

St Mary's Church, Fetcham – a History

Fetcham Church was built about one thousand years ago, somewhere between 950 and 1100, when the village clustered round the part of The Street just to the north of the church and the manor house. (The manor house was where Fetcham Park House now stands.) This late Anglo-Saxon church was simply a rectangular nave linked to a slightly narrower square chancel.

In the 12thC, a Norman tower, probably with a spire, and a narrow south aisle were added. The tower was at the side of the chancel rather than the more usual west end or central positions.

When the manor came into the hands of the wealthy D'Abernon family in the late 12th or early 13th century, the church was further extended, and by about 1300 its main spaces were more or less as they are today, although its walls would have been decorated with paintings.

The church survived the Civil War relatively unscathed but a great storm in 1703 was a different matter. Like some other local churches, it probably lost its spire and the Norman south aisle collapsed about the same time.

For many decades, only repairs and minor improvements were carried out. It wasn't until the 1880s when John Barnard Hankey inherited the manor that the south aisle was rebuilt and other alterations made. It is at this time too that the church is first referred to as St Mary's.

As elsewhere, the First World War brought big changes to the area. The estate was sold to developers who parceled it up, with Fetcham Park House and about 20 acres as a single unit and the rest of the park divided into small plots for housing. The church had previously been entirely completely enclosed by the estate and access had been by a driveway from the Lower Road between the house and its stables and kitchen garden. New access provision took a long time to resolve but the two drives we use, from Sandy Lane (now The Ridgeway) and Lower Road were agreed to in 1930. The hall where we meet was completed in 1973.

Evidence of earlier times survives. A small window from the original Anglo Saxon church and the Roman bricks used for its top are to the right of the nave. Some of the arches and the base of the tower are Norman. There are even the gate posts of the old church drive on the Lower Road, at Fetcham Park Lodge. Its worth having a look round when you have time.

Veronica T



Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to our first Newsletter by way of the ether. The committee felt it was better in our current circumstances to try this method and we would appreciate your feedback.

Apart from some groups being able to continue by Zoom there has been very limited activity of necessity. We are investigating trying a Zoom general meeting as Mary is discussing with one of our speakers his giving his talk in this way. More anon.

We have had to cancel or move many things and thank you for your patience. The committee resolved that in recognition of the circumstances in which there will have been nearly a year of inactivity the subscription should be zero for the coming renewals in November. Proper subs will still be required of new members as this is intended to compensate you all for what has been and will be lost.

We also resolved to cancel any events before Christmas. The change in legislation will almost certainly make it impossible in any case but realistically we have to abandon the rest of 2020.

We are now, hopefully, going to Rouen next May. The BMW Mini visit we plan for Spring 2021 and the train trip on the Kent and East Sussex Railway is fixed for Sunday 31st May 2021.

We are delighted that Linda G has stepped in as Secretary relieving Ann C of one of her many roles.

Let us hope we can meet normally before long and take great care of yourselves.

John E

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**Articles and items for April 2021 Newsletter should be with
Judy O by 1st March 2021 please.**

National U3A News

The 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Third Age Trust will be held online on the 29th September and all U3A members are welcome to attend.

To keep up to date with the multitude of on line activities please visit

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

Surrey U3A News

Study Days - Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic the March, April, May and June study days were postponed in early March. After discussions with the Menuhin Hall and in the light of continuing uncertainty about the safe planning of future U3A events the committee have decided to postpone the September, October and November study days until our programme can recommence at some point, hopefully in early 2021.

The following presentations can be requested from Ian F Web Site Editor via the Contacts Page at

<https://u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/events>

Maria Chester's study day on The Aztecs - "Eagle Warriors of the Sun"

Simon Usherwood's study day on "The UK in a Changing Europe"

David Fishwick's study day on Astronomy - "Mercury & Moons of Solar System"

More information at <https://u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork>

U3A DIARIES 2021 are now on order. They will be **£3** each.

If you would like one please let **Brenda K** know :

bmkeddie@talktalk.net 01372 457076 or 07816256682

Fetcham U3A Groups

Group Co-ordinator

It is very strange that if we do not meet in person, checking up on the Group activities can be just a little difficult. This is one reason why we as a committee are sending to all members what many groups have been doing since lockdown.

Proposed New Groups

Here are some proposed groups which need a beginning:

FAMILY HISTORY FOR COMPLETE BEGINNERS

HOLIDAY BASIC LANGUAGE ie FRENCH, SPANISH, GERMAN AND ITALIAN

SWIMMING FOR GENTLEMEN AT THE GRANGE

COOKERY 2

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB 5

PATCHWORK



If you feel you would like to help run one of these groups please contact any member of the committee or myself where we will be only too pleased to help you.

Ann C

Full details of all groups, name of group leader, time and place of meetings and vacancies can be found at <http://www.fetchamu3a.org.uk/groups.htm> .

Details will vary in the current circumstances.

NOTE ABOUT FETCHAM VILLAGE HALL USE

The trustees and officers welcome those of you who are returning to the Village Hall in the next week or so.

As you know we have had a lot of work done during 'lock down' to make the halls as safe as possible. The Main Hall and John Rumble Room now have their own entrance with cleaning materials, first aid kit etc in each hall.

The kitchens and stage must not be used at present and your people should bring their own drinks if required,

It is now over to you!!

Please ensure that your group keeps to the Guidelines re social distancing, hand washing and cleaning of surfaces etc, to ensure that the facilities keep safe for all users.

If you have any problems please let me know.

Regards

Pat V

Chairman

See next page for details.

As mentioned by Pat on the previous page we have now put in place a system where each hall is separate.

For the JR Hall and Committee Room, please use the side door (by large kitchen) as your entrance and exit. With the current limits in people this should not cause too much of an issue.

For the Main Hall, we have fitted a lock on the door closest to the stage. Please can the organiser/leader open and enter through this door and then go through the main hall and open the large doors by the cloakrooms for everyone else to use as an entrance. At the end of the session please can everyone exit through the door by the stage and the last one out to make sure all windows and main doors are closed, before locking up. There is a keysafe outside this door. Please make sure the key is returned to the keysafe. We will not be issuing keys for this door. Instructions to use as follows:-

We now have a lockable handle to the Main Hall entrance door. It has an "Yale" type flat key. Turning the key connects the handle to the normal existing latch and will allow the door to be opened. "Unlocked" it does mean that the door can be kept shut To lock it, both doors must be shut and the key must be inserted and turned. Users of the main hall must **ensure that they lock up this door when they leave.**

Close by is a key safe which is different to the other one. The picture shows it with the outer cover pulled down.

To access the key, press the button under the keypad, then the code and push down the button with the arrow at the top to release the catch.

To close it, hold the key pad up against the base then repeat the procedure which should release the catch and let it shut. Picture attached.

PLEASE NOTE CODE FOR BOTH KEY SAFES IS CURRENTLY ** as before**

A couple of things, please make sure Risk Assessments are returned before your first session back. September's schedule is due to be issued tomorrow with all confirmed hires. Anyone who wishes to return at any time during the rest of the year who has not confirmed, please let me know and i can add to the calendar.

I will be sending out Booking Confirmation Forms for 2021 later in the year.

A decision will be made at the end of the year as to whether current slots will be kept open for you going into 2021, if you decide not to return then. This will mainly depend on the Covid guidelines in place at the time.

Any questions, feel free to ask.

Best Regards
Christine A
Treasurer
Fetcham Village Hall



October 2020

Allotment Group

Basically we have been able to keep as normal as going to allotments was allowed as our 'exercise'.

And we could talk to each other at conveniently spaced social distance.

I would say that generally we, in common with most gardeners, have given our crops more TLC than usual, with the reward of better crops.

We currently haven't any vacancies on the U3A plot, and the Keswick Road allotments currently have no spare plots, and a waiting list (since the virus arrived).



Hugh B

Beer Group



We are very much in limbo because we have 20+ members and normally use Fetcham Village Hall for our main meetings for tastings and a buffet lunch. Of course the hall has been, and still is, closed. I am hoping that we will be able to begin some low key meetings very soon with limited numbers "al fresco" at a local craft brewery with a bring your own picnic and take-out beer direct from the brewery (and a walk to make it a healthy option!). Meanwhile, I can thoroughly recommend "Lockdown Pale Ale" from the New Invention Brewery or "Lockdown Lager" from Brewdog. Of course "Corona" the famous Mexican beer,

drunk with a slice of lime stuck in the neck of the bottle, has been around for a lot longer than the virus – I bet their marketing department is not that happy though!

Larry R

Book Club 2

We've all kept in touch by email and read a recommended book each month. We've missed the library as they usually provide us with books for a small fee. We've had to buy or borrow the books during the pandemic!

The books we have read are
 Step by step. The autobiography of Simon Reeve
 The Family Upstairs by Lisa Jewell
 The Cut Out Girl by Bart van Es
 Force of Nature by Jane Harper



Of these the least popular was The Family Upstairs and the most popular was Step by Step by Simon Reeve. The latter is well worth reading to give much insight into the remarkable man behind the television series.

This month we met up in a member's garden. About half the group were able to come and it was delightful to meet up and have a proper chat (with social distancing). We also discussed the book of course!

We aim to do the same next month weather permitting. Then we will be reviewing The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri.

Liz R

Book Group 1

We are hoping to have an outdoor meeting in August, weather and numbers permitting and will be glad to get our critical brains back in use after so long. It's been such a long time coming.

Kathy G

Leatherhead and Fetcham U3A Bridge Group

Our normal meetings are on the second and fourth Thursday mornings at St Mary's Church Hall in Fetcham. At the beginning of March, having heard some murmurings about a pandemic, we equipped ourselves with handgel (although it was difficult to source!) and went ahead with our meeting on 12 March. Little did we know that it would be our last for sometime! Lockdown happened and we all adjusted to a new, previously unknown, way of life. We are an inventive bunch so after the initial shock, new plans were made. Some embraced the new technology of Bridge Base Online, others, who missed the social interaction and did not have internet access, set up a table for four either in their homes or gardens, when the weather allowed. Bridge players are a resourceful lot, especially one of our indomitable 92 year olds! We are still hoping that we will be able to meet up later this year but obviously have to await rulings from U3A, the Hall committee and of course, the Government. There will definitely be celebrations when we can re-convene, special biscuits, even cake and most certainly prizes!! Watch this space!!



Jan T

Canals and Inland Waterways Group



There are 15 – 20 members. Its aim is to provide items of interest on any aspects of our waterways. Its monthly meetings have tended towards an evening of DVD and discussion in the darker winter months and an outside activity in the warmer summer. DVDs have covered various waterways and boat painting among other things and the summer outings have varied from boat trips (some on members'

boats) to canal and river walks and visits to well known boats and shipyards.

In the past few years it has evolved a sort of collegiate structure, led by Adrian C and myself with individual outings organised by our members. The nature of our meetings has made continuation of activities impossible to carry out under social distancing.

Lew L

Card Making

Since all the shops selling greetings cards have been closed, our group have all been beaver away making some really impressive cards. With the amount of time we have had in lockdown every family member, and all their friends are now guaranteed a card for whatever occasion for the next ten years.

They are all itching to get back to classes so they can torment me again. Only kidding one or two actually conform, but I feel sure that in no time at all they will be having as much fun as the rest.

Jenny B

Crafty ladies



We have been keeping in touch by round robin emails and projects. Soon as we were allowed we started to meet at Loolabells Open Kitchen at Effingham every Tuesday morning for coffee, abiding by the rules of social distancing. Just this week an 80th birthday was celebrated complete with cake and goodies; such a lovely morning.

I think we are getting well known as we have a few interlopers joining us. We haven't the heart to turn them away. We try and not to let u3a's reputation down by behaving as well we can with the excitement of seeing friends and a coffee all on one day.

Jan E

Current and Social Affairs

This enthusiastic group of 10 – 12 members meet in each others homes on the second Tuesday each month to discuss a specific topic or two selected by our group leader Alfred L.

Topics are usually global, typically political and always challenging.

Research or not takes place prior to the meeting.

Heated debate ensued during Brexit, The General Election and now of course Covid 19. It is always interesting and stimulating to share views and opinions.

We have had meetings via Zoom during the last two months which have been enjoyed by around 6-8 group members.



Linda G

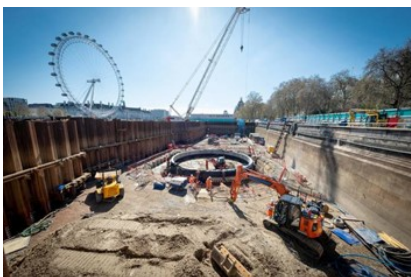
Two views in Norbury Park on a sunny July day



Explore London Group 1

It may come as a surprise that after 170 walks in London over 17 years there is still much to explore in the Metropolis. We did make a start on this year's program with a February visit to Benjamin Franklin's lodgings in Craven Street where he lived for over 16 years as a colonial diplomat. In the afternoon we strolled along the Embankment to see textiles from around the world at Two Temple Place, previously owned by William Waldorf, the Viscount Astor. Then in early March we visited Strawberry Hill, Horace Walpole's idea of Gothic Revival. By then with the omens from the East indicative of what was in store we took the decision reluctantly to postpone our walking programme. This was a disappointment as we were looking forward to our Summer visit to Hastings for a revised view of the Norman Conquest.

Fortunately with so many walks under our belts we have lots of wonderful memories to fall back on. Seeing the new Tideway Sewage project under construction along the Thames drew comparisons with Bazalgette's Victorian project. We can also remember Edward Colston's statue in front of the Docklands museum in Canary Wharf, recently removed because of his connections with slavery.



Exploring London is not only about history and the buildings but also about the diverse ethnic groups that have made London their home and which has left its mark in the wide variety of food that can be enjoyed with Italian, Indian, French, Libyan, Moroccan amongst our favourites. For the future it is a matter of wait and see, we don't expect to be travelling to London for many months until the risks are negligible but when we do resume service as normal we expect the Group will be as creative as ever in the itineraries – something to look forward to.

Tony and Connie C

Explore London Group 2

We have done our best to keep in touch and enjoy life! Unfortunately one of our members ended up in hospital with the virus. Fortunately, although she felt very 'rough' she did make a good recovery after a few weeks.

In the early days I sent them all a Quiz – online. The questions were all concerning London in some way. Not too difficult, mostly about the names of various places and Underground stations etc. After a couple of weeks we had a Zoom meeting. There are 12 members of my Group and I think 10 joined the Zoom. Various emails and phone calls were made and another Zoom meeting a few weeks later.

On Friday 21st July we met on Downside Common and brought our own picnics. There were eight of us and we had a lovely time. I am not sure about the Rules etc, (is anyone?) and I haven't seen many Law Enforcement Officers on the Common! We met again in August and explored The Sheepsheals.

It was lovely to meet up face to face, not sure how long it will be before we dare to venture into London again? Probably do an Explore Leatherhead first.

Roll on the day when we can all meet up again at St Mary's or The Barn Hall!

Joan R

Explore London Walking Group 3

We have had our activities halted by lockdown for obvious reasons. Members are looking forward to being able to meet again before too long and we plan to explore local towns and villages until we feel able to venture back onto the capital's public transport.

Veronica and Terry T

Explore London Walking Group 4

We have had a quiet time during the lockdown. We had a good programme planned but that finished on Thursday 4 March when we explored the area round Mount Pleasant, visited the Postal Museum and its Mail Rail tube ride, and had a great lunch at the Union Tavern nearby. At Waterloo we noticed that no-one wore a face-mask; that seems a long while ago now. Once it becomes clearer how walking groups may begin to operate, limited to six people together at present, we are planning to think about local walks in September. Until then we enjoy the summer separately.

Explore London Group 6

Virtual Walks

Over the last three months we have virtually "visited" Edinburgh, Cambridge, Kings Cross for walks using previous walk notes and photographs or videos downloaded from the internet. Below is a sample of a walk we previously carried out around Kings Cross. I have forwarded these to Tony C and I would be happy if you shared with other members.

Aga Khan Centre <https://youtu.be/mhhYpbsnKIU>

Kings Cross regeneration <https://youtu.be/MHbX-mA81G0>

Until the Group is happy to return to London, we are planning to hold our monthly Walks out of London with planned visits to Reigate, Tunbridge Wells, Horsham, etc.

Malcolm H

Explore London Walking Group 7

On our last London walk in March we luckily decided to set up a WhatsApp for our group. As a result we have been in touch throughout the lockdown. Back in April we then decided to Zoom once a week for those in the group who were interested. This we kept up until July when we were allowed to meet in small groups. Firstly we had a cream tea in the garden, then in August we walked on Ashted Common and then a pub lunch. September we walked round Ewell, which surprisingly has a lot of history, finishing with a pub lunch. Thanks to Ros and then Di for organising the Zoom.

Gillian A

Explore London Group 9

The group last met in February and then agreed to go quiet until the pandemic is over.

We have been in contact via email and chance meetings and the consensus is that London is still too risky for train and tube travel - and coffee and lunches.

Also, our group is more than 6 people

I have emailed the members to see if they would consider a non-London exploratory walk (eg Shere/Albury) for September.

Then we can take it from there.

Already we have agreed a Christmas walk and lunch in Ewell.

Ian N

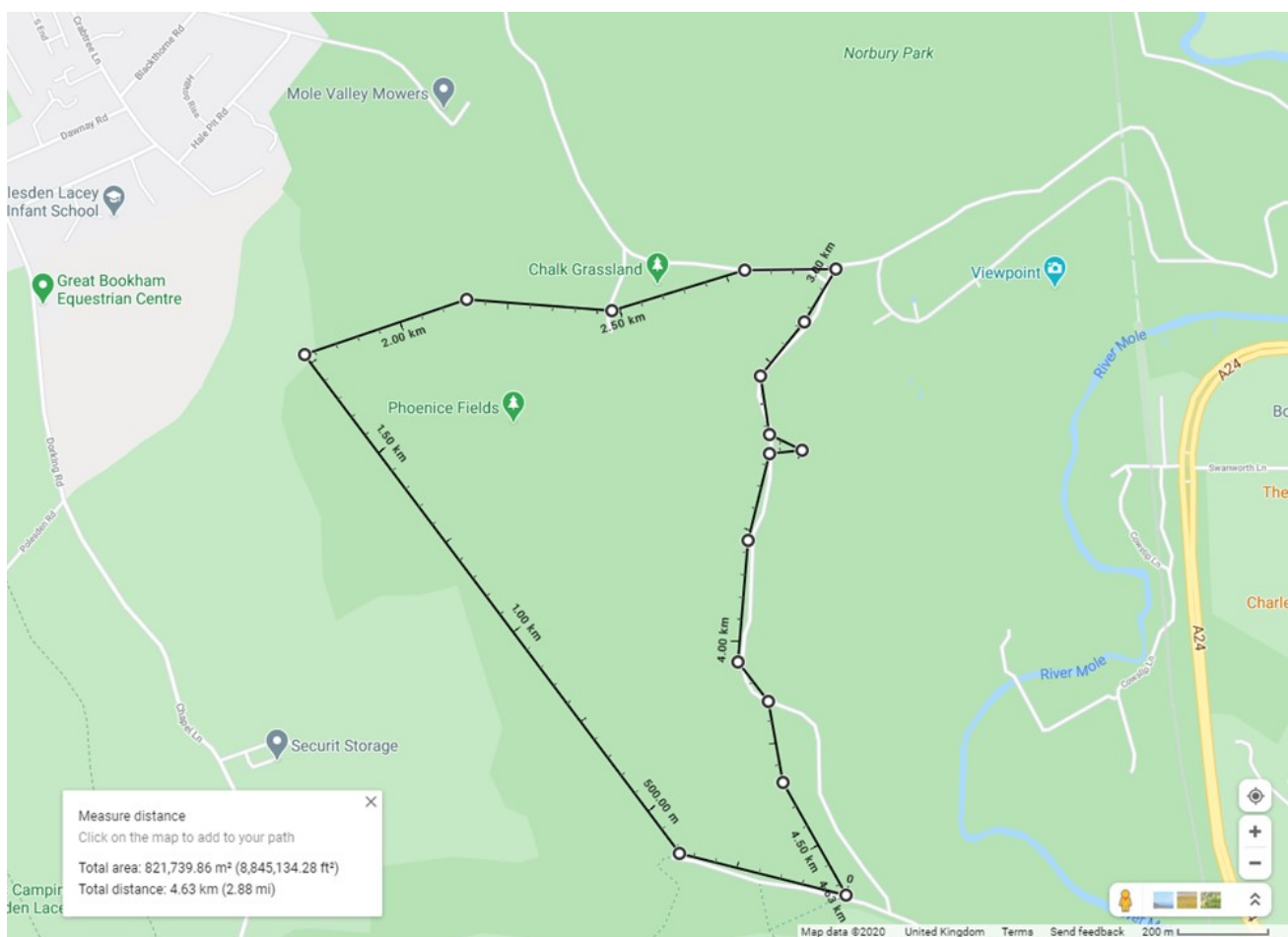
Stop Press! September 2020

Explore London Walking 4 – Walk in Norbury Park

In September our group took a circular walk in Norbury Park and learned a little more of its history and development. Starting at the carpark on Crabtree Lane above West Humble we walked past Crabtree Cottages and must have been near some signs of the very first visitors; a small Bronze Age hoard consisting of two palstave axes and a scabbard chape dating from around 1150-1000 BC was discovered in woodland on the western side of the park in 2003. We then walked along the field edges towards Bookham and when we reached the large field with Roaring House Farm in another corner we turned into the woods and found our way past the ranger's cottages and to the sawmill run by Surrey Wildlife Trust. A small drinks stall was operating by the sawmill but we all had our own refreshments and we walked on to the lookout for a break and a chance to marvel at the beauties of Mole Valley. The steep slopes of the Mole Valley contain some ancient woodland; at Druids Grove the yew trees are some of the oldest trees of Great Britain and on the front of Box Hill the yew and box trees are essentially untouched since the last Ice Age according to the National Trust Head Warden.

From the lookout it was but a short walk back to our cars.

Ian and Gill F



Ian's full report of the walk includes a history of Norbury Park and some of the notable individuals who lived in the area. I am sure he will be happy to forward a copy to anyone interested. Ed.

Family History 1

Genealogy-wise it has been mainly rationalising. Twelve new arch-lever files were procured, and scattered files from the last 30-odd years are being put into these new files each sorted into different topics—BMD, census, photos etc but not yet fully sorted into name order or chronological order. Each main name occupies one (or two) files, but the minor (less researched) names can go several in one file. Once that is done, each file will be sorted and duplicates removed, and then I want to go back to the narratives to check on their accuracy, resolve a number of errors, and fill in some of the gaps. Oh for a few cool, wet days to give me an excuse



Keith P

Family History Group 2

Learning about people's lives in earlier centuries is what our group does. Family History isn't just about the names and dates of our forebears. We try to put some flesh on the skeletons by finding something about how and where they lived. Over the last few months, that is something that members have had more time for, so we very much look forward to sharing our findings and research tips before long.

Veronica and Terry T

Film Appreciation Group 1

Most of us watched 'Brief Encounter' when it was recently on television, and we circulated our reviews of the film and gave it a score out of ten. We keep a record of our scores and compare it to that from IMDB.

Next Tuesday we are attempting, with trepidation, our first Zoom meeting. We will be debating both 'The Magnificent Seven' and 'The Way to the Stars'.

Most of our meetings are very lively and it is amazing how diverse members opinions are.



Chris W

Film Appreciation Group 2

Before lock down we watched the original version of 'Goodbye Mr Chips' with Robert Donat and Greer Garson. An old classic made in 1939. As and when we do return, we are hoping to watch 'ARGO' this film was a comparative new one made in 2012. It describes the film as "Nerve-Shredding Tension" I do hope that none of the group are of a nervous disposition.

It seems that most of the members of my four groups were very law abiding and followed the government guide lines but didn't have anything worth reporting. The only thing worth reporting was one of my group who got locked down for 17 weeks with the man who came to read the gas meter. She most certainly does not want me to mention her name or what happened. What a letdown, tut tut!

Jenny B

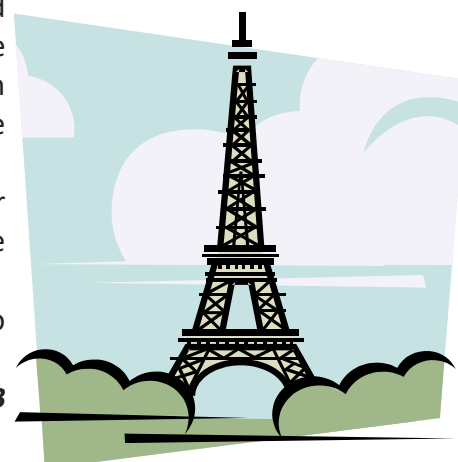
French Conversation Group 1

We have missed meeting regularly but have continued to receive the magazine on which we base our meetings. The early summer one was full of news of Covid related articles; a bit depressing. Some new Covid words have emerged. I hope we shall not be using them for too long. I haven't been clever enough to organise Zoom meetings, so we have done as much or as little as we wish, *chez nous*.

What we probably missed most of our summer activities was our annual Bastille Day celebration, but we had the chance of watching the traditional Paris parade on TV.

We may not resume our meetings in quite the same way. Decision to be made in September.

Anna B



French Conversation Group 2

Unfortunately, we have been unable to hold our French Conversation meetings in each other's home since the lockdown restrictions. However, we have kept in touch with each other's news over the phone.

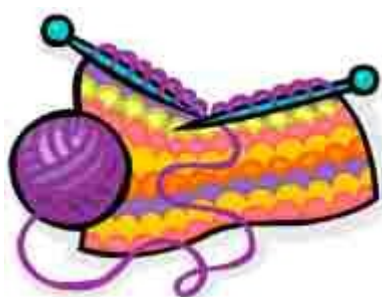
Nous attendons avec grand plaisir le jour ou nous pouvons parler francais ensemble encore une fois!

Lesley H

Green Bowls Group,

No play this year due to Covid but looking forward to next Season in May 2021.

Mary C



Hand Knitting Group

The Hand Knitting Group normally has one or more group projects for charity or requests for support. At the start of the lock-down we had just begun to knit for the premature babies ward in East Surrey Hospital. They needed Cannula mitts and Kangaroo blankets. The

Cannula mitts were a specific design of mitt, very long and thin to make sure the tubes in the babies arms were covered. This prevents them being knocked out. The Kangaroo blankets had to be a closely knitted design of a specific size, 12" by 18". They had been designed to fit neatly into an incubator, plus when the new mother was cuddling her baby on her chest they are the right size to just cover the baby. Several of the members continued to knit mitts and blankets during the lock-down so they could be posted to the organizer

Recently a design for hand-made masks was circulated so individuals could make their own masks if they were also seamstresses.

Su C

Industrial Heritage Group

IHG normally meets in Fetcham Village Hall as it has over one hundred members, mostly from Fetcham U3A but with visitors from eight other U3As. We cancelled the March meeting as a sound precaution shortly before the lockdown was announced. Hugh B from our planning team then suggested continuing the programme as Zoom meetings and we held our first in early April. Initially we met weekly but soon changed to every other Tuesday morning. We found the technology worked pretty well and the group took out licences so we could allow our meetings to run for up to two hours. We introduced the idea of a ten-minute coffee break to give members a chance to get questions ready. We have been very pleased with the quality of the presentations; we have had four outside speakers on Fuel Cells, the Runcorn-Widnes Transporter Bridge, Aerial Mapping and the RNLI, three speakers from other U3As on Battleship



Development, Tube Stations and London's Victorian Sewers, and eight speakers from Fetcham U3A on subjects as varied as Energy from Renewables, Fusion and Hydrogen, to the British Nuclear Deterrent, the Skylark and the Black Arrow Rockets, and our Chairman's Life as a Surveyor in the Railways. The team of Hugh, Michael H and Richard R put in a great effort in planning and running the meetings and attendance has built from thirty to approaching fifty members. We have decided to revert to our normal monthly meetings from September and these will probably continue in the Zoom format although we look forward to the day when we can meet again, especially on all the outings we had to postpone this year.

Ian F

Jewellery and Accessories

We normally meet on the third Wednesday of each month, sharing the hosting amongst group members. We make jewelry with small beads, but in the past we have also made resin jewelry and used both knitted and crocheted thread and beads to make necklaces and bracelets. Recently some of our group have branched out to make canvas work scissor keepers and pin cushions - this is quite addictive and I'm sure there will be more canvas work stitching in the future. We find patterns from books and magazines or the internet. We go to Bead Fairs or buy our beads on line. We always help each other with much fun and laughter and enjoy coffee and biscuits to help the work along. Since March we have not been able to meet due to the Covid 19 situation but look forward to resuming our meetings as soon as it is safe to meet again indoors.



Brenda D

IPad Group 1

A SENIOR CITIZEN TRYING TO SET A PASSWORD

WINDOWS: Please enter your new password.

USER: cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters.

USER: boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain 1 numerical character.

USER: 1 boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces.

USER: 50bloodyboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case Character.

USER: 50BLOODYboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot use more than one upper case character consecutively.

USER: 50BloodyBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDon'tGiveMeAccessNow!

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot contain exclamation marks.

USER: ReallyPissedOff50BloodyBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDontGiveMeAccessNow

WINDOWS: Sorry, that password is already in use

Peter M

IPad Group 2

I suggested a Zoom meeting in order to check that everyone was well and safe.

For most of us this was a new venture as we hadn't any experience of Zoom, but it seemed appropriate for an iPad group to have a go at this new App.

It worked very well and the group were pleased to meet up this way and share news. We met up fortnightly initially, just for a chat, the sessions last 40 minutes which was enough to say hello to each other. We updated our contact list and made sure we had correct details for everyone, so that if needed support was available.

The zoom meeting has been 'hosted' by different members of the group, which has added to our technological abilities.

We are now meeting once a month on our usual meeting day and time. Each time we wonder when we will be able to physically meet as a group, but feel we are doing the best we can.

Lynne H



Local History Group 2

Like the Exploring London groups, we explore local towns and villages. Meeting outside allows us to get back to a reasonably normal programme soon, we hope – certainly before winter sets in. We don't need to travel far to find interesting old buildings – just stand in the queue for Bookham's Co-op and look up and around to see what we mean – and to learn about the people who lived in them.

Veronica and Terry T



London History Group



On Wednesday 18th March we were due to convene and learn about, and discuss, the Evolution of London's Transport. Due to the situation at that time it got postponed to the next month, and that got postponed to the next month, and Hopefully one of these days we will be able to hear all about it.

Over the past five months we have sent an e-mail on the third Wednesday each month, although one at least was late because it has been easy to lose track of time. Initially, we circulated a couple of articles

on aspects of London history but as there seemed a lack of interest this has not been repeated.

We are a group of ten, so too many to meet in the garden, assuming the weather can be trusted, and obviously at the present time there is no question of meeting indoors.

So, we will carry on with the monthly e-mails - unless anybody has any other ideas.

Tony and Jane B

Motor Group Plus

Before the lock-down we did manage to visit the V&A Cars exhibition and the London Transport museum. Since the restrictions were implemented periodic motoring quizzes have been issued to members in order to try and maintain contact. The group typically has one event organised a month throughout the year. These are visits to museums, factories, car shows and runs out, steam railways, naval dockyards and aircraft displays. We also have a number of social activities including our summer BBQ, lunchtime pub meetings and a Christmas dinner.

With such a large group of 26 members obviously all these activities and events have been put on the back-burner until such times that allow us to resume our programme of events for 2020.

Mike M



PACET - Physical Activity and Cognitive Exercise Techniques

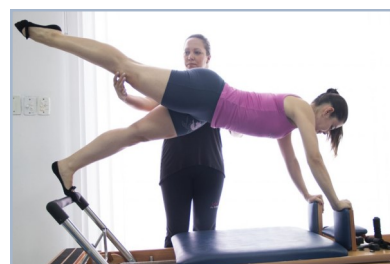


We have been operating during lockdown by means of videos sent to all paid up members. We are hoping to return to the studio in September and will ask this to be included in a Newsflash when the start has been confirmed.

Mary C

Pilates

During the lockdown we decided to continue our weekly Pilates classes on line. Not by using Zoom as you might expect, but by using something called Vimeo, and through this means, our instructor, Sue, is able to send to us via email a different lesson each week.



Some weeks she concentrates on the back, some on general posture and strengthening the core, and this week she focuses on the spine.

Most of our members renewed on this basis which works with varying degrees of success, depending on the type of computer equipment used.

Our sessions end this week for the summer and she is hoping that we may come back to use her studio if regulations allow it. This may mean, however, smaller classes, depending on the social distancing rules. If this is not possible, we are hoping to continue in September on the same basis until (and if) regulations are lifted.

John D

Rail and Transport



We have not attempted to set up Zoom meetings for what is quite a large, elderly and often technically challenged group, but instead we have focussed on those we know are on their own, with members of the steering group holding garden coffee mornings for six most weeks.

A good number of the group are also members of the Industrial Heritage Group, which has remained active with an excellent programme of Zoom meetings during lockdown.

Martin P

Rummikub

On the last occasion we played Rummikub we welcomed a new member to our group, and then everything stopped. Some of our competitive members have been playing on line in order to hone their skills. I do hope that when we do start again, we will all be raring to go.



Jenny B

Scrabble

Before lock down we all enjoyed a relaxed game of Scrabble, with much laughter when at the 12th move the one who is adding up the scores realizes that they forgot to put down the score of one of the players on the 6th move. "Well you put that one down, and I did that one across etc etc." Some of us have played on line and others have recently played out doors at a safe distance. It was all so simple then.



During lock down the world WOKE up. Now we have to apparently exclude certain words which have now been 'banned' from the Official Scrabble Dictionary. Rules have completely changed. It seems that since WOKE arrived certain words are more dangerous and loaded than before. Apparently if we put down the word MANHOLE (Score of 12) or WOMAN (score of 10) that is not allowed any more because that is sexist.

Do I need to contact the U3A HQ to ask for instructions...Do you know, I think we will have to take a chance, be daring and stay happily UNWOKE (score of 13)

Jenny B

Sew and Sew



Lockdown posed a few problems for us but the sew and sew group have been sewing and knitting for the NHS and have even received a certificate for one project. It was for making Beads of Courage bags for young people collecting rewards for their invasive treatments received in hospital. They get one reward for each treatment which they collect in their bags.

Recently, we have joined up with Crafty Ladies and UFO Groups on Tuesday mornings taking our chairs along to an outdoor venue and sitting in an ever increasing (permitted) circle, drinking tea and coffee and good it is too, especially for those living on their own.

Eileen J

UFO's

This group works on Unfinished Objects - such as embroidery, knitting, sewing, beading - all things that we have started in the past and never finished. It is an ideal opportunity to work on things that have been put away in a cupboard for ages and sometimes forgotten! We meet on the second Wednesday of each month, sharing the hosting amongst group members. Coffee and biscuits help our concentration!

Since March we have not been able to meet due to the Covid 19 situation, but look forward to resuming our meetings as soon as it is safe to meet again indoors.



Brenda D



Ukulele Group

We have 5 members in our group which was started 1 year ago. We can even play a piece of music that can be recognized. We have not met since lockdown, but I have sent music via emails for "My students", to practice. When lockdown is over, we will get together to perform once more.

Ann C

Walking 1 with your dog



We meet on the third Monday afternoon of each month, and take our dogs for a walk in the Surrey countryside. We usually walk for about an hour and then find a cafe for a cup of tea. Our last meeting was in March at Hatchlands when we were able to have tea outdoors, but we have had a gap due to the Covid 19 situation until June, when we were able to meet again out in the fresh air.

Kathryn N reports that the dog walking group re-convened in July for the first time since March. We were very lucky with the weather as it did not rain and was not too hot. Brenda led us on a walk through Norbury Park and as we were a small group – four humans and two dogs- we managed to social distance without any problem. It was lovely to meet up with people outside of the household and to enjoy the wonderful Surrey countryside – good for our health both mental and physical.

Brenda D

Wine Appreciation Group 1

Even though our last group tasting was in February, since then we have been keeping in touch with each other through emails and phone calls, which has been great. Several weeks into lockdown, we had a fun quiz with questions related to each of our tastings last year. Had we learnt (and remembered?!) anything? Then a few weeks after this, there was another challenge – eight photos of some wine related visits we had made over the years – happy times!! Do we remember/recognise these places? Answers to both quizzes were sent separately. Now we are looking forward to being able to resume our monthly tastings in each other's homes, hopefully before too long.



Jo & Ernie H

Wine Appreciation Group 4

For our September meeting we held a garden meeting (just before the latest lockdown measures). We were taken on a 'Mediterranean Cruise' with wines from Spain, France, Italy and Greece each wine accompanied with a snack appropriate to the country and some Middle East bites. the evening was rounded off with prosecco and cake to celebrate the hosts 50th wedding anniversary. This maybe the last time that we can meet together for a while, so back to Zooming!!

David C



Wine Appreciation Group 6

During lockdown Wine Group 6 has met every month since February with a member hosting a “virtual” wine tasting on Zoom where each Member discusses their choice of a white and red wine.

Malcolm H and Kathy B

Wine Group 7

During the current Covid 19 restrictions Jenny C kindly organised and hosted our first ever Zoom wine tasting session in June for our members. Two wines were selected for tasting and distributed to those able to take part. We all logged in together at our usual meeting time on the second Thursday evening in the month. This proved to be a great success and a nice way of catching up with members who we have not been able to socialise with over the past few months. It was such a success that a follow-on Zoom meeting July was organised by Pat and Iain C and further Zoom meetings will continue until current restrictions are lifted.



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Mike M

Wine Appreciation 8

We are currently having our first lockdown quiz. I have distributed generous samples of four wines to our members, and they have to decide the grape from which the wine has been fermented and in what country. I have provided a list of six possible grapes and six possible countries to make it slightly easier. A wonderful prize awaits the winner!

We are also considering holding a 'socially distancing' meeting in a garden as restrictions lift.



Chris W

And what has your committee been up to?

Great Endeavours



Along with the rest of the committee, I have been endeavouring to plan and execute events for all our members. Unfortunately though, as one would expect at this moment, we get so far with the organising then the anticipated event has to be cancelled. Then off we go again on the next one. One of which was of course our holiday to Ironbridge, which should have taken place in May. This involved a lot of discussion, both with the participants and the travel agents before finally, very sadly, throwing in the towel and cancelling. However we did eventually receive our refund cheques, which I had great pleasure in driving around and delivering most of these in person to your doors. This gave me the opportunity to have a chat with folk and ascertain that you were all well and surviving 'lockdown'.

I have been occupying myself by administering a haircut to myself, TWICE. On reflection I suppose that I could have offered my services to other members, though notably nobody suggested I did!

I am happy to have been able to show a few folk a new very small area of Bookham to walk in, that very few folk seem to realise existed and is usually almost people-free, so not many, if any, folk to 'distance' from.

We are now, looking forward to building up a programme of events for you all, again sooner rather than later.

Brenda K - Committee Member

Group Co-ordinator

It is very strange that if we do not meet in person, checking up on the Group activities can be just a little difficult. This is one reason why we as a committee are sending to all members what many groups have been doing since lockdown.

Proposed New Groups

Here are some proposed groups which need a beginning:

FAMILY HISTORY FOR COMPLETE BEGINNERS

HOLIDAY BASIC LANGUAGE ie FRENCH, SPANISH, GERMAN AND ITALIAN

SWIMMING FOR GENTLEMEN AT THE GRANGE

COOKERY 2

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB 5

PATCHWORK



If you feel you would like to help run one of these groups please contact any member of the committee or myself where we will be only too pleased to help you.

Ann C

Membership Secretary

This is easy, the job description is in the title.

I enrol new members, sending them the forms to be filled in and await their return with the subscription, which is passed to the Treasurer. Membership numbers are updated, and the committee informed. The Chairman does try and welcome new members to their first monthly meeting.

I am also responsible for sending to all members the latest news/information by a "Newsflash".

The busy time is in November and December when membership renewal takes place.

Here I feel a little "moan" is in order. I find it a bit frustrating when I am still chasing people 3 months later at the end of January. I know that some members take a break in November, but they usually let me know and I am happy to wait until they return. BUT some of you just keep putting it off and it takes a lot of effort and phone calls with reminders to get to the end.

PLEASE, PLEASE renew promptly this year. Thank you.

Mick J



Publicity Officer



This is my first task since lockdown. I must own up that putting all these items together for all our members was my suggestion. Therefore, all complaints should be sent to any other committee member, except me. Thank you.

Ann C

Secretary



I have changed hats once more. This is one position I hold on the committee until this year's AGM. The Secretarial duties are not arduous all you have to do are Minutes of the meetings and print and send to all committee members including the next Agenda. Since lockdown we have been having monthly ZOOM meetings, which have been quite fun and kept much shorter.

Ann C

Treasurer

Having previously served three years as Chairman I am now your Treasurer. I look after our Main account, which covers our meetings, newsletters and related expenses. Our social events and outings are served by our Social account. Lastly we look after some of our groups finances in our Groups account.



No one is more amazed than me when I get the three accounts to balance every month!

Chris W

Welfare



When one of the members of Fetcham U3A is unwell I send a 'Get Well' card and if they have been in hospital I follow that up with a telephone call and arrange a visit to see how they are getting on. I take the ladies a flowering plant and the gentlemen have a shoebox of fruit. I keep the Chairman informed of all the welfare issues with a short report for each committee meeting.



Brenda D

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

Editor this issue: John C

Cover Design: John W

Support editor: Judy O

We always confirm contributions. If you do not receive a confirmation of your contribution please check with the Editor.

Thanks to Graham D for his sharp eyes to ensure the anonymity of contributors.

Articles and items for April 2021 Newsletter should be with Judy O by the 1 March 2021 please.

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, Ann C.