



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE FETCHAM & DISTRICT

No. 2

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2003

In this newsletter we are concentrating on the future programme of monthly talks and the activities of more than twenty groups that are now running or proposed. If you find that your interests are not covered by the existing groups, speak to our Chairman Neville Povey or Groups Co-ordinator Enid at one of the meetings. As at 1 April membership stood at 187 which is an astounding achievement over the six months since our first meeting. We shall welcome any new members, so please spread the word to your family and friends. Marilyn, Membership Secretary will be happy to send out application forms if contacted.

MEETINGS IN 2003

27 th May	One of the Oldest Professions	John Tiffney MBE
24 th June	The Bevin Boys	Reg Mant
22 nd July	Tickets to All Parts of the World	Joy Hooper
23 rd September	Charles Dickens	Carol Chapman
28 th October	A Year at Kew	Dr Peter Brandham
25 th November	Annual General Meeting + Herbal Medicine	June Crisp
8 th December	Christmas Social [On a Monday]	No speaker

The meetings are held in St Mary's Church Hall off The Ridgeway at 2.30pm on the fourth Tuesday except August and December. If you have any particular topics you would like to hear about or can recommend any really excellent speakers please get in touch with Margaret.

We thought you might like to see the more personal face of speakers in advance of the talks and have therefore added this new section. It will not be possible, at this stage, to provide profiles on every speaker because of lack of space, but we will do our best to cover as many as possible. We would like your views on this section – did you find it interesting? Perhaps, if it is well received by members, we will make it a regular slot. Comments please to Winnie who prepared the profiles.

One of our own members, **JOHN TIFFNEY, MBE** will be giving a talk on '**ONE OF THE OLDEST PROFESSIONS**' at our May meeting. Now you may be bemused by the title – it has been used in several totally different contexts over time and I am not going to spoil John's talk by explaining. John worked with local District Councils in many capacities during his career and, since 1992, he has taken a personal interest in Community Safety. Mole Valley DC and the Police have benefited from initiatives pioneered by John, which have been adopted both in Surrey and elsewhere. He continued to serve the public wearing another hat after he retired in 2001 but, when he felt the post needed a full-time occupant, he resigned. In 1997 he was awarded the MBE for services to environmental health.

He joined The Grange Centre as a Trustee in early 2002, thereafter taking on the chairmanship of the House and Grounds Committee. In 2003 he agreed to chair the Strategy Committee, as the development of services at The Grange for people with disabilities had reached a critical stage. He is the founder chairman of Bookham Decorative and Fine Arts Society and his hobbies, when he has the time to pursue them, are golf, lawn bowls and gardening. He is also restoring a 1934 Triumph Gloria car and is national chairman of the Pre-1940 Triumph Owners Club.

I interviewed **REG MANT** at the U3A Art Group he co-ordinates in Redhill, where he was surrounded by enthusiastic members, all keen to learn from his expertise. The noise was such (and these were painters!) that we had to retire to the kitchen where, in relative peace and quiet, I asked Reg about his life. His dream, when he was young, was to be an inventor and I suppose, to a certain extent, he attained that dream albeit in a somewhat different capacity. His first job (which was a reserved occupation) was making scientific instruments. He went down the mines in 1943 for 3 years, but I am not going to enlarge upon this as Reg will explain all in his talk '**THE BEVIN BOYS**' in June.

His varied career through instrument making, radar research (and battleship installations), automatic SOS devices on life rafts, electronic recorders which included climbing over and down Westminster Bridge to record tides, and tool making, eventually led him to photographic printing in a friend's company. In fact, 'N' prints came out of his use of a

KENPRINTER machine. Before long, Ilford bought the company and he moved to West Drayton as Production Manager for an Ilford subsidiary. He transferred to colour processing but was eventually made redundant.

After a spell looking for a new job he was offered the post of Company Buyer at East Surrey Water Company, which involved buying everything – pipes, uniforms, sand, ballast, pens, paper etc., where he stayed for 20 years. He says he has not retired, except from paid employment, and he has not rested on his laurels. He was voted onto East Surrey Water Pension Committee as a valuable voice for pensioners. He and his wife Dorothy are keen modern sequence dancers, travelling to Bookham, Fetcham and Ashted to take part. In fact they both run dances for 90+ people at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall on Saturdays. He also loves gardening, is a sidesman at Holy Trinity Church, Redhill, a talented artist and a teacher at Conquest Art, which is a registered charity.

The one abiding memory I have of the interview is that of a happy and contented man. His wife is a tremendous support in all he does and he is full of praise for her. He is a volunteer helper at East Surrey Hospital and gets immense fulfilment from encouraging stroke victims to regain their sense of touch and to use their hands again and, when he talked about them, his eyes were full of compassion. His full life has given him many memories, not all happy, but certainly he is still adding to them every day!

NEWS OF GROUPS

Walking

**Jenny
Tony & Bobby**

3rd Sunday

There are fifty names on the list and the number of active participants has increased from six in November to fourteen in March. Regular Sunday walks are planned for the third Sunday in each month, commencing at 10.30am from the venue on the programme. Without a volunteer to lead, regular weekday walks are more difficult to organise. I hope to be available for Wednesday 14th May and would be pleased to hear from anyone interested. Walkers wishing to share costs may like to arrange to meet at a local car park; picnics may be preferred to pub lunches, but access to a loo is always appreciated.

Wine Appreciation 1

Jo & Ernie

3rd Tuesday

“New World or Old World?” This was one of the challenges set when we met for our fourth monthly meeting recently. Which of the wines were from the New World and which from the Old World? This was difficult, but we are improving – most of us recognised the red wine grape correctly this time, thanks to a very helpful handout provided by our hosts. We are learning, (some of us from a very basic starting point), becoming much more interested in the huge range of wines available, making friends and having great fun – it is the perfect way to spend a Tuesday afternoon. As this group is full, we hope those on the waiting list will soon be forming a second group, so they can experience similar enjoyment and enlightenment.

Art Appreciation

Jenny

4th Wednesday

We have a group of about twelve. We started our main meeting in January by discussing several of the Italian 15th and 16th century painters. We discussed Titian, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Botticelli and Bellini. In February we discussed the Dutch painters from the same period. Those we researched were Rembrandt, de Hooch, Vermeer and Frans Hals. We then decided that this was too broad a scope so we viewed a video about the Titian exhibition in March and in April we are going to see the exhibition. We meet at 2pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Bridge

Pam

2nd & 4th Thursdays

We share our bridge sessions with Leatherhead and Bookham U3As. We meet at St. Mary's Church Hall, Fetcham on the second and fourth Thursday mornings from 10am to 12.30pm - 10, 24 April, 8, 22 May, 12, 26 June and 10, 24 July. There are no meetings in August. We play together to keep running costs down and the subscription, including coffee/tea and a biscuit, is £7 in advance for the six second Thursdays, £7 in advance for the six fourth Thursdays OR £1.50 per meeting paid on the day. Cheques should be made payable to F. Sinnock or you can pay in cash. Frank Sinnock of Leatherhead U3A runs the group and his telephone number is 274796. Please contact him directly if you wish to attend or when you arrive. Frank tells me that at the moment he only has details of three regular Fetcham members. Frank would be grateful to have each Fetcham bridge member's name, address and telephone number (not for issue) in case arrangements have to be altered and he would then be able to notify you. Please ensure that he has this information. I cannot attend regularly, but would like to hear that more Fetcham members have joined. It is a friendly club and you can attend in a pair or on your own and there will be no difficulty.

Gardening

Margaret

2nd Friday

The Gardening group had its second meeting at Wisley Gardens in March. The visit included a tour of the greenhouses and a 'behind the scenes' informative talk given by the Head of the Alpine plant department which was enjoyed by eight members of the group.

Painting**Margaret****Alternate Thursdays**

There are ten members attending the Painting group, which meets every two weeks in Bookham. The group started with basic pencil drawings of different shapes, shading them in to give them definition and an appearance of solidity. This helped build members' confidence in drawing and shading techniques. With the help of some art training videos the group has progressed onto watercolour painting and is in the process of studying perspective with a view to starting landscape painting in the future.

Industrial History**Ian****3rd Thursday**

The group has met twice and is planning visits to museums and sites of interest. We have already made a booking for twenty members and partners to attend an 'Evening with Fred Dibnah' on 7th June at the Dorking Halls. We are compiling a list of valued books in our own libraries and swapping ideas on external lectures that we might find interesting at Surrey University and the local WEAs. Tony is arranging a lecture on the construction of computing engines designed by Babbage in the Nineteenth Century. This major project was undertaken by the Science Museum and when a date in the Autumn is arranged we hope many people in Fetcham U3A might be interested in attending. In May we are planning to attend a book launch and exhibition on the history of the Wey Navigations by Alan Wardle of the Surrey Industrial History Group.

Music Appreciation**Rosemary****2nd Wednesday**

Our group of thirteen from Fetcham, Bookham and Leatherhead meets in the evening. Our tastes are wide and varied ranging across classical, opera, American classical and jazz. Topics for our evenings so far have included Christmas Cracker, music from films quiz and a Spanish evening. Christmas Cracker was put together on the night with everyone taking along favourite Christmas music. Different members put together the film background themes and the Spanish music. Both were very interesting and enjoyable. For our May evening we are planning something slightly different. We will be viewing the Walt Disney cartoon film Fantasia and listening to the classical music soundtrack. So we shall be seeing how the music and cartoon characters are set alongside each other. It promises to be enjoyable and educational! Future plans in the pipeline include music from the war years, music used in advertisements (Will we be able to say which music links with which product?), and a 78s evening, Hoffman and Offenbach, to name a selection to whet your appetite. As all our members cannot make every evening we are still happy to welcome new members.

French Conversation**Anna****1st & 3rd Mondays**

Our first meeting, on 6th January happened to be '*la fête des rois*' so we celebrated with a glass of wine, the traditional Epiphany cake and the song that always accompanies this. An auspicious beginning for our group! We have continued to meet regularly on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. Our conversations have included the origins of the U3A in France, the disappearing 'sieste', Brittany, its customs and language, and we are currently discussing a short story by Marcel Ayme. Our original group of eight has expanded to twelve and we now have a waiting list of Francophiles keen to join us. We hope to establish a second group, as it is only with small numbers that everyone has a chance to contribute. News of developments will be given at the monthly meetings.

Needlework**Mary****Fridays**

We held our inaugural meeting in November when different options for needlework/handwork were discussed. It was decided that initially, with the expert help from group member Val, we would each make a small patchwork quilt. Since then we have been meeting on a fairly regular basis in various member's houses to work through the different stages of quilt making, and most of the ten group members are now putting the finishing touches to their quilts. We then plan to move on to a completely different project, helped by another group member, Brenda, who has completed her City and Guilds Diploma, and has other areas of expertise.

Local History**Keith****4th Tuesday**

The group has so far held two meetings and has started work on a research project on life in the local area between 1850 and 1901. Transcriptions of the Great Bookham parish records are well underway; those for Little Bookham have started; and Effingham is ready to begin. Meetings are normally held on the morning of the 4th Tuesday of the month but because of Easter our next meeting will not be until 27th May. We then intend to agree the way we wish the group to proceed and prepare a provisional programme for the next academic year starting after the summer holidays. It is important that the views of all current and intending members are made known by that date.

Family History**John****2nd Thursday**

We have met three times since January and have been exchanging information and experiences of our efforts to trace family trees. There are currently fifteen members and we are thinking about splitting the group into two because we are getting too large to fit in a typical lounge, and also because some people have access to computers

and some have not. We are fortunate to have Neville and Keith in our group and we are indebted to them for sharing their knowledge of family history, which has been gained over the last twenty years or so. We are going to visit the Family Records Office in London on 8th May.

Outings & Theatre Visits

Sheila

Various

I am pleased to welcome Fetcham members on some of the outings already planned for Bookham U3A - those of you who have come to monthly meetings at St Mary's Church Hall have got up-dates on the availability of outings. If you would like to receive a new list when issued, I am happy to create a mailing list but will require an s.a.e. please, to keep you posted. To be sure of places it is really important to book promptly (although cancellations do provide some later availability). Please do phone me with requests or suggestions for the future so I can get to know what you really want to see and do. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wednesday 30th April

Visit to Jane Austen's home at Chawton and visit to Winchester with optional guided tour of Winchester College. Approx. £16

Wednesday 14th – Monday 19th May
Thursday 3rd July

Six day visit to Avignon and surrounding area.
Elizabeth I – Four Hundredth Anniversary Exhibition at Greenwich with options to visit National Maritime Museum & Royal Observatory. Approx. £17.

Thursdays 7th & 14th August

Stowe School & landscape gardens – optional tour of house & grounds. £15

Wednesday 10th September

My One and Only – matinee at Woking. £17.50

Thursday 18th – Monday 22nd Sept.

Visit to Belgian Ardennes by coach.

Thursday 2nd October

Northern Ballet Theatre – Romeo and Juliet – matinee at Woking. £17.50

Wednesday 12th November

Cats the Musical – matinee at Woking. £23.50

History of Western Ideas

Joan

2nd Tuesday

This group was set up to study the history of western philosophy from Greek times to the present. It is following, principally, the book "The Passion of the Western Mind", by Richard Tarnas, through a series of monthly discussions on points raised by the book. The group currently has six members, who meet at each other's houses, but more are welcome. Study has now reached the beginning of the Christian era, with particular emphasis on the effect of Greek philosophy on the developing Christian religion.

PROPOSALS FOR NEW GROUPS

Lunch Club

**Margaret
Geoff**

Sunday

Wouldn't it be nice once a month to have a Sunday lunch served up to you in a cosy restaurant or pub with good company and no washing up! If you find this appealing why not join the new Sunday lunch group by filling in a slip to record your preferences at our next main meeting. Alternatively contact Margaret or Geoff by telephone.

Wine Appreciation 2

The second Wine Appreciation group has several prospective members and Jo is happy to invite anyone interested in learning the ropes to come along to one of their meetings. Once the first meeting has been organised the future programme will be readily arranged. Joint meetings with outside speakers involving both Fetcham groups and perhaps Bookham and Leatherhead U3As would then be possible.

Computing for Beginners

Several people have put their names down for the group and we are investigating the possible use of Howard of Effingham school resources because they had had funding based on support for the community and Bookham U3A are already involved. We also have someone who may be able to help with setting up the group in the Autumn so we hope a viable group will start later this year.

Writing for Pleasure

Catherine

The accent is as much on Writing as on Pleasure. Group members write a piece based on a subject given at the previous meeting. Each member reads his/her piece, which is discussed for contents and imagination. It is amazing and enriching to experience how different people treat the same subject. We meet once a month, at a member's home. Meeting day and time is flexible. The group has previously been running with members from Leatherhead and Bookham U3As.

Current & Social Affairs

Joan

Would anyone who would like to join in small group discussion of common interests in current and social affairs please sign up at the monthly meeting.

Scrabble

Janet

Is anyone interested in playing Scrabble? It can be played 'just for fun' or, when you get good at it there are competitions. I am strictly a 'for fun' player myself, but we could always see how the group evolved. If you are interested in a fortnightly or monthly get together, please add your name to the list, or phone me.

London History

Linda & John

Would anyone be interested in a monthly outing to learn more about the history of various parts of London? We would each concentrate on different aspects and share our findings at a later meeting. Please sign on the list at the monthly meeting in St Mary's Church Hall.

Learning about Calligraphy

Patricia

I suppose I have always been interested in Calligraphy. I sat next to a girl at school - she was Welsh and her name was Dorcas - and her handwriting was immaculate. It was not admired by our teachers because it was pure copperplate and at eleven years old it was not considered correct to show so little individuality - even all those years ago, so I hate to think what teachers would say now! However, I admired it very much and although I made no attempt to copy what she could do quite naturally I did try to produce something neat and attractive.

I have always enjoyed drawing and painting and designing cards for friends, but it was not until Peter and I were reaching retirement that it occurred to me that I could now learn to do it all properly. I tried for ages to get a place at the Adult Education Centre but the Calligraphy classes were always full with a waiting list. Then I was lucky enough to get a place on a short course on Heraldry. I loved every minute of those classes and was determined to find out more. I delighted in translating the blazons written in Norman French of the coats of arms, and drawing and colouring them. Visiting churches and old buildings had a whole new interest. Since then I have been fortunate enough to study with an excellent teacher and learn quite a few Calligraphy hands. We began with Foundational, followed by Italic, Sharpened Italic (a great favourite of mine), Neuland, Gothic, Modern Gothic, Uncials, Half Uncial, Modern Half Uncial and many variations. There is still much to be achieved. I also found enormous pleasure in making small books and learning to illuminate a capital letter.

Calligraphy and/or Heraldry would make an excellent Group, but there are a few difficulties. Calligraphy calls for individual drawing boards and ink, brushes and dip pens. This all takes up a good amount of space and is not really suitable for a home environment. If there was enough interest and it was possible to find a suitable small hall to hire (the cost of which would have to be covered by the Group) it may well be possible to do something later in the year on a monthly basis.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS - If you would like to place an advertisement in the Newsletter which appears in January, April and September please contact the Editor, Ian. A charge of £2 will be made to defray production costs.

Holiday and/or Golf in Spain – only 25km from Alicante between Torre Vieja and La Manga and nestling on a small peninsular in the area of Cabo Roig. Cabo Roig has a beautiful sandy beach and is within ten minutes drive of three internationally prestigious golf courses. Accommodation is in a new duplex house with communal swimming pool. Three bedrooms (one double and two twins), lounge/dining room and satellite TV, fully fitted kitchen, two balconies and two bathrooms. Prices from £200 - £300 per week for six people. For more information ring Patricia on.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Neville
Vice-Chairman	Patricia
Treasurer	Peter
Secretary	Brenda
Membership Secretary	Marilyn
Groups Co-ordinator	Enid
Speakers	Margaret
Newsletter	Ian
Publicity	Winnie

HERE'S A THOUGHT FOR ALL YOU GARDENERS – COMPOST MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND



As part of International Compost Awareness Week, Compost Works is holding an Open Day on Saturday 3rd May from 10am to 4pm in Fetcham. Admission is free, with donations to WaterAid - the UK's only major charity dedicated exclusively to the provision of safe domestic water, sanitation and hygiene promotion to the world's poorest people. For more details, contact Hugh on the Compost Hotline.

This is your chance to see how easy composting is, with practical demonstrations of the do's and don'ts of composting, how to speed up your composting, and how to use shreadings to improve your compost or use as a mulch. Also on display will be a selection of composters (plastic, wooden and homemade), how to get a Mole Valley DC compost bin, and details of excellent free composters. If you have an embarrassment of woody prunings or hedge trimmings, we have quiet electric shredders you can borrow at very low cost

NEWS OF FETCHAM & DISTRICT U3A

Full Membership Granted

At our monthly meeting on 25th March regional member of the National Executive Committee [NEC] of the Third Age Trust, Arthur Russ, handed over the membership certificate for Fetcham U3A to Chairman Neville see opposite. Arthur wished us well and commented that if anyone was interested in the work of the NEC he was stepping down in the summer.

The Objects of The U3A are:-

- 1) To advance the education of the public and in particular the education of older people no longer in full time gainful employment in Fetcham and its surrounding locality.
- 2) The provision of facilities for leisure time and recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons for their social welfare.

Charitable Status

The Third Age Trust requires that all new groups are set up as charities and our Constitution defines the objects. We are currently applying to the Charity Commission to become a recognised charity.

