

Volume 12, Issue 1 - April 2014

Fetcham In Focus



U3A

The Newsletter of Fetcham University of the Third Age



Chairman's Column



Welcome to our first Newsletter this year. As reported at our AGM in November we will only be producing two Newsletters a year in April and in October. This is because we were not receiving enough articles and news items from our members to sustain three issues. We have set up a "Letters to the Editor" page as a new idea which we hope members may find interesting to contribute to and to read.

The green pull out middle section of the Newsletter "What's Going On!" gives you all the information you may need to partake in everything our U3A has to offer, so please keep this section by you until you receive the next update in the October issue.

If you know of friends or neighbours who might benefit from joining our friendly U3A, meeting new people, enjoying our Groups or perhaps going to the theatre or attending any of our events organised for members, please pass them our Membership Secretary's contact details which are in "What's Going On!" or perhaps you could pass their details on and Tony will take it from there.

There is lots to look forward to; our Summer Event is a day trip to France for lunch at a highly recommended Restaurant in an Historic Town with some shopping thrown in. The Autumn event is a 50's Dance with Band Music of the era, so men get out your blue suede shoes and ladies your frilly petticoats. A holiday organised for September to "The Tall Ships Regatta" and Cornwall still has some spaces. Look in your Newsletter for details!

I hope we all can enjoy a sunny Summer.

Mary C

Our Trip to the Globe Theatre Elizabethan Experience



Flooding at the Leisure Centre meant a last minute change of plan so I arranged for the coach to pick us up at the bus stop at the top of The Ridgeway. An early start meant that we arrived at The Globe Theatre in good time for coffee and the most delicious homemade cookies in The Swan Coffee House (see page 13 for their original recipe).

With 53 members in our party I had been asked to divide them into two groups. We all visited the very comprehensive and interesting Exhibition and the Elizabethan Dressing Demonstration together and then went our separate ways, one on a guided tour of the recently discovered Rose Theatre a few streets away in Bankside, and the other being taken into the Globe auditorium. The original Globe was built in 1599 but destroyed by fire in 1613 caused by a cannon misfiring and igniting the wooden beams and thatching. A second theatre was built in 1614 but closed in 1642. Our guides, both so enthusiastic about their subjects, were very well researched.

Built in 1587, the Rose Theatre was only discovered by Museum of London archaeologists in 1989, during excavations for new office buildings. It was where Shakespeare learned his craft. When the remains were uncovered and the water drained, they started to disintegrate so it was re-flooded. It was dimly lit but once we

became accustomed we saw the outline of what would have been the original theatre marked by red electro-luminescent strips set in the water.



Apparently there were originally four theatres set along the Thames but only the remains of The Rose survive and The Globe is a reconstruction of the original Elizabethan theatre, opened in 1997 thanks to the vision of Sam Wanamaker, the American actor, who was so committed to making it happen. There is also now The Sam Wanamaker Playhouse within The Globe, which opened in January.

I think we all came away with our heads bursting with so much information. Hopefully we will retain much of it but the one item that stuck in my mind was that I was glad I wasn't around then; all the clothes they had to wear! Few were washable and virtually nobody bathed, so you can imagine being part of the audience crowded into the auditorium was not very savoury!

Winnie

Croquet

With the recent rains (hopefully!) behind us we look forward to Spring and the start of the CROQUET season. We play at Epsom Sports club (the cricket ground) on alternate Thursday mornings but with the opportunity also to play with Epsom Croquet club on Tuesday mornings. Sessions are from 10am-12 noon with a welcome coffee break at half time in the clubhouse!



We have an enthusiastic membership but new members are always welcome - no previous playing experience necessary. The season starts at the end of April with two 'taster' sessions designed for those who first wish to try out the game. Please contact John or Pam for

further information.

Vegetable Gardening 1

Another successful year ended with us going to a nurseryman outside Woking to learn about the grafting of fruit trees. It was a fascinating session on a very cold afternoon, and we were in an unheated conservatory. However, I think we were all so engrossed in the demonstration and watching volunteers from the group braving the sharpness of the grafting knife that we did not really notice the cold. We had an excellent demonstration with a very patient nurseryman, who was superb at explaining the processes to us which, although sounding and looking simple, required a great deal of expertise and experience to get right. We were immensely grateful to him for the tutorial.



One of the topics we will be looking at in 2014 is companion planting. To this end we are visiting Loseley Park kitchen garden for a guided tour with the head gardener to find out more about it. We will also be visiting Titsey Place for a guided tour of their kitchen garden, where they also grow space-saving soft fruit bushes up one of the walls. A visit is also planned to an allotment in Sussex where the owner – and member of an RHS committee – grows a wide range of produce often ignoring conventional parameters.

Liz

If you have ever refused to **budge an inch** or suffered from **green-eyed jealousy**, if you have **played fast and loose**, if you have been **tongue-tied** - **a tower of strength** - **hoodwinked** or in a **pickle**, if you have **knitted your brows** - **made a virtue of necessity**, insisted on **fair play** - **slept not one wink** - **stood on ceremony** - **danced attendance** on your lord and master - **laughed yourself into stitches**, had **short shrift** - **cold comfort**, or too much of a **good thing**, if you have **seen better days**, or lived in a **fool's paradise**, why be that as it may, **the more fool you**, for it is a **forgone conclusion** that you are **as good luck would have it**, quoting Shakespeare.

Ballroom Dancing

November and December were busy and exciting months for the ballroom dance group.

In November six of us went to a tea dance at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. It has a rather special and beautiful ballroom in the Paul Hamlyn Hall and the musicians, looking immaculate in their white jackets, play the kind of music it is impossible to sit still to - full of life but never faltering on the timing as so many dance bands do. Their dances are so popular we have to book months in advance but it is well worth it.

Then as December came in ten of us made a return visit to the Wessex Hotel in Bournemouth for our "Turkey and Tinsel week". Arriving on Monday we had a dance that afternoon and evening, then tuition sessions on the Tuesday and Wednesday mornings with our favourite instructor, Philip Wylie. Our afternoons were free to rest, practise, explore, make use of their leisure facilities, whatever we fancied and then after dinner we danced till 11pm. Thursday was special. We had the whole day free to please ourselves - no tuition - and then in the evening we gathered, dressed in our best, in the ballroom for our five course Christmas dinner with crackers and streamers and whizzing balloons. Everywhere looked very festive and

the music, which is always excellent, had a very seasonal flavour. There were about a hundred people but we were not too crowded for very few can manage every dance these days. There were fun dances and sequence dances as well as all the usual ballroom and Latin American, and as we had all tried to learn some sequence dances beforehand we were able to join in most of them. We were all very sorry to have to leave on Friday morning and are already planning our next dance holiday in 2014.

We had only been home for a week when it was time for our Christmas party which this year we held in St Mary's church hall instead of the Reading Room and we all brought food to make a delicious spread. The mood was light-hearted and although we did all the usual dances plus some sequence dances, we also had a go at some barn dances too. Some were successful but others degenerated into chaos and everyone ended up convulsed with laughter. Apparently sides were still aching next day!!

For any couples interested, we meet on the first Tuesday and the second Thursday at St Mary's Hall. Do not worry if you have not danced for years. Neither had we, but it is good to try to "keep moving!!"

Alan



General Knowledge Quiz

- 1 Who was the first person to sail single-handed non-stop around the world?
- 2 What is unusual about the word 'Facetious'?
- 3 In which sport is the 'Swaythling Cup' presented?
- 4 If an animal is described as a 'pinniped' what has it got?
- 5 Sky Masterson, Miss Adelaide & Nathan Detroit are characters in which musical?
- 6 Other than New York, which city has an airport named after John F. Kennedy?
- 7 Which breed of dog is a cross between a collie and a greyhound?
- 8 Which stetson wearing cowboy actor was born Leonard Slye?
- 9 Richard John Bingham is more notoriously known by what title?
- 10 Dendrophobia is the morbid fear of what?



Answers inside back cover

Card Craft 1

"Is it a bird? Is it a plane?....." No - actually it's a Dragonfly, a willow dragonfly, made at a Workshop organised by Jan, Leader of Card Group 1. Jan is a great one for organising workshops - she likes to introduce us all to new ideas and give us the opportunity to try out different crafts and skills.



The Willow Workshop took place last Summer in Jan's garden, on a beautiful day. Our tutor for the day, Nicki, had previously run Workshops for Fetcham U3A to make 6' garden obelisks, but this time we were making dragonflies or giant willow flowers. Nicki brought the willow we were to use with her and gave us background information about willow, the way it is grown and harvested, and the different colours available. We then spent a very busy few hours making our giant dragonflies and flowers.

A delicious lunch had been prepared for us by Jan, and although originally the workshop had been scheduled to finish at lunch time, members had

enjoyed themselves so much, they carried on after lunch, particularly as Nicki demonstrated a few other "quickie" things to make before she left, including a fish dangling from a fishing line, which was very popular!

Jan has already prepared a Workshop for us for 2014. This time we are all going to have a wooden bowl with removable lid or a wooden wall hanging, and the lid or the wall decoration are going to be quilled with one of three designs - of course produced by ever talented Jan! Watch this space for photos of the results! (I should mention that the bowls and wall hangings are being turned for us by the husband of one of our group, even the husbands don't escape!)

We do actually make cards too! January 2014 began not with a card, but with a paper sculpture hedgehog, but now we start on cards again: always a few cards suitable for men, at the start of the year - so much more difficult to theme than for ladies. Then we move on to cards for every occasion, using a variety of techniques and skills. I think a little bird told me that we are going to do Parchment cards this year, in a big way. Parchment, though a little challenging produces the most beautiful results - I can hardly wait.

Anne

Needlework

We have had a busy year with various projects some of which have been donated to charities. During the year we have made cushions, bags, quilts, table runners and many more, in fact if it can be sewn we will make it. A lap quilt and cushion was given to Keswick Anchor Care Home.



We then had a morning workshop at which we made 16 heart shaped pillows and driver shoulder bags. This was after hearing of an appeal from various hospitals and cancer centres. These are for breast cancer patients

who have had major surgery, to enable them to be more comfortable by placing the pillows under the arm to relieve pressure. They then get to keep the pillows. It was a very productive morning with one member bringing along a delicious cake to have with our coffee. Ours were delivered to Frimley Hospital via a breast cancer patient where they were enthusiastically received. We hope to have another workshop morning soon as it appears to be an ongoing need. We have been asked for pillows in material suitable for men.

We meet every second and fourth Friday of the month in the Waterfield Room at Barn Hall. There are 14 of us so we are currently full. There is a waiting list.

Jan

Fitness and Fun

Why not come
and join us!

Mondays
9.30 - 10.30am
and/or Fridays
10 - 11am



Bridge



Fetcham U3A members play Bridge at St Mary's Church Hall Fetcham, usually twice a month unless the hall is needed for a Church event, and the sessions are organised by Leatherhead U3A.

We play Chicago on the second Thursday and the fourth Thursday of each month from 10am to 12.30pm.

The dates for the rest of 2014 are:

April 10, 24

July 10, 24

May 8 only

August 14, 28

June 5, 12, 26

September 11, 25

(three this month as only

October 9, 23

one in May)

November 13, 27

Annual subscriptions are paid in January and for 2014 this is £18, or £1.50 if paid at each meeting. This includes coffee/tea and a biscuit.

New members, including Associate members are very welcome. The meetings are very friendly and relaxed and there is usually no need to bring a partner. Please feel welcome to come along, meet new friends, and enjoy playing bridge.

If you are interested send Trevor a message via the Contact Point page. This is a joint venture with our friends in Bookham and Leatherhead U3As. Current Group Status: Vacancies.

Oil Painting Workshops

Please see details of our Oil Painting Workshops being held in August in 'What's On!'



Diary of our First Bridge Cruise



In November 2003, some 3 years after I started to teach Bridge, Ann and I embarked on our first cruise aboard *The Black Prince* bound for Madeira and the Canaries, charged with the daunting task of teaching a group of beginners in just 6 lessons.

Here is our diary....

Day 1

Await first recruits, wondering whether they have even played cards before. Fourteen pleasant punters arrive. Relieved to see one likely lad from last night's blackjack table!

Days 2 & 3

They all return. Must have done something right!

Days 4, 5 & 6

Madeira. Make the most of visiting favourite haunts. Visit Porto Santo, small adjacent island. Organise some Bridge in the afternoon.

Tenerife. Only task to find outrageous shirt for 'Tropical Night'.

Maximum budget £5. Accomplish mission but exceed budget.

Days 7 & 8

La Gomera. It is the Rugby World Cup and receiving scores from sons via text messages. Early concerns but France duly humbled.

Lanzarote. Meet niece who lives here and members of home Bridge club on holiday!

Day 9

Group still intact but rougher weather (force 8) presents small inconvenience. Writing on flipchart degenerates to 'cave painting'.

Well done travel pills!

Days 10, 11 & 12

Gibraltar pm. Bridge to organise. Lessons going well. La Coruna. Rain spoils plans to view beautiful city with much history. Make note to return.

Day 13

Heading for home. Final lesson during World Cup Final goes well – especially once result comes through. Use staff discount for generous celebratory champagne. Made many new friends and one or two promising talents unearthed.

Day 14

Southampton. It's raining!

Tim and Ann

Leslie Pitcher Art Lectures - Paintings in 19th Century France

For the past 4 months, 87 members from 9 Surrey U3As have enjoyed 11 Wednesday evenings studying the Paintings & Sculptures of 19th Century France, in a series of Lectures by Leslie Pitcher (BA Cambs).

We started with the Romantics, amongst others the paintings of Delacroix, who once said "Man has in his soul innate sentiments which real objects will never satisfy and it is to these sentiments that the imagination of the painter and the poet is able to give form and life". We then moved on to study 'The French Impressionist Painters', including the works of Manet, Monet and Degas. All three of them have paintings entitled 'On the beach' and it was interesting to compare how each had approached the subject.

Something often omitted in Art studies are the women painters and Leslie introduced us to the Russian artist Marie Bashkirtseff, born in 1859 and sadly died in 1884. She once wrote in her diaries "And I can see nothing... nothing other than painting. If I were to become a great painter, it would be fate compensating me, I would have the right to possess feelings and opinions (of my own). It would be really something." Another of the ladies was Rosa Bonheur whose painting 'The Horse Fair' is magnificent

and one not to be missed. One thinks of Stubbs when horses are mentioned but in my personal opinion this painting by Rosa is far better. Just my personal view.

We continued with studies of Renoir, Cezanne and Seurat before moving on to an in depth study of Vincent Van Gogh including the iconic 'The Starry Night', widely considered his most magnificent work, which had encouraged Don McLean to record his tribute to Vincent which we played and watched as the screen showed many of Vincent's works. It is amazing when seeing his works to see how his style changed dramatically when influenced by Gauguin and others during his very short painting life. In



Vincent's 'Room' it is interesting that there are 2 of everything, well almost, except the bed. 2 windows, 2 pictures on same wall, 2 chairs, 2 jugs, 2 bottles, 2 paintings above the bed, 2 pictures above the bed, 2 pillows and 2 doors. Why?

We do not know. We cannot read his mind at that time and he never said why he did that. It really is sad that such a talent died so young and at his own hand, or not, something which will never be proven.

Our final evening was with Sculptures from the Musee d'Orsay in Paris.

It has been a fascinating 11 weeks and we all look forward to the start in October of the next series by Leslie entitled 'Art of the Ancient World'. This series is split into 2 parts. Part 2 will run in 2015/16. Please see 'What's On' for more information.

Bryan

iPad 2

We are a small group who meet each month to share tips, ideas and suggestions for our iPads. We attended an introductory course run by Malcolm and then formed a self help group.



More and more of us own an iPad and manage a few basic applications, but we know the iPad is much more versatile than this. Each of us has some knowledge but together we are able to gain much more. We share information we have gleaned and trouble shoot problems that we have encountered. We exchange opinions on different 'apps' we

have tried and recommend some 'must have' ones. We have taught each other to take, organise and send our photos, organise our emails, use the contacts and calendar settings to greater effect.

We meet once a month at The Bell in Fetcham, where we use the available wifi and enjoy their coffee. A big thank you to the management there for welcoming our group's use of their facilities.

Our group is now 16 strong and we have no vacancies at present.

Lynne

If you are more sinned against than sinning, if you act more in sorrow than in anger, if your wish is father to the thought, if your lost property has vanished into thin air, you are quoting Shakespeare.

Walking - One Hour

In the space of four weeks we had our muddiest walk to date, and our coldest walk.

The muddiest one was on the west side of Norbury Park, starting at the end of Crabtree Lane, going through Bookham Wood to Crabtree Cottages and back along a straight path to where we had parked our cars. At the time of the recce, the paths were excellent. On the day of the walk, despite clear weather the day before and on the day of the walk, it was extraordinarily muddy. The walk took much longer than expected, but everyone kept their sense of humour, and the autumn colours were lovely, as were the views. We finished by driving to Polesden Lacey for a welcome coffee, scone and sit-down. (The scone aficionados of the group rate the scones there VERY highly, so we do quite a few walks in the Polesden Lacey area.)

Our coldest walk was on the day of a penetrating frost and fog/mist and it was the day we had our Christmas lunch after the walk. The spiders' webs looked wonderful, and many tree leaves were still covered with a hoar frost making them very beautiful. We walked through the west side of Ashted Common, which is becoming another favourite place to go. Many of the oak trees there are thought to be at least 500 years old and are magnificent. The mist over the Earth-

works area looked magical, but my word it was bitterly cold and raw.

There are still a number of walks to explore on Ashted Common which we look forward to doing in 2014. The first walk we did there in the summer took us past the Wishing Tree (which we thought must have a girth of at least 25 feet, as five of us, fingertip to fingertip, could circle it.



We are now trying to incorporate one flat easy alternative walk per month into our itinerary for those who are happiest with a shorter, flatter version of the main walk. In effect, at some point we split into two smaller groups, meeting up again later for coffee.

If you would like to join us, then please do get in touch. We arrange a walk for every Wednesday morning usually mustering at 10.00am for a 10.15am start.

Liz



Points of View

I was dismayed to hear at the last U3A meeting that Fetcham in Focus magazine will now be produced just twice a year due to lack of articles, in particular from group leaders

I for one must admit I am guilty of this, submitting just a few over a number of years thinking I will leave it to others and can I be bothered? Well it seems we should all be bothered or we are in danger of losing the magazine altogether. So come on all you group leaders, let's support something which clearly gives a lot of pleasure and support the team producing it.

Why not ask a member of your group to take a turn to write something, giving you a break and seeing things in a different way, therefore making reports more varied.

Whilst on my pedestal, let's get a 'letter to The Editor' page going by all members. I am sure we all have something of interest to pass on. It could be tips, requests for certain items, moans!!! jokes etc. After all many of us turn to the letters page in national papers and magazines as being of interest.

Tip: Did you know WD40 gets off sticky labels

Jan - Card Craft Leader

Cookie Recipe (from The Globe Theatre)

375g soft butter	525g light brown sugar
150g caster sugar	3 eggs
3 tsp vanilla extract	660g plain flour
1 tsp baking powder	1 tsp bi-carbonate of soda
400g dark chocolate chips	1 tsp salt
(this is easily replaced with nuts)	

1. Beat together the butter, light brown sugar and caster sugar until light and fluffy.
2. Slowly add in the eggs and vanilla essence and then combine the rest of the ingredients until it just comes together.
3. Allow to rest for about an hour, roll into balls and flatten slightly, baking at 170°C until golden.

Cookery

As a change from our usual “Themed Lunch” we had a talk by Gordon Gillett, a friend of John Shinner, the owner of Priory Farm and his wife, Wendy, on the history of the last 50 years at Priory Farm in Nutfield. John bought the Farm in the late fifties and began growing wheat and barley and kept 100 ewes for lamb. Soon he expanded into pig breeding and in the early 70’s Pick Your Own came to the UK. Pick your Own was very successful and after growing strawberries for some years they went on to grow a wide variety of fruits and vegetables on 80 acres. Following a gradual decline in the Pick Your Own market they developed first the plant centre then a coffee shop and a farm shop and in 1990 events and corporate entertainment was included. The three lakes were developed for private fishing and then in 2008 the Discovery Walk was opened by Dame Judy Dench. This continues to grow and mature.



After 50 years of expansion Priory Farm is now in a strong financial position. There is a bakery selling artisan bread together with a new butchery and a craft barn. A Christmas Food Festival was held in 2013 and cookery demonstrations are held monthly. They plan to develop the farm shop and increase their gift range.

It was a very interesting talk and it was fascinating to see how over the years Priory Farm has developed and grown to become the largest garden centre in the area.

Diana

To obtain all information concerning Fetcham U3A please see our website www.fetchamu3a.org.uk

Walking 1

Our first Thursday morning walk was in March 2004 and we have been walking once a month for ten years! An excuse for a celebration! So we met in St Mary's Annexe with everyone contributing a plate of savoury or sweet finger food to create a feast!

Before the food (and wine!) we were so lucky to have Lucy Quinnell from the Fire and Iron Gallery with us. She spoke to us about her passions - ecology, heritage, community and education. There has been much publicity about her campaign to buy Teazle Wood, which is a 57 acre woodland - the last major piece of woodland in Leatherhead, home to many endangered plants and creatures. After a huge amount of work and many contributions and loans, the Friends of



Teazle Wood were able to purchase the area in July 2012. Lucy's accounts of the many problems and issues, as well as wonderful help and support, were quite fascinating. Her enthusiasm, passion and drive shone through - an excellent speaker.

After a very enjoyable finger buffet, we ended our anniversary gathering with a piece of birthday cake and tea. It was a most enjoyable celebration and we hope to walk in Teazle Wood soon.

Jo and Ernie



If you think it is **early days** and clear out **bag and baggage**, if you believe that **the game is up** and that **truth will out**, even if it involves your **own flesh and blood**, if you lie **low** till the **crack of doom** because you suspect **foul play**, if you have **teeth set on edge** at one **fell swoop** - **without rhyme or reason**, then to **give the devil his due** if the **truth were known** for surely you have a **tongue in your head**, you are quoting Shakespeare.

Art Appreciation

We started off 2014 by having a lunch for 11 of us at the Cafe Rouge in Dorking which was very pleasant, as last year we had to cancel our Christmas gathering due to the bad weather.

February saw 11 of us going up to the Greenwich Maritime Museum, for the 'Turner and the Sea' Exhibition. This was extremely interesting as there were a lot of other artist's pictures such as Constable and Willem van de Velde the Elder showing the influences that other artists had on Turner. We were shown his prolific sketch books of his improving style throughout his life. Also shown in the exhibition were the engravings that he had personally done for the public. One Painting that was very interesting was the 'Snow Storm - Steam-Boat off a Harbour's Mouth'. To achieve the full effect of the storm, Turner had the sailors lash him to the mast of the ship for 4 hours. The result shows Turner's skill in brushstroke which contributes to the picture. This was just one of the wonderful paintings that we saw. To get to the museum we took the bus from Waterloo Station thus giving us a lovely view of London from the top deck!

On Wednesday 23 April we will be at the Watts Gallery, Compton, to view the exhibition about John Ruskin.

On Wednesday 28 May there will be a visit to the Veronese Exhibition at the National Gallery.

On Wednesday 25 June there will be an In- House meeting at my house.

Jenny

Tip for Digital Radio

Our Local Radio Station "BBC Radio Surrey" went digital recently, and I found that by pressing the Autotune button the signal was not picked up as it was supposed to do, although it picked up immediately on a new Digital Radio I have just purchased.



On contacting my radio helpline, I was advised to go into the menu and press the reset option and then scroll through the stations and there was Radio Surrey. I then had to reset all my preset channels and any other settings but can now enjoy my favourite programme on my Digital Radio. BBC Surrey also transmit on 104 to 104.6 FM. An excellent gardening program is broadcast every Sunday from 9am to 12pm called "Dig It"

Mary

Quiz Answers

- 1 – Robin Knox-Johnston
- 2 – All the vowels appear and in the correct order
- 3 – Table Tennis
- 4 – Flippers
- 5 – Guys & Dolls
- 6 – La Paz, Bolivia
- 7 – A Lurcher
- 8 – Roy Rogers
- 9 – Lord Lucan
- 10 – Trees



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

Editor this issue:	Judy
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