of the north and midlands as the motorways of their day.

We arrived back at Fetcham tired but, in spite of the changeable weather, having had a very enjoyable four days

Winnie



Foxtrot, or waltz, quickstep or tango,
The ballroom group dancers will all have a go,
Our joints may complain,
Our backs feel the strain,
But we try hard to not let it show!

Valerie - Ballroom Dancing

Visiting Gardens

The outings this year have varied a great deal. We started off by going to Wisley as it was early in the year and we were sure of something to see, although I was unable to take part in this first visit. However during the year I would say each and every place we have visited has been beautiful.

In April several of us went to Hampton Court although it was quite a windy



day. As we walked in one of the gates there was a mass of daffodils all differ-

ent varieties which was a delight for the eyes. From there, we walked around the formal gardens and then into the private gardens. The smell from all the hyacinths was wonderful and the different colours were amazing. The garden Prince Charles designed to imitate a Tudor garden has really improved since I saw it last and was quite impressive

May is the month for azaleas so several of us went to the Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park. We were not disappointed as it was so colourful. Unfortunately it is not looked after as well as it used to be in my opinion. The azaleas have grown very tall and one cannot see over them so well. A couple

of weeks later four of us went to Sheffield Park. It is beautiful and one finds there are so many photographs to take, it is difficult to choose which photograph one likes best!

At the beginning of June we went to Nyman's Garden, which is known for its herbaceous borders, and later in the month to Titsey Place. Titsey Place took us a long time to find as the entrance is not the same as the address and one has to drive in a back entrance. However after knocking on someone's door we were directed correctly. We were not disappointed as, although there were not many people there, the surrounding scenery was farmland and the garden was immaculate and we enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon.

In August we visited a garden in Cobham which turned out to be a complete surprise. It had a 160 year old tortoise which was enormous, and flamingos and meerkats which



were of course enclosed. The garden covered five acres

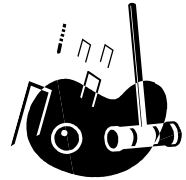
and had some beautiful trees.

The later part of the month we went to Hever Castle which had some new topiary I had not seen before. We also saw the rose and Italian gardens and a new water maze which I could not resist and got myself soaked, however it was a lovely hot day so it did not matter.

Lorraine

Croquet

This is our second season playing croquet. We meet weekly on alternate Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The Thursday 'regulars' have not been so lucky with the weather, and have twice had to take refuge in the Clubhouse, leaving mallets and balls on the pitch! Epsom U3A once again challenged us to a friendly match in September which was a very jolly affair, particularly as we won, again! This was preceded by a finger buffet especially prepared by Sarah, the Epsom Sports Club manager.



Plans are afoot to organise a group visit to the Croquet World Championships at Surbiton next year.

We have some 20 regular players and if any other U3A members are interested we are able to accommodate a few more.

John and Pam

Explore London 1



In July Brenda gave us a real treat with a well researched walk around Chiswick, with Chiswick House the highlight of the day. Lord Burlington designed the house in 1725 and it is one of the finest examples of Palladian architecture in the country. In common with most grand houses it has undergone many alterations, particularly in the hands of the fashion conscious Dukes of Devonshire. The surrounding gardens were also memorable with the views cleverly enhanced by a classic bridge, cascades, obelisks, an Ionic Temple and even an Inigo Jones gateway.

This was certainly a day for the culture vultures and fantastic value as English Heritage allows free entry to U3A Groups.

Tony and Connie

Olympic Cycling

Most members of U3A know me as the 'lady who arrives on her bike' at the meetings. The bicycle is a custom-built Claude Butler original for which I paid £14.17s.2d in 1955. It has the Olympic Rings badge on the front, because in 1948 Claude Butler made cycles for quite a few teams. My mother's cousin was works manager and spent the Olympics at Herne Hill maintaining them.

The road race in 1948 was 120 miles and consisted of 17 laps round Windsor Great Park along lanes with a loose surface resulting in 107 punctures reported. Twenty-eight riders finished. José Beyaert of France won in 5 hours 18 minutes 12.6 seconds. Great Britain was second in the team road race, second in 1,000m sprint, second in the tandem, third in team pursuit and third in time trial. Overall the cycling result was France, Great Britain and Italy.



I did actually win a pair of tickets to view the road race at Boxhill (the test run for 2012 which took place on 14 August), but living in Fetcham it was impossible to get to the viewing sector by 8.50am without walking the whole way, so we joined a good crowd at the bottom of Leret Way in Leatherhead and watched the cyclists come round after their Box Hill experience. We were able to follow them all the way from the Crescent and down Bull Hill.

There were 148 riders representing quite a few countries. Roll on 28th and 29th July 2012.

Barbara

Thursday Morning Walking

We visited **Bushy Park** again on a recent walk, though taking a different route this time through this 1,100 acre park. We focussed on visiting recent developments undertaken through the **Restoration Project**. This was a £7.2 million project to restore formal gardens and buildings, started in January 2006 and completed last year with the restoration of the Diana Fountain. £4.9 million was from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The new **Pheasantry Centre** has a café, public toilets, education and community room and an information point, staffed at weekends, as well as a large car park and picnic area.

The Upper Lodge Water Gardens have been restored. They were created in about 1710 for Charles Montague, 1st Earl of Halifax, the ranger of Bushy Park, who lived at Upper Lodge. They



comprise a Baroque-style collection of pools, cascades, basins and a canal, and had disappeared beneath undergrowth and silt. Upper Lodge was a hospital for Canadian troops in World War 1, then a convalescent home for boys from the East End of London. During World War II it was used as a barracks for American airmen then, from 1944 until 1994, it became a research establishment, on lease from the Crown Estate to the Admiralty.

The Brew House is an early 18th century building, which once provided ale for the household and workers on the Upper Lodge estate, as ale was safer to drink than water. It has been restored and an access bridge built over the Longford River to link it with the Water Gardens.

The weather was kind and it was a very interesting walk, ending with a picnic in the Park. There is an excellent map of Bushy Park, showing all the places of interest, available online or at the information point in the Pheasantry Centre.

Jo and Ernie



They live 'midst the high crags and snow,
The flowers we try hard to grow.
Our gardens are flat,
But in spite of all that,
We manage to make quite a show.

Alan - Alpine Gardening

Explore London Walking 4

Richmond Park and the Palace

Our June walk was led by Ian Robinson who took us to an area of Richmond where he had worked – a kind of “walk down memory lane”.

After a relaxing coffee in Carluccio’s cafe we left the traffic noise and busy streets to enter the relative calm of the “Richmond Little Green”. In the past this area had been used as royal stables and had also been used as a bowling green given by Charles II to his manor tenants. Viewing the Green it was easy to imagine the jousting tournaments which took place here during the reigns of Henry VII and VIII. We viewed the impressive front of Richmond Theatre, opened in 1899, which replaced the Theatre Royal on the Green demolished in 1883.

Opposite the main part of the Green were a number of quaint narrow lanes with boutiques, one of which, Brewers’ Lane, had buildings dating from 1690.

Dominating the bend in the road was a pub called The Cricketers (circa 1770) overlooking the part of the Green still used for cricket. In 1666 Sir Robert Paston, writing to his wife, mentioned

a “game of criquette on Richmond Green”. As we approached the site of Richmond Palace the names “Old Friars” and “Friars Lane” were reminders of the Convent of Friars founded by Henry VII adjacent to the palace. We then saw a group of houses known as “Maids of Honour Row” built in 1724 for the ladies who attended on the then Princess of Wales who lived in Richmond Lodge.

Richmond Palace’s main period of fame was during the reigns of Henry VII and VIII. Henry VII and

Elizabeth I both died there and after the execution of Charles I most of the main buildings were demolished. One archway still has a stone plaque with the coat of arms of Henry VII. In the old palace yard one building is known as “The Wardrobe” as it stored furnishings for the

palace. Another, “The Trumpeters” has been converted into luxury flats.

We then walked along the riverside where we could see the Richmond Lock and Weir and also saw Asgill House, built for Sir Charles Asgill, Lord Mayor of London. A relaxing lunch was then enjoyed on one of the barge restaurants by the riverside.



We then made a rather strenuous climb from the riverside up part of Richmond Hill passing through the Terrace Gardens and the statue of River God. At the end of Friars Stile Road we were able to rest and take in the views over the Thames and the surrounding area. We then continued through the area known

as The Vineyard where, it is believed, good quality grapes were grown in the 17th and 18th centuries. We continued past Vineyard House built in 1696 and then saw three sets of almshouse dating from the 17th century. We ended our walk in Richmond town centre.

Robert

U3A WORKSHOPS



Would you be interested in attending a "WORKSHOP" for half a day or a full day.



A Workshop is usually associated with a Hobby or Interest

Would you like to run a Workshop associated with your Group.

We will be investigating all possibilities



WATCH THIS SPACE

Mary

Bowling

After a very close Needle Match, Fetcham and Horsley U3A beat Dorking U3A 16 shots to 13 in a Match at East Horsley Bowls Club and we look forward to a return Match early next Season at Pippbrook Bowls Club.

We also intend to extend the Bowling Group to Indoor Bowling in the Winter at Mole Valley Bowls Club at the Leatherhead Leisure Centre.



Mary

Vegetable Gardening 1

Overall we're having a productive year. Those growing carrots in containers in their gardens are reporting good germination and yield, and free from carrot fly - much better than the results from those growing in open ground. Potatoes grown in bags have proved a success with good yields and little pest damage.

On one of the hottest days of the year we met at West Dean Gardens, near Chichester. In addition to the walled kitchen garden - the main purpose of our visit - there was a colourful dry garden, artists in shady spots drawing, sheep shearing in an adjacent field, all with the backdrop of the South Downs.



visit - there was a colourful dry garden, artists in shady spots drawing, sheep shearing in an adjacent field, all with the backdrop of the South Downs.

The fruit and vegetable garden and greenhouses were packed with produce, much of it used in their restaurant. Over 100 varieties of tomato, some growing to about eight feet

in the greenhouses, and some with the largest tomatoes we have seen. There were also masses of chilli pepper plants as West Dean was getting ready for their annual Chilli Fiesta.

The largest greenhouses still had the old mechanisms for ventilation. Out in the open was a vast mix of flowers encouraging beneficial insects, fruit and other vegetables, including onions and cabbages and celeriac being grown for the RHS trials.

Talking of the RHS

We grew the RHS seeds of pak choi

The results for some, weren't a joy

As for the rest

They found it was best

With a liberal amount of sauce, soy.



Liz



Card group one's leader Jan is insane,
She plans to jump out of a plane,
The 6th of September
is the date to remember,
So that help for 'FRIEND JIM' doesn't wane.

Margaret - Card Group 1

Card Craft 1

I have always made my own cards, so it was an obvious choice to join Card Group 1 as soon as I had the opportunity. Over the years we have made many cards for all occasions, but last October Card Group 1, and in particular Group Leader Jan, took on board something quite different.

My brother in law, Jim, was involved in a freak accident at work, which left him paralysed from the shoulders down. He was air-lifted to a London hospital and he has been in hospital ever since. He has made some recovery, small improvements, and we are ever hopeful. Jan took his plight to heart, and said right at the beginning that she would like to do some fund raising for Jim, to try and improve his quality of life when he eventually comes home. She has already organised one coffee morning and a tea party in August, but Jan decided that she wanted to raise a lot of money, so



she planned a sponsored parachute jump for September! Our admiration knows no bounds – especially as Jan did one once before, hated it, and vowed she would never do another! The members of Card Group 1 have all be-

come really involved too. They have made a wonderful selection of cards to sell; they have baked cakes for a cake stall; provided bric-a-brac to sell and all for someone they have never even met!



Jan successfully completed her jump in late September, and below is her comments on the day:

“A big big thank you to everyone who kindly sponsored my sky dive, which I did on Thursday 15th Sept. I personally did not enjoy the experience but if it achieves being able to purchase for Jim a TV/Computer with purpose built-in technology to do all the things that television and computers normally do plus operate doors, windows, curtains, answer the phone, answer the front door, call the carer and numerous other possibilities with a voice activator then it will be all worth while. It seems with a bit more help this will be possible.”

It is so fantastic that here in Fetcham the members of a U3A Card Craft group is doing everything they can to improve the quality of life of a lovely man, whose life will never be the same again.

Anne

Music Appreciation 1

We started our May evening with the intention of an alphabetical evening of composers, but did you know that the letter 'A' has over 20 classical composers? We chose Albinoni, but with the letter 'B' there are over 70 classical composers with this letter to start



their surname. We chose Bach, not one of your usual ones but the

Sonata in E minor for violin and basso continuo.

For those of you who wonder what **Basso continuo** is, it is a form of musical accompaniment used in the Baroque period. Sometimes just called "continuo", it was played by a keyboard instrument and another bass instrument such as cello, violone (an old form of double bass) or bassoon. The keyboard instrument was normally a harpsichord or, if it was being played in a church, an organ. It was not usual to write out all the notes for the keyboard player. The composer normally just wrote the bottom line which would be played by the left hand, and by the cello or whatever the instrument being used. The composer would indicate what the harmony should be (which chords should be played) by writing figures underneath the music.

This is what is called **figured bass** or sometimes **thoroughbass**. The continuo player will "realize" the figured bass, ie he will improvise the chords which are shown. In modern editions of old music the figured bass part has normally been realized (written out) by the editor. Sounds a bit easy to me, leave it to the performer to write his own music; means it would never be played the same way twice.

We continued through the alphabet and reached H for Haydn and his Trumpet concerto in E flat major, before we stopped for tea. The second half of this evening was a mixture of 'What I like', our favourite subject.

In June we learnt about the life and times of Elgar before listening and watching an interview with Daniel Barenboim and Alisa Weilerstein who were about to play Elgar's Cello Concerto in E minor opus 85. It must have been difficult for Barenboim as the version by his late wife Jacqueline



Du Pre has become the definitive version of this piece. We followed this with the Mozart Clarinet Concerto by 17 year old Julian Bliss and Beethoven's 5th Concerto by Paul

Lewis. Two pieces from the BBC Proms of 2010.

July was an evening of operetta starting with 1911 (yes 1911) some very early recordings, surprisingly clear on today's machinery. One piece we must mention was a 1928 version of 'Lover come back to me'. Yes Brenda Lee took her version to the top of the hit parade but it was a 1928 song, just a bit

slower. We came back to reality with some pieces by Mario Lanza; what a wonderful voice he had in his early days, much better than Pavarotti, Domingo or Carreras (our opinion, you do not have to agree with us).

Bryan and Penny

Quiz Answers

(from page 3)



- 1 **What is the largest island in the Caribbean? - Cuba**
- 2 **Which South American capital city's name translates as "I see the mountain"? – Montevideo.**
- 3 **Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic? – Amelia Earhart**
- 4 **We handed Hong Kong back to China but what colony did Portugal hand back to China in 1999? – Macau**
- 5 **Which is Greece's largest island? – Crete**
- 6 **What exceptional event occurred to Fred Housego, a taxi driver, in 1980? – He became Mastermind Champion.**
- 7 **Which is the World's Largest lake (ie area surrounded by land)? – The Caspian Sea.**
- 8 **In which city, other than London, would you find King's Cross, Paddington, Oxford Street and Hyde Park? – Sydney**
- 9 **Who is the patron saint of dancers? – Saint Vitus**
- 10 **What did the early Greek explorers call the 'Strait of Gibraltar'? – The Pillars of Hercules**

Now why am I writing a rhyme



When I should be spending my time
Not writing a narrative,
but learning perspective
or painting a picture sublime!

Audrey - Mixed Media Art 2

Explore London 5

A Brief Encounter with the Great and Famous!

A Wednesday morning in July found our group at Archway station and after coffee at a local Turkish restaurant we made our way up Highgate Hill as far as the Whittington Stone, where legend has it Dick Whittington heard Bow bells calling him back to become Lord Mayor of London.

We stopped to see the Hammer film Gothic enclave called Holly Village built in 1865 by Burdett-Coutts for the



estate workers. Then up the hill to Highgate Cemetery, opened in 1839 and covering 37 acres on both sides of the road. We entered the right hand side of the cemetery which hosts the most famous

incumbent Karl Marx with other notables such as Jeremy Beadle and Sir Ralph Richardson. Next door is Waterlow Park which is pretty and relaxing with ponds, trees and shrubs. After the cemetery, which was slightly overgrown and dark, it was lovely to

make our way though this park to Laudendale House for lunch. This house was once a retreat for Charles II's mistress Nell Gwynn.

Hampstead Heath covering 800 acres is only a short distance from Waterlow Park and as we walked across the Heath and climbed a hill to reach Kenwood House we experienced a fine view of Witanhurst House, St Michael's Church spire and also the skyline of the City of London.



Kenwood House was the private residence

until 1927 of brewing magnate Edward Cecil Guinness, first Earl of Iveagh. It now opens to the public free of charge every day, showing a wonderful collection of family portraits. There are also many important paintings by great artists including Rembrandt, Vermeer, Turner and Constable. The house also has fine 18th century Adam interiors.

After our tour of the house, all too short, we crossed the road to take the bus back to Archway station.

Yvonne and Shirley

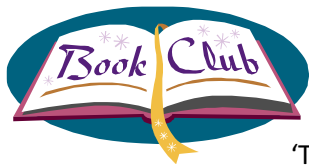


Observe the ducks and the swans upon the moat.
A scene so slow and gentle you may note
Go find wood, the paint and a brush,
Build your chosen craft with care, no rush

I wonder whether that will float your boat.

Ted - Model Making

Book Reading 1



Our latest book, a thriller, called 'The Whisperer'

by Donato Carrisi, tells the story of two little boys, who, whilst walking their dog in the woods, come to a clearing where their Labrador, who loves to dig around, finds a severed limb. The police are called and subsequently discover 5 severed left arms buried in a circle. This gruesome discovery becomes the next case for criminologist Dr Goran Gavila. The victims, all girls, aged between 7 and 13, started disappearing 25 days earlier. One vanished from a school dormitory, another just went missing in her village, a third, the youngest, was snatched from a merry-go-round virtually in front of her mother's eyes. The next, the oldest, sneaked out of her parents home in the evening, to go bowling with her friends, and was never seen alive again. Caroline, the fifth little girl, had been snatched from her own bed next door to her parents

room, who never heard a thing.

Five young girls, kidnapped in the course of a week. Then 17 very long days of silence until the gruesome finding. The two boys have uncovered a macabre game of ring-a-ring-o'-roses. They have stumbled on a serial killer. Now a sixth arm is found, but this time, pathology says it is from a living child. The race is now on to find the child before she dies. Five names, six arms. Who is the latest child?

Mila Vasquez, a young police officer, is asked to join a special team headed by Dr Gavilla, to find the bodies of the missing victims. Mila is considered an expert, having solved 89 missing person cases already. According to the pathologist the girl who could still be alive has less than 10 days to live. Who is the unnamed girl? Why has she not been reported as missing? Is she still alive?

To find out more you will have to get the book out of the library.

Penny



A friend in Australia (she is last on the right) sent me this photo of the dance troupe she has trained from members of the Gold Coast U3A, Runaway Bay, Nr Brisbane. They take part in their U3A Gold Coast Revellers Christmas Musical Revue each year. They were dancing Razzle Dazzle in 'All That Jazz'.

Does anyone feel like starting a troupe to compete?

Pam



For scrabble on Wednesdays we meet,
 With our letters we try to compete,
 When there's Qs, Xs or Js,
 When somebody plays.....
 On a triple it's so hard to beat.

Jenny - Scrabble for Fun 2

In card-making group number one,
 We find that our craft is great fun,
 And our friends and relations,
 Have great expectations
 Of a card that is second to none.



Margaret - Card Craft 1

We're singles Sunday lunchers, once a month we dine together,
 Inside the pub we've chosen, no one worries about the weather.



The food is so good and the company's fine,
 And if you walk home you may sample the wine.
 So why don't you join us, it isn't a crime,
 If only you did, I would not 'wrut' this rhyme.

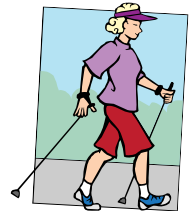
Ann - Singles Sunday Lunch

We're Happy Harris Hikers who are walking in the sun,
 We really love to do it, 'cos it's so much fun.
 Now every month at 10 we meet in car park
 designated.

So now's the time to grab your poles, your boots,
 and join our club.

Just think about the happy end, we all meet in the
 pub.

Ann - Thursday Walking



The winner is -

Liz of 'The Vegetable Group' -

See page 14

Our Congratulations!

Articles and items for the February issue of the newsletter should be
 with Caryl by 19 December. Many thanks.

Committee Members

Chairman	Bryan
Vice-Chairman	Mary C
Treasurer	Hannah
Secretary	Diana
Membership Secretary	Kathy
Groups Co-ordinator	Enid
Speaker Secretary	David
Publicity Officer	Winnie
Member	Graham
Member	Tony
Member	Ian
Member	Mary H
Member	Tony

Support Services

Welfare of Members	Jo
Tea Organiser	Jean
Social Events	Winnie
Outings/Theatre Visits	Sheila
Floor Manager	Bob
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*The committee meets on the 2nd Monday of the month.
If you have any items you would like to be discussed by the
Committee please contact the Secretary, Diana .*

This newsletter with its many photographs may be viewed in glorious colour
on our website www.fetchamu3a.org.uk

