

Fetcham In Focus

U3A



The Newsletter of Fetcham University of the Third Age

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Cover design - John
Editor this Issue - Judy

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

Chairman's Column



On 21 March a dozen of us went down to East Grinstead for the Annual South East Forum. The subject for this meeting was 'Active Ageing'. After the initial welcome by Ian, we were given a short lecture by Prof Paul Matthews on 'Lessons from Neuro-science about Healthy Brain Ageing'. It was a fascinating lecture and well worth the visit just for that. There then followed presentations by Ian, Ashted U3A, Dorking U3A and Wokingham U3A about recent projects of their U3As. After lunch we had the Discussion groups which we were distributed between. These are what I love about our annual visit to East Grinstead as it confirms my belief that, in the main, we do most things correctly, but occasionally we bring back suggestions which we can incorporate into our U3A, (for your benefit of course). We take our display boards down with us which always attracts a great crowd. We take lots of our Newsletters for other U3As to take and see just how good ours are. I

started with over 50 and came back with 4. We always receive good comments from other U3As about our newsletters.

At the end of March we held our annual Group Leaders and Helpers Lunch at St Mary's Hall where we had the same caterers that supply the Forum. It was a great day, informal, and we had over 70 members attend. It enables our leaders to discuss with other leaders how they run their groups, or if you run one of our 8 wine groups, what wine they had at the last meeting.

We are now looking forward to our 10th Anniversary celebrations at the end of this U3A year. On the 6 October we will be having a grand evening meal with live music at the Barn Hall in Bookham, tickets from Winnie. Then, on 27 October we have our Main meeting at St Mary's Hall in Fetcham which will be an open afternoon, where ALL 550 plus members will be welcome to attend, with our Group Leaders showing what they do during the year with various displays. Tea and coffee will be available as well as a glass of wine and a piece of our birthday cake.

Then, my reign as your Chairman will be over; at our Annual General Meeting in November my successor will be elected. Where has the 3 years gone?

Bryan



Group Leaders - March 2012

Olympic Quiz



- 1 With which horse did Col Harry Llewellyn win gold in 1952?
- 2 Why did the United States boycott the Moscow games?
- 3 Who won both the Men's Slalom and Giant Slalom in Lake Placid in 1980?
- 4 Which 3 Britains won javelin medals in 1984?
- 5 Which 2 Brits won gold in Moscow and retained their titles in Los Angeles?
- 6 Which British skater won European, World and Olympic gold in the same year?
- 7 Which Olympics were the setting for the film 'Chariots of Fire'?
- 8 Who received 7 perfect 10 scores in Olympic Gymnastics?
- 9 Which Czech Wimbledon Tennis Champion had previously won Olympic silver in their Ice Hockey team?
- 10 Apart from her silver medal in the 200m in 1984, for what was Florence Griffith remembered?

Answers on page 17

18th Century European Art Lectures



We have now concluded our series of 15 Art lectures by Leslie (BA Cambs) covering 18th Century European Art and finishing with Scottish and Irish painters.

Members from Fetcham, Bookham, Leatherhead, Banstead, Reigate, Ashted and Epsom have enjoyed these lectures and look forward to the next series.

We started the New Year with the works of Joseph Wright of Derby, including his most famous 'The Air-Pump Experiment'. His ability to show light and dark without showing the light source is unbeaten by any other artist. We then went on to Stubbs, Reynolds and Gainsborough to complete the 18th century part. We then had a five part extension with Scottish and Irish artists, who are frequently overlooked, the works of David Allan, Henry Raeburn, Alexander Nasmyth, David Wilkie and William Dyce to mention just a very few. If you go to Edinburgh or Dublin I would recommend a visit to their National galleries and view the finest examples of Scottish and Irish painting - aesthetically impressive, wide-ranging in subject matter and very revealing of the turbulent history of those countries

At the end of the series we presented Leslie with two books on Gainsborough along with a gift voucher to show our appreciation for all the work he puts in to present us with such fine lectures. Our projectionist and helpers, Roy, June and Beryl & Geoff were also presented with a small token of appreciation for their assistance in running these lectures when I was needed elsewhere.

We all look forward to the next series.

Bryan, Series Organiser

Play Reading

Our Play Reading group will not be meeting again until 12 September. Anyone who would like to join us would be warmly welcomed.

Barbara

Family History 2

Family History has fascinated me for many years and I know it's attracting more and more like-minded people, to the point where our Fetcham and Bookham combined Family History group grew too large for comfort. In January this year we split into two groups, beginners group and the more experienced.



From that new beginning we have all progressed very quickly. The beginners are learning rapidly and the experienced have had three very interesting meetings. Brick walls was the theme for April, as we each have an ancestor we can't trace, and a group member gave a talk on a medal she found and how she connected it to a past relative of hers. All very interesting and informative and yet providing a challenge to keep the group happy doing detective work, because that's what it's all about, looking for that clue to continue back in time.

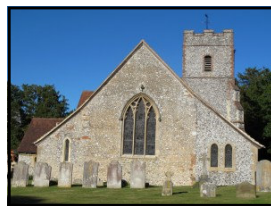
For future meetings we have more brick walls being aired in the hope someone will come up with some answers. A Parish Chest talk is planned for our May meeting. In June we will have two members giving a talk on illegitimate ancestors plus reports on what results members might have found regarding all the previous brick walls, and there's more in the pipeline as the year progresses. So, lots more to look forward to and I would love to say 'join us' but I'm afraid for the time being we cannot take new members.

Maureen

Churches Alive -

The History and Heraldry of Churches

A short course on the architecture of churches, Christian symbology and heraldry on memorials will be given by John York from Camberley U3A. The talks will be on the 4, 11 and 18 October with the first two sessions at St Mary's Church Fetcham and the third session at St Michael's Mickleham.



Contact Mary Coburn for further details and registration.

Tony

Art Appreciation



This year the group wanted to visit two very popular exhibitions The Leonardo at the National Gallery and the David Hockney at the Royal Academy. However due to the enormous popularity of the first it was impossible to obtain tickets, although one of our members did go and queue for several hours. I have been told that there is a strong possibility the exhibition may return to London at a later date so we will try again.

February saw us at our house where we viewed some films and pictures about the David Hockney Exhibition. This was a very valuable afternoon as I was able to get six tickets for some of us to go to this exhibition. David's interpretation of the Yorkshire countryside was extremely interesting and his use of colour was fascinating. He painted certain views from the same spot but in the different seasons. He is very accomplished in a variety of mediums such as charcoal, watercolour, oils and the iPad. If I had a preference I would say that I liked the charcoal drawings the best but then 'Art is in the mind of the beholder'

Our next meeting will be at Groveside where Jenny will give a short talk about her visit to the Damien Hirst Exhibition and there will be a discussion about where we will go in the summer.

Jenny

Epsom Hospital

If you have an appointment at Epsom hospital and are kept waiting for over an hour you are entitled to a ticket from that department to allow you to only pay for 1 hour parking. Any time over an hour will be free.

This only applies to appointments.



Walking 1

In this Jubilee year, we have recently enjoyed two very different walks, each with some royal connections. In March we had wall sunshine on our walk from the Boldermere car park to Wisley Common, Gardens and Airfield. Royal patrons of the RHS include Queen Victoria, King George VI and our present Queen Elizabeth II, who opened the glasshouse in June 2007. The daffodils were in full bloom as we walked along the drive to The Wisley golf course.



In April the forecast was for a very wet morning, so waterproofs were the order of the day! We walked round the Polesden Lacey



Estate, which was quite hilly in parts and offered some superb views along the way. We were amazingly lucky as we only had light rain at times and admired carpets of bluebells in the woods from Tanners Hatch to Prospect Lodge. The royal connection here

was through Mrs Greville, who bought Polesden Lacey in 1906 and entertained a number of royal guests. The Duke and Duchess of York, later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, spent part of their honeymoon there.

Jo & Ernie

Vegetable Gardening 1

The gardening year got off to a false start with glorious weather in March, followed by cold, wind and wet in April. Marvellous for the seed potatoes and onion sets, but pretty dicey for seed sowing. Peas, beans and other early crops sown and germinated under glass or indoors are surviving, but seed germination in the open ground has been poor.



For our May meeting we looked at gardening equipment, firstly in relation to that in use in the 1948 Olympic and 1952 Accession years. Design seems to be largely the same but a change in materials has made most equipment lighter and easier to work

with now. We also looked at our favourite and least favourite garden tools, with demonstrations of said equipment. We had a demonstration by Hugh of how to sharpen shears and secateurs, and we saw how Brian's new shredder worked.



By the time this newsletter is published we will have had a visit behind the scenes at Se-cretts in Milford to see fruit and vegetable production on a commercial basis, and how monitoring and control of pests and diseases is managed on such a large scale.

Q. What is the piece of equipment shown at pic 2?

A. A Victorian mangel chopper. Mangels (or wurzels) are grown as cattle food, but need to be chopped before being fed to the cattle. In Victorian times this was done using the implement shown.

Liz



1948 Memories

.....I was lucky to go to Wembley Stadium on the 14 August 1948. The Equestrian Prix de Nation was held in the morning with Harry Llewellyn on Foxhunter in the British Team which finished third. The closing ceremony in the afternoon attended by the king and queen was quite formal but moving, especially the anthem 'Non Nobis Domine'.

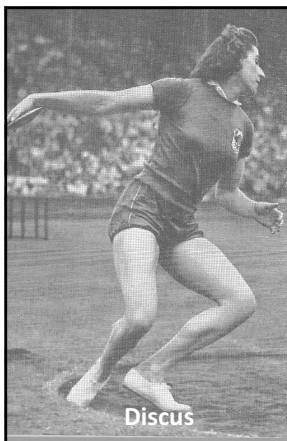
The flags of the competing teams were carried by boy scouts as had been done previous to the 1936 games in Berlin.

We were very near the flame and watched it extinguished.

Barbara

.....My strongest recollection of the Olympics was everyone blaming the unspectacular performance of our competitors on the poor diet we had all suffered because of rationing, in contrast to the wonderful performance of the Americans.

Jane

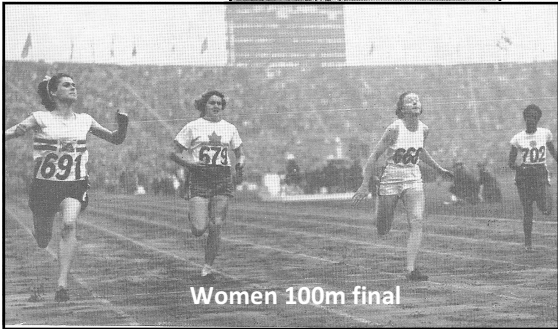
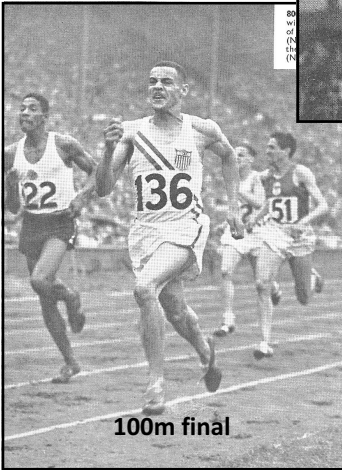
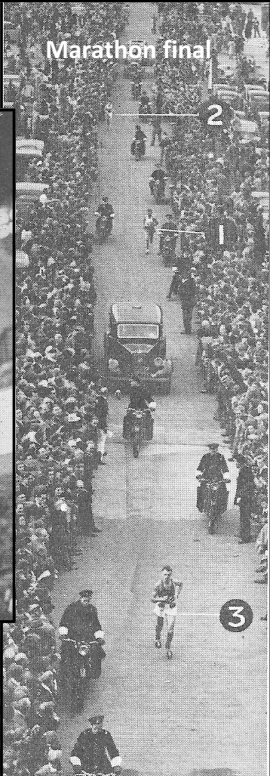
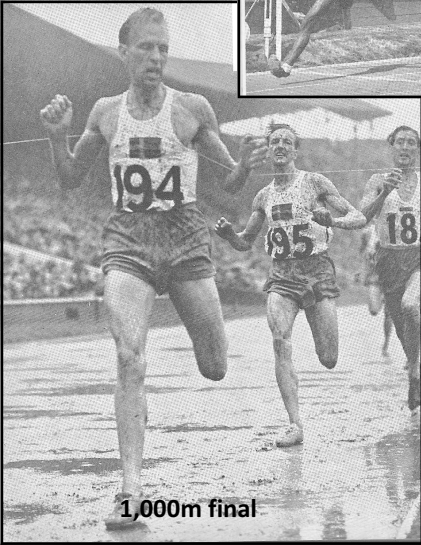
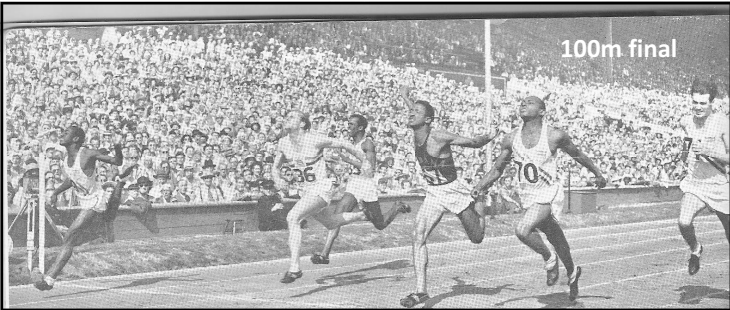


**Prince Philip
congratulating
the
winning French
cyclist**

Torch Relay on Friday, 20 July 2012 -

The objective to have a U3A presence at every location of the relay!

Maidstone, Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester, Higham, Gravesend, Borough Green, Seal, Sevenoaks, Riverhead, Godstone, Bletchingley, Redhill, Reigate, Dorking, Westcott, Shere, Godalming, Guildford (evening celebration)



All Olympic photos supplied by
Barbara - many thanks

Seine River Cruise

Getting up in the early hours, even in May, is not the best way to start a holiday but, with parking arranged in one place, only one coach pick-up, luggage stowed and passengers on board, the Seine River Cruise commenced with cheery banter and smiling faces.

Of course it would, the participants were from Fetcham U3A!

It took a good part of the outward journey before we could fully understand what our driver, Neil, was saying – he was from the Newcastle area with a very broad accent which, incidentally, came in very handy when he was accosted by an irate Frenchman. He laughed and joked with us, was extremely helpful and friendly and, of course, very competent. He gave us a smooth, comfortable journey through the Eurotunnel and onwards and deposited us at the foot of the gang-plank, having done a quick tour of Paris for those who had not been before. His coach was available throughout the trip. He would drive ahead of the boat and be where we landed ready to take us on the booked excursions.

The weather could have been better but the boat made up for



everything! The cabins and lounge was extremely comfortable and the dining room was beautifully decorated, but giving us no indication of the delights to come. We unpacked and then moved to the lounge where we were met with a glass of champagne at the welcome reception. Then, our first meal and what a meal! And what is more, they continued to come. Every day we were seduced with wonderful creations, beautifully prepared and served by cheerful but professional staff. The wine (included in the cost) flowed freely, even more freely when we realised we could order as many bottles as we wanted. Typically French, we were served cheese between the main and dessert courses.

The excursions were well organised with local guides, not rushed which meant that we saw as much as possible and, glory be, the rain held off

Contd

for them all. We visited Les Andelys and the surrounding area, Château de Martainville, Honfleur (with a good deal of Calvados sampling), Rouen, Côte Fleurie, Deauville and Trouville and a Calvados Distillery within the grounds of Château du Breuil, in the Pays d'Auge area, with more sampling of the results of their product. One night we were entertained by a group of dancers from Honfleur. They described the clothing they were wearing and danced to local tunes played on a type of accordion. Not sure if the stamping on the floor was appreciated by those in the cabins beneath, though!

All too soon it was the Gala Night. We were again met with champagne before dining on the most sumptuous food. And then, hasty packing, a group picture by the boat and we were on our way home. In the true spirit of the U3A new friendships had been forged, support given where necessary and we had been educated a little more. Our guests from Leatherhead U3A had been warmly welcomed and enjoyed being part of our happy band. I think it is fair to say that we all felt we had been away much longer than 5 days. With so much to do and see and expanding waistlines by the day, perhaps it was as well it was only 5 days!

Winnie

Art - Mixed Media 1



Marilyn will be running two, one day, oil painting workshops in Effingham, under the guidance of professional tutors, on Thursday, 16 August and Thursday, 23 August from 10.00 - 16.30 hours.

This has been a popular class and if you would like to have a go at oil painting this is your chance (no experience is necessary). The cost will be £43 each which includes the hire of the hall, canvas, all art materials, tea and coffee. All you need to bring is a packed lunch.

Please contact Marilyn if you would like to attend. (Marilyn's details are shown under the Antiques and Collectables group.)



1952/1953 Memories

.....I remember two particular things from this period. I was still at school and my headmistress died on the same day that the King died.

On the day of the coronation with my extended family I spent the day at my aunt's house watching television, something I had never done before.

By comparison with the rest of us, my uncle was rich. No one else in the family had television and he was the only one with a car. He was head pharmacist to three big hospitals in Liverpool. Our food was very simple but I do remember we had fairy cakes!

Genie

.....I remember our headmistress coming into a geography lesson to tell us that the King had died. Waiting solemnly with two Jewish friends, to pay our respects at Westminster Hall for the Lying in State. Their families were both grateful refugees.

Camping out in Whitehall with my parents to see the Coronation procession. A fifteen year old in a plastic mac over a summer dress and cardi, white ankle socks and Clark's sandals. No proper outdoor gear for most people in those days!

Memories of that night every time I pass the spot and see the portico that gave us a bit of shelter. The pub, almost opposite, provided coffee and use of facilities! Waiting, waiting, in the drizzle. So dizzy with tiredness by the morning that I had the impression that Whitehall was curved!

Listening to the relayed broadcast from the Abbey. My mother very emotional. No big screen as there would be today but the voices of Richard Dimbleby and Wynford Vaughan Thomas; sometimes grave, sometimes excited. At last we all edge towards the kerb. Can we see around the guardsmen's bearskin busbies and the policemen's helmets? Anticipation mounts and cheers resound as dignitaries and Commonwealth representatives appear. My parents seem to identify them all. Three cheers for colourful Queen Salote braving the rain!

At last; a glimpse of our new young Queen Elizabeth and her handsome Duke. Shouting, frantically waving our flags. Mother crying again.

My father shepherding us home on the tube and watching some of the celebrations at home on our minute television.

Anna

.....At age 7years I remember getting up at 4am to catch the tube from Morden, dropping my flag at the critical moment through the gaps in the stand, everyone getting excited about the Queen of Tonga and being allowed a sip of champagne at lunch'

.....As an air scout in the 13th Sydenham Troop I was one of the fortunate ones to be chosen to sell the official Coronation Programme on the procession route. I was particularly lucky to be assigned to Whitehall, opposite Horse Guards, as the procession passed here twice, first on the way to Westminster Abbey, and then on the Queen's return journey to Buckingham Palace.

It was an early start from Sydenham by train. I was on duty at dawn and soon soaked in the drizzle which didn't do the programmes much good. My recollection is that most people were more interested in keeping warm and dry than buying the programmes. As the crowds became denser I sold the programmes from the road which was lined by policemen. This appeared to be an ideal place to watch the procession but an hour later along came the army and stood in front so in the end I looked through the gaps and enjoyed the spectacle like everyone else.

A few weeks later, again as an air scout, I attended the Queen's Review of the Royal Air Force at RAF Odiham. This was probably the largest display of military airpower that this country has ever seen. The Review consisted of a static aircraft park with more than 300 aircraft and an afternoon flypast of over 600 aircraft of the RAF and Commonwealth Air Forces. A day that no aeroplane enthusiast would ever forget!

Tony

.....I am attaching a photo of a teaspoon which was given to me when I was still at school as a souvenir of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth, June 2nd 1953. I know there are quite a few of these still in existence as I know my school wasn't the only one to receive them. The bowl of the spoon has the word Wimbledon engraved in it, as that is where I went to school at the time, and it has 'Made in England' and EPNS on the back of it. I remember when it was given to me but I don't know why I kept it in its box all these years. Apart from a little tarnish it's still in perfect condition.



Maureen

.....My overwhelming memories of the Coronation are my Father worrying himself silly over whether his red salvias, white alyssum and blue ageratum would bloom simultaneously to make his red white and blue borders in the front garden as homage to his Queen on her great day.

Then on the actual day crowding round our rather small and newish TV set before going up to Town in the evening to attend a party which my Boss had arranged on the roof of the Adelphi Building so that we could watch the fire-works on the South Bank - it was very cold, wet and windy but after a few drinks a good time was had by all!!!

Jane

.....I wonder how many of our U3A members can remember the party for all the children of Fetcham organised to celebrate the coronation. Long lines of decorated trestle tables were set out laden with goodies. The children had Union flags to wave. It was held in the grounds of Badingham College, now named Fetcham Park House. I guess each family took various items but this I don't know as some food was still on ration.

I expect games were organised but this I'm not sure of either.

I am sure you are aware Fetcham Park House is adjacent to St Mary's church . The entrance then was from Lower Road opposite the 'Salt Box', Old Street, where the Cottage is, and years before this was the drive to the church where steps had to be negotiated. The steps are still there now, close to the entrance of the church.

Faith



Marilyn in her hand-made crêpe paper 'rosette' dress won first prize in the Coronation Day fancy dress parade



Coronation Fancy Dress Street Party



Roy playing at the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 in Clapham Park

.....My main memory of this day is the weather. It wasn't at all like June - it rained for most of the day and was cool and overcast.

We didn't have a TV but my friend's dad next door had built one and it was ready just in time for us to see the pageantry of the occasion. There must have been a dozen or so crowded around the TV with a 9" screen but it was amazing to think that we were watching history being made. One or two students had been selected by my school in Epsom to line the route and I was a bit jealous but we saw more than they did and only had to go to the house next door!

In the afternoon there was a kids' party at Fetcham Village Hall. The village was small in those days with just the present infants school (and no extension as now) so most of the village children were at the party. I remember having tea and an announcement was made that Everest had been conquered.

Ronson was a big employer in Leatherhead and several of my family worked there including Mum. They moved to their new factory from Dorincourt in 1953 and to mark the coronation there was a big fancy-dress party and this photo is of me with the girls and boys who lived in the 2 houses next to ours in Cobham Road with others. I remember a huge fire-works display in the evening with the words THE QUEEN and a crown in fireworks.

(I'm the one holding the dolls!)

Jackie



A U3A Banner

On reading the national U3A Spring issue, I was interested to see on page 75 an article and picture of the Perth U3A on their 25th anniversary celebration. It showed a lovely cake and in the background their stylish banner.



Having such talent within our own U3A I wondered if we could organise for our own banner to be made? Designs might be submitted by the members and the crafters amongst us persuaded to produce one as good, or even better, than the banner in the picture.

Jenny

Willow Workshop

Well, it looked simple enough when Nicki, our tutor, showed us how to make our garden obelisks.



Take eight recently-coppiced stems of hazel, put thick ends in a template on the floor to form a circle, hold the tops together in a point, apply a cable tie. Take 16 lengths of Somerset willow, two for each of the hazel, working 6 to 8 inches from the floor weave these from left to right to form a strong circular band. Take more pieces of willow, two at a time, and thread these into the circle, gradually moving upwards into a spiral, reducing to one piece of willow nearer the top when the tapering of the hazel makes it difficult to weave. Knot the willow on itself. Take one small piece of willow and turn it round the cable tie at the top of the obelisk a few times to cover it and knot. Trim.



That was the theory. The practice was not so easy, particularly as the most difficult part was making the circle at the base, six inches from the floor. The background chatter diminished as people became engrossed in what they were doing. Fortunately Nicki was on hand and went from one work station to the next giving help

and advice. Two hours later, there were twelve robust obelisks ready for garden use. Quite amazing to see what could be made from a few stems and twigs. Everyone was delighted with their efforts.

The only problem left was how to get it into the car

Liz

Card Craft 2 Workshop

Having several names of members who were interested in coming along to the all day workshop it was disappointing that due to last minute set backs only half were able to attend. Nevertheless those who did come were able to produce several cards to take home with them using various techniques over the day. Considering some of the ladies had not attempted making cards before I felt that they had achieved a high standard for beginners. Plenty of laughter and camaraderie made it a happy day for us all.



Jenny

Beading Workshop



On the 1st May there was a hush in the Rumble Room at Fetcham Village Hall as the Beading Workshop got underway. Eleven ladies began to get to grips with beading with seed beads to make a Loopy Bracelet - with a choice of four different colourways.

Threading the needle was the most difficult task as the eyes of special beading needles are extremely tiny but soon everyone was under way. Everyone worked at different speeds but quite quickly some were racing along.

We stopped for a cup of tea and a chance to rest our eyes and look at some other sample pieces of beaded jewellery and some beading books. Then it was back to the beads – learning how to join threads and finish off all those loose ends. By the end of the afternoon there were several finished bracelets and many more that were almost completed. Everyone worked extremely hard but there was plenty of laughter too on what I hope was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Brenda

Answers to Quiz

- 1 Foxhunter
- 2 Because Russia had invaded Afghanistan
- 3 Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden
- 4 Tessa Sanderson, Fatima Whitbread and David Ottley
- 5 Sebastian Coe and Daley Thompson
- 6 John Curry
- 7 Paris 1924
- 8 Nadia Comaneci
- 9 Jaroslav Drobný
- 10 The length of her fingernails



Our October newsletter will be a special colour edition to celebrate our 10th anniversary

Armchair Travel

Armchair Travel continues to meet most months and we enjoy a varied and interesting programme. Two high-light afternoons have been where a member shared a trip to Canada to meet her new family, having established their whereabouts with the help of the Genealogy group. This was a very moving account backed up with an excellent power point presentation .



Alfred Lott visited and gave us a wonderful presentation on China which included amazing video clips of dare devil flying and some spectacular bridges, He kindly supplied our refreshments of Chinese wine, tea and cookies brought back from a recent visit to the country.

We would welcome other visiting speakers from the U3A membership who have had unusual holidays which they could share with us. Occasionally we watch a travel DVD and have greatly enjoyed trips through Canada as well as Australian train journeys and an overview of Baltic capitals.

Although some members were unable to attend, we finished the year with a lunch followed by a DVD and planning items for 2012. We do have vacancies in this group and anyone interested should ring Jackie.

Antiques & Collectables 2



A new interest group has been set up and has vacancies. It will usually meet on the third Wednesday at 2pm and has already drawn up a varied programme of talks and visits. Please contact Ann for details.

Antiques & Collectables 1

The group has another interesting programme this year which began in February when we attended Ewbanks' Auction in Ripley.



Our long awaited visit to The Goldsmiths' Hall took place on the 12 March, when 25 of us had lunch in St Paul's Cathedral Crypt followed by a visit to the Clockmakers' Museum. The Goldsmiths' Hall has occupied the same location since 1339 and today houses one of the few Livery Companies that continues to carry out its ancient functions. The Company operates the

London Assay Office, where objects made of precious metals are tested for purity, and then marked with an official symbol if they pass the necessary tests.

In April, Gerry Pearce presented a chronology of the Shelley (Wileman) Pottery Company. Gerry, who is the Chairman of the Shelley Collectors' Club, brought numerous pieces for us to view.



We talked about Medals and Militaria with Tim Richardson in May, which was followed up by a visit to the Clandon Park Military Museum in June.

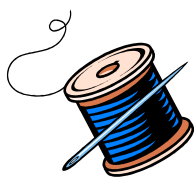
Our summer visits will include the Ardingly International Antiques & Collectors Fair and a National Trust property.

Those of you who are interested in, or are collectors of, Moorcroft Pottery are welcome to join in our meeting to be held on Wednesday, 17 October at 14.00 hours in Effingham. Joy Stevenson will be giving the talk and you are welcome to bring along any pieces of Moorcroft you may have. There will be a charge of £2.50, which will include tea and biscuits, to cover costs. Please contact me if you would like to attend.

Marilyn

Royal Connections

A group of needlework enthusiasts from Barn Hall Crafters – many of whose members also belong to Fetcham U3A – were lucky enough to visit this special exhibition at the Royal School of Needlework at Hampton Court Palace in May. Timed to coincide with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations it includes many of the samples for robes that had been made for the Royal family over the years. The Royal School of Needlework has designed and made the coronation regalia for Edward VII, George VI and the Queen Mother, and our current Queen Elizabeth II.



We were able to see small samples of the exquisite goldwork embroidery for these robes, and learn that the Queen's corona-

tion train alone had weighed 40 lbs! She practiced walking with layers of sheets to get used to this huge weight behind her. There were photographs of the embroidery in progress – worked on an enormous frame and samples of all the many different gold threads that had been used. There were the original old handwritten order books and a book of press cuttings for us to view.

Queen Mary had been an enthusiastic embroiderer and had donated many pieces – including her famous carpet – and had been their patron for over ten

years. This followed a tradition where members of the Royal family have been patrons since 1872 when the school opened to promote modern designs of the day led by William Morris and Walter Crane. Queen Elizabeth II is the current patron. The Royal School of Needlework was also very involved with the wedding dress for the Duchess of Cambridge and we heard all about the amazing security they had to adopt to keep the details a secret.

The Royal School of Needlework accepts private commissions and a large part of their work is the conservation and restoration of textiles. One huge piece of work on a family coat of arms had taken eleven years to complete because of the enormous amount of intricate goldwork embroidery in the border and a tiny goldwork embroidered snail had been included in one corner – a lovely touch of humour!

Today students can enjoy a range of classes funded through bursaries, scholarships and awards and the generous support of livery companies, charitable trusts, private donors and legacies. There are day and weekend courses and a two year degree course. The original core idea behind the setting up of the Royal School of Needlework to teach design and embroidery skills continues today and it was a privilege to see such dedication and expertise.

Brenda

Committee Members

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

Support Services

Welfare of Members	Jo
Tea Organiser	Jean
Social Events	Winnie
Outings/Theatre Visits	Sheila
Floor Manager	Bob
Newsletter Editors	Judy newsletter.editor1@fetchamu3a.org.uk John newsletter.editor2@fetchamu3a.org.uk Caryl newsletter.editor3@fetchamu3a.org.uk

*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 .*

