

Volume 12 Issue 2 - October 2014

# Fetcham In Focus

## U3A



*The Newsletter of Fetcham University of the Third Age*



## Chairman's Column

Welcome to our October issue of the Newsletter. Our Editors have asked me to thank everyone who submitted articles, following our request to all of our members to support us with items of interest. Keep up the good work!



The pull out yellow section "What's Going On" has been updated on all forthcoming events to enable you to plan your diaries.

At the Monthly Meetings the relevant organizer reminds the members of imminent functions, theatres, outings and information on new and existing Groups, and also when you can register your name on the lists. If you are unable to attend the Meetings, please telephone or email the relevant organizer to put your name down on lists.

There are only two Newsletters a year in April and October, and as not everyone is available to attend the Monthly Meetings we intend to send out by email "Newssheets" in between to all our Members, including Associate Members, to give you all reminders of the opportunities available to you.

It will soon be time for our Annual General Meeting and Renewals of Membership. The notice of the AGM and renewal papers will be emailed or posted (as you have elected) by 1<sup>st</sup> October, so if you have not received these by the time you have your October Newsletter, please contact our Membership Secretary Tony by telephone or email.

Enjoy the interesting articles and please keep the "What's Going On" section to hand so that you do not miss out on all your U3A has to offer.

**Mary C**

**Thursday Morning Walking Group** - after 12 years Jo and Ernie who have led this group, planning and leading all the walks, are “Hanging up their Walking Boots”. The Group Members will miss their cheerful devotion and careful planning of the Walks and below is a letter from one of their members.

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This is to say an enormous THANK YOU to both Jo and Ernie from one very sad Thursday morning walker. The time and effort you have both put in over the last 10 years has been quite remarkable.

Your camaraderie, friendship and cheeky personalities will be thought of every time I go for a walk. To never ever again watch Ernie devour a sticky toffee pudding is something that I am now having treatment for. To never again share a passion with Jo for scampi and chips is tearing me apart. Wait a mo', I must just wipe away a few tears.

You both deserve the break from all your hard work. So to Jo I personally award the title of SACF (Scampi & Chips Forever) and to Ernie STPF (Sticky Toffee Pudding Forever).

Well done to both of you and thanks for leading me astray sometimes, but mostly in the right direction. Everyone will miss your input.

My best wishes and love to you both. **Ann**

### Savoury Finger Nibbles

These are deliciously easy to make and prepare in advance, and are suitable for serving with drinks, or at bridge gatherings etc. Pre-heat your grill to high.

Take one chilled ready-made pizza (make your own if you must) and cut it into bite size or two-bite size pieces. Lay the pieces on your grill pan.

Heat and cook under the grill until all those lovely runny cheesy bits are dripping over the edge, and topping is golden brown. Remove from grill, put on plate and serve (with napkins as they could make your guests' fingers messy).

**Note:** the reason for cutting the pizza into bite-size pieces before you cook it is so that with all the drips down the sides it looks as though you've been slaving in the kitchen for ages – which you haven't - and that's good.



## The Tall Ships and Others



We set off for a 5-day trip to see the Tall Ships in Falmouth Harbour at the end of August making a stop at Salisbury, to have lunch and see the cathedral and other historic buildings, before continuing to our hotel in Newquay.

We explored the Eden Project coming face to face with one of the Tessoraus family together with its offspring in the rainforest dome. Most of the children took it all in their stride, but some were not sure and hid until it had departed! It was disconcerting to be confronted by a huge – assumingly full sized – replica, with a long swishing tale which could easily knock you off your feet! There was a man inside working a computer with the eyes as screens, so that he knew where to go, when to turn and who to tackle.

Travelling on to Lanhydrock, a perfect National Trust Jacobean country house belonging to the

Agar- Robartes family, it had the feel of a wealthy but unpretentious family home. The formal parterre gardens were beautifully planted and well tended.

The Tate St Ives does not hold a permanent collection but the exhibition changes three times a year. The Barbara Hepworth Museum was a unique experience and offered a remarkable insight into the work of one of this

country's most important 20th century artists. Sculptures in bronze, stone and wood are on permanent display in the garden of her home. The maze of cobbled streets were fascinating to explore. A day was not really enough, but it whetted the appetite for a repeat visit in the future.

Then – the Tall Ships at Falmouth. A privately chartered boat took us around the ships berthed at the Queen's Wharf in Falmouth Docks, a crew member giving a running commentary on each one as we approached. We were lucky enough to be taken to the mouth of the River Fal to see the Mercedes under full sail. Young people from all over the world get involved to learn new skills and set sail for the voyage of a lifetime with no sailing experience required. There was also a boat specially adapted for the handicapped.

We had the rest of the day to discover Falmouth.

On the homeward journey we spent a couple of hours exploring Exeter, lunching and then boarding the coach for our last visit to Sherborne, one of the most beautiful towns in England with its medieval buildings, superb Abbey and two castles. All the shops in the small town are individually owned.

I saw a poster against a certain supermarket trying to build a superstore in the town which would damage the trade of the small shops. I hope they win the battle!

**Winnie**



## General Knowledge Quiz

- 1 What is the name of the statue in Brussels that is nicknamed 'Brussels oldest citizen'
- 2 What is one tenth of a Bel
- 3 Which metal is also known as Wolfram
- 4 From what flower are Vanilla pods obtained
- 5 Who was the last person to be held prisoner in The Tower of London
- 6 Which European Capital city lies mainly on the island of Zealand
- 7 Kahlua liqueur has what flavour
- 8 What rank of nobility comes directly below an Earl
- 9 Which novel opens with the line "The great fish moved silently through the water"
- 10 What is the name of the largest castle in Wales

Answers on page15

## One Hour Walkers

The spirit of generosity is alive and well in the One Hour Walking Group. During a period of enforced absence for me, walks have been led by other members, some of them leading walks for the first time, and some more than once. Only one walk needed to be cancelled which, as we walk every week, was a fine achievement by everyone. Huge thanks go to Brenda, Teresa, Jenny B, Anne, Peggy, Margaret W, Margaret S, and Molly's husband (he led a walk due to Molly's own enforced absence). Their walks were well-supported by other members.

We have welcomed several new members recently which has been lovely, and two of them (Anne and Margaret S) have led walks. We are still trying to arrange one walk each month which is suitable for those who would like to stay on the flat and do a shorter walk, while others who are able can do a longer walk in the same area, with all meeting together afterwards for coffee. It is unfortunate that not many places lend themselves to fulfilling both criteria so we tend to repeat old favourites, though with the changing seasons there is always something different to see and enjoy.

At the time of writing we are making preparations for our 2nd birthday walk and lunch. The walk will be around Papercourt Lake near Ripley, a very peaceful spot, which has a sailing club, an angling club, many waterfowl, and blackberries!



The photograph was taken on a lovely walk between Denbies Vineyard and Westhumble with coffee and cake afterwards at Denbies. It was the first time we had walked through the vines when they had an abundant crop of grapes on them – previously we have walked there in winter or early spring. We are now looking ahead to our autumn and winter programme, hoping that the weather is kind to us on walk days and we can wallow in the autumn colours.

## Pilates



We are planning a beginners group, starting after Christmas, the class would be on Thursdays in Bookham at 2.00, following on from our existing class. We will be having a trial session in November so that you can see if it suits you.

All equipment – mats etc – are provided. No fancy clothing is needed; just wear loose clothing, and remove shoes.

Cost is extremely low - £7 a session - payable termly.

If you are interested, Contact Hugh or [pilates1@fetchamu3a.org.uk](mailto:pilates1@fetchamu3a.org.uk)

## French Conversation Groups' Party

This year the three French groups held their annual Bastille Day celebrations on the evening of July 14<sup>th</sup> in the Pastoral Centre.

We began by endeavouring to work out familiar French phrases by studying definitions posted around the room while enjoying an apéritif of Kir Républicain.

We then sat down to a delicious meal of French food and wine and participated in two more quizzes deciphering French idiomatic expressions and unscrambling letters to name French cheeses.

Prizes were awarded to the winners and we rounded off the very successful evening with a lively rendition of 'La Marseillaise'.

### Lesley





## Jazz Appreciation

We meet most months of the year and I endeavour to find a mixture of swing era music which incorporates the music of our generation and the wonderful library of jazz albums which have survived despite the world of Rock and many things thereafter. This includes people such as Bill Evans, George Shearing, Stan Getz, Wes Montgomery and the orchestras of Ellington, Goodman, Artie Shaw, Count Basie and many others.

Personally being a musician I have this fear that as time progresses it will be more and more difficult to access true melodic tunes such as the albums produced by Ella Fitzgerald, Barbara Streisand, Peggy Lee, Shirley Horne and others.

It is quite significant, in my opinion, that this year's John Wilson Orchestra Prom based on Kiss me Kate was only broadcast on radio, the television version being preserved for airing at Xmas. Into the bargain the orchestra was reduced in size from 79 I believe, to around 49, and the whole effect being to produce a musical on stage with a much smaller sound behind. This has sparked comments from some critics in somehow downgrading the magnificent output of John Wilson over the past 10 years in resurrecting musical arrangements from classic films which had been thrown away.

The point I am trying to make is that whilst in themselves the tunes in question do not produce jazz, the chords on which they are based give a wealth of material for improvisation, with many varied avenues. The more up to date modern music is often so basic and can often lead to more boring repetitive solos.

However, I digress, this is supposed to be about our Jazz Appreciation group - but giving you a list of what we play and by whom is frankly a very tedious exercise. Suffice it to say we would welcome new members - I try to incorporate items of particular interest - in particular concerning local jazz clubs and their recent artistes.

I always provide a few solos on my grand piano and fortunately have a wealth of experience on which to call. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at my house at 7.30 pm. Why not give us a whirl?

If you are interested contact Roy





## Needlework Group

Having made and delivered 38 heart shaped pillows to Frimley Hospital for breast cancer patients, we are well on our way to making 40 girls dresses for an orphanage in Africa. These are made out of pillow slips, and a few of us at needlework have really enjoyed making them, with lots of people donating some very nice ones.

We have our own projects on the go as well, one of which is a Christmas wreath (never too early to start Christmas projects) made up of 12 heart shaped cushions the size of a pin cushion, as well as other fun things.

We are a group of 14 like minded ladies who meet in The Barn Hall Waterfield room on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 9am to 12 noon.

**Jan**



## Wine Group 5

We enjoyed a memorable wine trip to France for our June meeting. After an early start at 7 o'clock, the 16 seat minibus from Hardings collected us, bound for Ashford, the Eurotunnel departure point. The crossing was fine, nobody felt sea sick during the 30 minute trip, arriving at Calais to a bright sunny day, we headed for the village of Ardres.

We had time for a welcome coffee and then a stroll round this pretty Norman village before the short coach journey to the restaurant for a 5 course meal and wine tasting. Starting with a sparkling champagne style wine. Guy B our host, explained why he had opened a wine business in this region and used this restaurant for the meal and tasting.

In the dining room Guy gave an introduction to the wines, not only from this region, but from across France, that

we could enjoy. Before each course was served he gave a brief description of the wine to accompany this, grape type, region and price. The meal and wines were superb.

Then back into the coach for a trip to Boursot's wine retail shop to stock up for the return journey to UK. Prices are so much lower in France due to the reduced taxation on a bottle. A leisurely trip back to the Eurotunnel and home to Fetcham.

A truly memorable experience for our 12 group members plus 4 from other groups to make up the 16 required for a full minibus. Cost around £70 per head including transport, 5 course lunch and 7 sample wines. A really enjoyable day.

**Bob**

## Vegetable Gardening 1



Members have been full of inspiration for the growing season after four fascinating visits over the summer well organised as always by leader Liz.

In May we travelled to Partridge Green in Sussex to see Barry Newman's very different allotment. A leading figure in the fruit, vegetable and flower world, Barry has found innovative ways to grow all our favourite, and less familiar, produce in a small area. We picked up lots of useful tips.

It was off to Loseley Park near Guildford on a damp afternoon in June for a tour of their organic vegetable garden. Sadly a number of beds have been grassed over and there is now limited companion planting (where plants are specially grown to deter nasty bugs and encourage good ones). Loseley's gardeners also got some helpful advice from more knowledgeable members.

Closer to home in West Horsley was the fascinating July visit to Grace and Flavour, a community garden and allotments developed by local people over the last five years in the neglected walled garden adjoining Dene Place Nursing Home in Ripley Lane. Members of the co-operative tend the plots in return for some of the produce, some is sold and 10% is given to people with no access to fresh fruit and veg. They have a web site and visitors are welcome on Thursdays and Saturdays.

On a hot afternoon in August we all enjoyed a tour of the walled kitchen garden at Titsey Place, near Oxted with new head gardener Rod Jones. The abundant and colourful beds were a wonderful example of companion planting. The garden has also maximised space by vertically growing soft fruit against the walls. We learnt a lot, and also went in the restored Victorian greenhouses.

## Veronica

To obtain all information concerning Fetcham U3A please see our website

[www.fetchamu3a.org.uk](http://www.fetchamu3a.org.uk)

## Exploring London: a novice's experiences

**I**n February I joined Exploring London Walking Group 2. I have enjoyed the slow unfolding of hidden gems - an ancient church whose very shape reflects the history of our country since the 12th century; turning a corner to find a garden peaceful and fragrant; a vista of St Paul's created by a narrow alley way which focuses the eye on the soaring dome with its golden cross. Wandering has become a special pleasure - pausing to look at an ancient cherry tree bursting with pink blossom against the granite grey of an old church and the pale blue of the February sky; glimpsing a skyline silhouetted by old and modern landmarks; and those companionable conversations getting to know my fellow explorers.

I have now completed six walks. In addition to many visual and historical treasures I have begun a list of "Unexpected Moments" - those unplanned discoveries and experiences that have made an impact.

On my very first walk exploring Belgravia and Mayfair I was blown away by the golden apse of St Peter's, Eaton Square, a church which rose phoenix like from the ashes created by an anti-Catholic arsonist in 1990. In June we were exploring Highgate Cemetery East and had made our way to the Karl Marx memorial. Suddenly we were surrounded by young Chinese who gave us artificial white flowers while an older man climbing on the shoulders of a man of similar age tied a red banner around Marx's neck. We had stumbled on an unofficial demonstration commemorating 25 years since the massacre in Tiananmen Square. Later

we spoke to this man who introduced himself as Ma Jian. He told us he'd written an article published in that day's Guardian to mark this anniversary. Google his name and you unearth a fascinating story which includes his involvement with the Tiananmen massacre. Ma Jian is a leading Chinese writer whose books are banned in China. We take our freedom for granted with peril.

Then there was my initiation into leading a walk. For the recce I was apprenticed to Joan, who with her late husband Tony had led Group 2 for many years, sharing their love and knowledge of London. Our walk took us to the oldest church in London: St Bartholomew the Great. On a window ledge in the apse we found "The Malta Stone", a Maltese cross engraved on stone by the wife of the Squadron leader of the City of London 600 Squadron, when it was based at Ta'Qali camp in the 1950s. A member of our group grew up in Malta and worked for the commander at RAF Luqa and remembered the visit of this Squadron Leader to her boss. An Unexpected Connection!

At Greenwich visiting the chapel of the Old Royal Navy College, we had been warned to be quiet because there were "examinations in progress". As we entered a soaring soprano voice filled the chapel - we were in attendance at the final recital for a Post Graduate Artist Diploma: even more glorious for being so unexpected.

Am I whetting your appetite? I hope so. We have a few spaces in the group so come and join us.

**Elaine**

## Family History Group 2



The group was formed in the early Spring of 2014. It has twelve members and was already full before its first meeting. At present the group is made up roughly of a third experienced researchers and two thirds either less experienced or totally new to the subject.

All the members have comprehensive projects examining and researching their own areas of family history. Mutual assistance is given to all by members as even those who have several years of family history experience gain from the efforts of the newer members.

On August 7<sup>th</sup> Veronica organised a visit to the National Archives at Kew for members with some from Bookham U3A also in attendance. We were welcomed by a presentation from a member of the Mormon Church Family Search organisation, who explained online access to their records which are the largest in the world.

Everyone found the visit educational and very helpful to their projects and I am sure it will be the first of many excursions to Kew.

**Jim**

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## Croquet

The Croquet section is enjoying a very pleasant season owing much to the sunny weather and also it must be said to the quality of the 3 new croquet courts laid out for us.



In July, and once again in brilliant weather, we played in the inter U3A tournament at Polesden Lacey. Worthy winners were Leatherhead, but Fetcham did pretty well winning two matches and losing two by the merest whisker!

The season ends at the end of the summer but not before we have our light-hearted match with Epsom U3A, which will be followed by an excellent ploughman's lunch in the clubhouse.

**John**



## Explore London Walking Group 4

We have been walking once a month for over 7 years, currently on the second Thursday of the month. For eleven months of the year we do a walk organised by one or more of our members, the majority of times in London, and once a year in the summer we go to a destination outside London but within easy travelling distance.

Each January our meeting date becomes a planning session where we review the previous year's walks, start planning for the following 11 months, and then enjoy a glass or two of wine, a buffet lunch provided by members.

Our full group is 19 strong but through holidays, illness and family commitments not all are able to participate in each walk.

This year we have walked in Spitalfields and Aldgate in East London, Kensington Palace in West London, Covent Garden in Central London as well as Highgate and Kenwood House in North London.

Our summer break was taken exploring Horsham.



Some of the walks for the rest of the year will take in Lambeth, South of the Thames plus Bloomsbury and the British Museum in Central London. As you can see from the photo, last year we had a very sunny walk in Kew Gardens.



Each walk shows us how London has evolved over the centuries with old buildings still in use today and in many cases next door to modern glass and steel structures. The histories of the people inhabiting those areas from very early days still shines through and continuously reminds us of what a melting pot London has been since early Roman times.

**Patricia & Ian**

### Rummikub Group

For those of you who are wondering what Rummikub is all about... It is very much like playing Gin Rummy but instead of using cards you have small tiles which you place on a rack instead of holding cards in your hand. Firstly each player takes 14 tiles and arranges them on the rack. The idea is to place down on the table the minimum of 30 points either in a run or three or four tiles of the same number all different colours, or a combination in order to make up the 30 plus. Each time your turn comes around you take another tile, or if you have the chance to place your 30 on the table you can lay your tiles down instead of taking a tile. The two jokers are adaptable and can take on any number or colour. Once you have placed your tiles down you can add to any of the tiles already on the table. The aim is to get rid of all your tiles by laying them down first thus completing Rummikub.

At last the new Rummikub Group is up and running. Although there were ten people on the list wanting to join the Rummikub Group the efforts to get a date that everyone could come along to join was nigh on impossible. It seems there are just too many other U3A clubs going on. Everyone wanted to come to the initial meeting but all on different dates. In the end one member suggested that she came along anyway and play even if no one else could. On that evening after three games I was three nil down, and that was how it all started.

At the next meeting we had three, the following meeting four, then six, then ten and more asking if they can join.

There is much amusement on occasions, also lots of muttering going on, as yet another 'wrong colour' or 'wrong number' is picked up. Some members are very competitive and others just come to enjoy a friendly game and a sociable evening, so each person can take their pick within which group they want to play.

As the Rummikub tiles take up about a square yard when all placed on the table it limits the amount of players to a table. It does look as if quite soon the games popularity may mean we will need to start a Rummikub 2 Group.

**Jenny**

## Diving in the Danube

An early start for the flight from Heathrow to Munich, and onward by coach to board *ms Serenity* in Passau meant that we could relax on board as the boat started its cruise. The next day we arrived in the small town of Melk which lies in the beautiful Wachau Valley and joined the excursion to the Benedictine Abbey, occupied by monks for over 900 years. It was fascinating, although the steps down were a bit of a challenge to some members! Then, back to the ship to cruise towards Vienna.

Day 4 was spent in Vienna, experiencing the Grand Palaces, baroque castles, squares and monuments in this UNESCO World Heritage Site. A day was not nearly enough to see everything, but at least those who had not been before had a tantalising taster for another visit in the future. In the evening we cast off to cruise towards Budapest, Hungary's capital.

Budapest is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and our captain cruised along the whole of the city so that we could see and photograph all the wonderful buildings. Split into Buda and Pest we had a city excursion to help get our bearings and in the evening we experienced Budapest by Night with a traditional folklore show.

The next morning we went to Lajosmizse, to visit a stud farm and enjoy a tour of the grounds in a horse drawn carriage before watching a spectacular live Pusztá Horse Show. After lunch we sailed towards Bratislava. Another afternoon spent under the awning on the Sun Deck watching the world go by was perfect.

This is an historic city dominated by its castle and unique suspension bridge. Those who were able walked around the Slovakian capital, meeting up with a model of a Napoleonic soldier leaning on a bench on the way! We had time to sample the atmosphere and people in a quieter city which did not have the bustle of Budapest.

The next day we were in Dürnstein, where the remains of the dreadful floods of last year were plain to see! We saw the ruins of the castle which once imprisoned Richard the Lionheart, ambled around the cobbled streets, admired the pretty courtyards and then some of the party went on to sample some of the Wachau Valley's renowned wines.



Then we had to pack for the return journey with many memories and photos to remind us of a fantastic week. It would have been difficult to beat the great food and friendly staff on board. The fact that one of the guests from another group appeared to have brought with them – and proceeded to share with everybody else – a bug which laid low some of our members for a day or two did not appear to have diminished their pleasure in the cruise as a whole, thank goodness!

**Winnie**

## London History Group One

The complicated story of the Duchy of Lancaster



We recently decided to look into the history of the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, which is located between the Strand and the Thames near Waterloo Bridge. There were some interesting questions to answer. Why is the area called the "Savoy"? What is a "County Palatine" and how did Lancashire become one? Why is the Queen also the Duke of Lancaster? Why is this relevant to a part of London?

Henry III was not a good king. So thought parliament and the barons. They considered that he spent too much time in France dealing with his problems there, that he appointed unsatisfactory administrators and that he sought to raise too much money in taxes. They rose against him under the leadership of Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester. Civil

war ensued, in which Henry finally triumphed at the Battle of Evesham in 1245. De Montfort was killed. Some of his lands and his title were handed over to Henry's second son, Edmund Crouchback, who was created Earl of Lancaster a few years later.

Moving on two generations, Henry's grandson had become King Edward III and Edmund Crouchback's grandson Henry had become third Earl of Lancaster. In 1351, King Edward raised Henry's title of Earl of Lancaster to become Duke of Lancaster. At the same time he declared Lancashire to be a County Palatine under the Duke. (A palatine is an area designated to be ruled as if by a king but by someone appointed by the sovereign, in this case the new duke).

The Duke had no sons but his daughter Blanche married King Edward's second son, John of Gaunt, bringing all her inherited lands and wealth with her. On the Duke's death in 1362, King Edward transferred the title of Duke of Lancaster to the Duke's son-in-law who was, of course, his own son John of Gaunt. (Originally John of Ghent, where he had family connections)



By the time that Edward III died, his son Edward (the Black Prince) had already been killed, so the kingship passed to his son, Edward III's grandson, Richard II. Richard died without issue and, after him, the next in line was John of Gaunt's son, Henry IV, who had, of course, already inherited his father's title of Duke of Lancaster.

From that day on, the Sovereign has also held the title of Duke of Lancaster and the income from the Duchy of Lancaster (which includes lands outside Lancashire) provides a private income to the Sovereign (just as the Duchy of Cornwall provides an income to the Prince of Wales).

The chief officer of the Duchy is the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, who is also a minister of the

Government. Administration of the Duchy is in the hands of a deputy. In 2010 the value of the estate was about £348 million and the income to the Queen was over £13 million.

On the subject of the Savoy Chapel, we discovered that it is the only part left of a large complex called "The Savoy Hospital of John the Baptist" which was built in 1512 with money left for the purpose in the will of Henry VII. The hospital closed in 1702 and all but the Chapel was demolished by 1816. The Chapel was rebuilt in 1864 after a fire and refurbishments have taken place since. Its history is well displayed on its walls and a visit is to be recommended when in the area.

**Geoff**

## Answers to the Quiz

|   |              |    |            |
|---|--------------|----|------------|
| 1 | Mannekin Pis | 6  | Copenhagen |
| 2 | A Decibel    | 7  | Coffee     |
| 3 | Tungsten     | 8  | Viscount   |
| 4 | Orchids      | 9  | Jaws       |
| 5 | Rudolph Hess | 10 | Caerphilly |

## Railway Studies

**D**id you know that at one time Leatherhead had three stations? The first was built in Butters Lane, North Leatherhead, when the line was opened from Epsom in 1859. The other two were built in 1867 when the lines were extended by the London Brighton and South Coast Railway and the London and South Western Railway to the present site nearer the centre of town and another adjacent to it. You could find out more about our local and national railway history if you joined the friendly and enthusiastic members of the Railway Studies Group, who are interested in all things to do with railways both historical and modern.

Over the last year or so, we have heard an interesting series of talks from in-house and visiting speakers using slide and video to illustrate historical subjects and later developments including electric traction. Subjects covered during recent meetings have included 19th century Railway Races to the North, Compound Locomotives of Francis Webb, Railway Signalling, "Big Boy" Locomotives of the USA, Main Line London Stations, History of the Underground, Electric Traction, an update on the operation of Merchant Navy Class locomotive "Clan Line" and talks by speakers from the Watercress and Bluebell heritage lines about latest developments.

This has been a very varied programme. During the summer months the Group has visited heritage railways and special events. Recent trips have included the Isle of Wight Steam Railway, the East Grinstead extension of the Bluebell line, the Watercress line, Kent and East Sussex Railway, West Somerset Railway, Swanage Railway, Paignton and Kingswear Railway and a long trip up to the National Railway Museum at York. We also organise rail tours with prominent companies in the business.

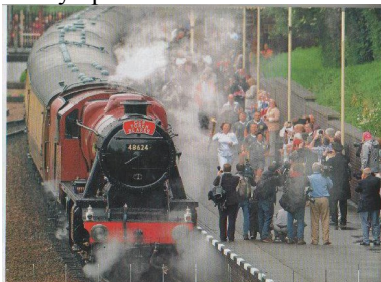
These trips have been great days out for members and their ladies.

Our meetings are currently held on the third Tuesday of the month (except July and August - summer break) - subscription £2 at each meeting to include coffee/tea/biscuits.

Christmas is an important social occasion when we meet for Christmas lunch after the December meeting.

If you are interested in joining this very enthusiastic Group, contact Ken for further information.

Olympic Torch at Leicester



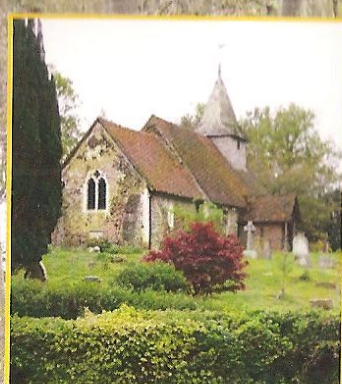
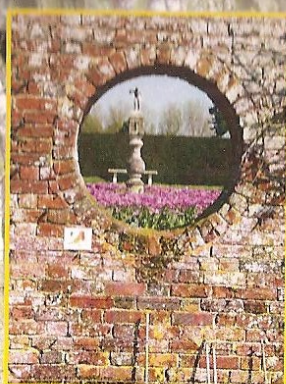
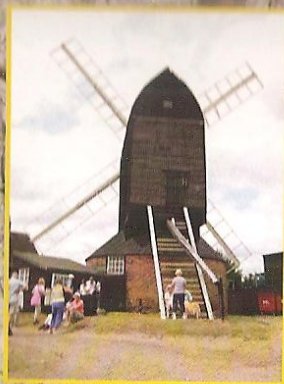
LMS "Black 5's" in Shap

**Editor this issue: Caryl**

**Cover Design: John**

**Articles and items for April 2015 Newsletter should be with Judy  
([newsletter.editor1@fetchamu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter.editor1@fetchamu3a.org.uk)) by the 6 March 2015 please.**





**Walking Groups in Surrey**