

Feetnam In Focus

U3A

Magna Carta



1215 - 2015
800 years of democracy

Chairman's Column

Welcome to our April Issue of the Newsletter and thank you to everyone who has contributed. Without our members forwarding items of interest to our Editors we could not produce an interesting and informative Newsletter.



From the "What's Going On!" section you will see that we had changes to our Committee after the AGM in November. I welcome Chris as my Vice-Chairman who is also our Treasurer for this year before he takes on the responsibility as Chairman in November this year. Kathy is now our Secretary and we welcome Margaret who has been co-opted as a new Committee Member.

Brenda has taken over the job of Welfare Officer from Jo, and Liz the organisation of the New Member Coffee Mornings. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Jo for all her caring efforts in carrying out these functions ever since Fetcham U3A was set up.

Rosemary will now be organising the Raffle at the Monthly Meetings. Please support her with buying raffle tickets but also by contributing any unwanted items for prizes. The funds from the raffle go towards the cost of the Monthly Meeting Hall and helps keep our subscriptions to a minimum.

The Committee wishes you all a good Summer and hope you enjoy all the events we have organized for you.

Mary C

A Lively Meeting



BBC news reader and journalist Nicholas Owen entertained members who packed St Mary's Hall for the February meeting with amusing tales from his 50 years working in the media. Surrey man Nicholas, 67, treated us to anecdotes from appearing on *Strictly Come Dancing* to tales about the Royals.

Starting on the *Surrey Mirror* "I always wanted to be a newspaper reporter" progressing to Fleet Street and in 1981 to the BBC, three years later Nicholas joined ITN becoming their Royal correspondent in the 1990s. During this turbulent time for the Royal Family he covered the death of Princess Diana "a great loss to the country". His favourite royal is the Queen: a high spot was a private chat with her on board the Royal Yacht in South Africa.

"Not bad for a lad who left secondary modern with five O levels."

Appearing briefly on *Strictly Come Dancing* in 2006 (he was voted off in the first week but was quite pleased to go) Nicholas was also invited to take part in *Celebrity Mastermind* where he did well with his specialist subject Railways of the Southern Region. "I've always had a passion for the railways." He also supports Volk's Railway in Brighton, the oldest electric railway in the world, and the Bluebell Railway in Sussex.

Admitting he has been lucky to do jobs he's always loved, he is sad at the decline in local newspapers. "They are a vital part of our democracy, keeping an eye on what's happening."

Speaking to U3As is nothing new to Nicholas: his 92-year-old mother is a member of a Brighton group but he did find it quite daunting talking to them when she was sitting in the front row.

After answering many questions from members Nicholas signed copies of his memoirs.

Veronica H

U3A Bowling



Did you know there is a bowling green in Horsley?

The U3A Bowling Group was started in the 2010 season and continues to provide facilities for U3A members to attend the Monday afternoon sessions from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Bowls and instruction are provided, all you need is casual clothing and smooth soled shoes (the Club does have some shoes to borrow).

BOWLING GREEN	East Horsley Bowling Club St Martins Close, East Horsley (opposite St Martins Church)
OPEN DAY	Saturday 9 May from 10am to 2pm
START DATE	Monday 11 May until 21 September

So come along and enjoy the opportunity to try the sport of Bowling, which suits all ages with the advantage of maintaining regular fitness in the open air and meeting like minded friendly people both in the U3A Group and Club members.

The Bowling Club is happy to invite U3A Bowling Group members to some of their Social Events, so that you can experience all benefits of joining a Bowls Club.

For further information please contact Mary C.

Meditation Course

The first U3A Meditation course was completed last October. The course consisted of 5 weekly classes supported by a booklet of notes and was followed two weeks later by an evaluation meeting.

Feedback was extremely positive and the following quotes were received:

"We all felt.....a wonderful sense of community and friendship"

"The meditation itself felt free of constraint, we were at ease"

"The focus of learning within the group was the importance of loving yourself"

Quiz

Around Britain



- 1 Into what does the Great Ouse flow?
- 2 Where is Britain's most complete set of ancient monastery ruins?
- 3 How much of Britain's coastline is in Scotland?
- 4 Which bird is often seen hovering beside our motorways?
- 5 Which building was described by Prince Charles in 1988 as a 'Nuclear power station in the middle of London'?
- 6 Of which shellfish does Wells-next-the-Sea in Norfolk supply about 80% of Britain's demand?
- 7 What are the principal articles in the 'Shuttleworth Collection'?
- 8 What are housed in the Duke of Wellington's Barracks?
- 9 Anglesea Abbey (nothing to do with the island of Anglesea) is in which English county?
- 10 The longest room in England, a quarter mile long, can be found in Chatham, Kent. For what is it used?

Answers on page 11



For more information regarding the next Meditation course, please telephone Chris.

U3A 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 and fourth Thursday of each month from 10am to 12.30pm.

The dates for the rest of 2015 are: -

May 14 only (none on 28 as in use by Church)

June 4, 11, 25 (three this month in lieu of missed one in May)

July 9, 23

August 13, 27

September 10, 24

October 8, 22

November 12, 26

December 10



Subscriptions become due on 1 January and for 2015 is £21 if paid as a lump sum in advance for the year's meetings or £2 payable at each meeting for those not paying the lump sum. These amounts include coffee/tea and a biscuit. All players must be a member of a U3A but it does not have to be Fetcham.

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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to join us or need more information; or send Trevor Allery a message via the Contact Point page.

Christine H

This is a joint venture with our friends in Bookham and Leatherhead U3As.
Current Group Status: Vacancies

Croquet

On a bitterly cold day in January some 17 members of the Croquet group had a 'Winter get together' at The Woodman pub in Ashted. An enjoyable time was had by all, and some lively discussion ensued – not necessarily about Croquet!

On one thing however we were all in agreement – roll on the last week in April and the start of the Croquet season!



We are a very friendly bunch of folk and new members are always very welcome. For those who may be interested in trying out the game, please contact John or Pam D by telephone or email.

John D

Our Quiz Night in March

The 2015 Quiz Night was another great success, with over 100 members and friends intent on having a fun night out! Some said Bryan's questions WERE easier than previous years but, in any case, a good time was had by all.

The winners of the spring planters were (from left to right)



GEOFF R (also holding one for Margaret T), MALCOLM H, PAT H, LARRY R, JACKIE S, KEITH S, LIZ R, TERRY T and VERONICA T

The History of Somerset House

Somerset House is a well known London landmark standing on the north bank of the Thames by the side of Waterloo

Bridge. The magnificent building we see today is the second on the site, the first being started in 1547.



out of favour, was charged with treason and executed on Tower Hill in 1552. The House was finally completed in 1553 and

passed to the

Crown and occupied by Princess Elizabeth until her accession to the crown in 1558. When Elizabeth died, her successor James I gave his wife, Anne of Denmark the House who renamed it "Denmark House". Then it became a centre of Court life with major reconstruction undertaken under the eye of Inigo Jones.

When Henry VIII died his son, Edward VI, was too young to ascend the throne so Edward Seymour, the boy's uncle was made Lord Protector and Duke of Somerset and he built himself a mansion in one of the most prestigious locations on the Strand. Not that the building was without controversy as a number of chapels and churches had to be demolished. This was unpopular and resulted in a dispute with the Privy Council, and an indictment which led to the Duke spending a short spell in the Tower.

Further reconstruction followed when Henrietta Maria of France, the wife of Charles I, took up residence and added an extravagantly decorated Roman Catholic chapel that caused political concerns. She lived at Somerset House until the Civil War when she fled to France before Charles I's execution.

To be continued

This first Somerset House was a courtyard house with the gate-house on the Strand and a great hall. Unfortunately the Duke fell

Tony C - London History (2)

Card Craft 1

Following last year's two successful Workshops, one when we etched glass using stencils and chemicals and produced our own unique glassware, and the second when we undertook willow weaving, making giant dragonflies or flowers, Jan had set herself a task to come up with something different for this year! Undeclared by the challenge, Jan persuaded Mick, Eileen's husband, to wood-turn for each Card Group member, either a wooden bowl with removable lid, or a wooden wall hanging.



Jan had designed several flowers – fuschias, poppies, or sunflowers, and the members made their choice, transferred their design to their bowl or wall hanging and quilled the design on their chosen item.



Quilling uses strips of paper which are rolled, manipulated and glued to make shapes to produce a design – in this case our flowers. Quilling is an art form dating back to the Renaissance when French and Italian nuns and monks used quilling to decorate religious items – often using gilded strips torn from religious books! More recently in the 18th century quilling became popular with ladies of quality, to fill their leisure time, as it was thought to be not too taxing for their minds or gentle dispositions!

Taxing or not, the members of Card Group 1 had a very enjoyable day quilling, and varnishing the finished products, which look really professional and would be a credit to Italian nuns or 18th century ladies of leisure!

Anne W

Fitness and Fun

The experts say an early demise
Can be averted through exercise
And it's certainly true a good brisk walk
Is so much better than all the talk
Of diets, where a degree in maths
Is needed for plotting the calorie graphs.
A Keep Fit class is an ideal way
To beat the bulge - that's here to stay
To aim for what one sees in books
Slim-line models with sultry looks.
Unfortunately, your average Mum
Is well endowed with hips and tum!



I always swore I'd never partake
In any class where I had to girate
To music, for friends would think me really mad
Prancing around so scantily clad
For exercises are a serious matter,
No time - to breathe - to have a natter
With balls to bounce and clubs to swing,
And enormous hoops - all that sort of thing.
But when I start to exercise
Inanimate objects become alive
And fly through the air, or roll on the floor,
I was in control - but not any more!

Up on your toes - now breathe - now bend,
Stretch those muscles - will it never end?
I collapse on my mat, a worn out heap
And wish and wish I could fall asleep.
But there's more to come - I force a laugh
And dream of coffee and a Radox bath!
Thank you so much for trying to make
Me a fitter person and a better shape,
For fighting hard - a tremendous tussle
To make me aware of every muscle.
You've succeeded, you've made your point,
I now also ache in every joint!!

**These lines, of course, are senseless twaddle,
I found the class an absolute doddle!**

Why not come and see what
it's all about.

Fun and Fitness is on Mondays
and Fridays at 9.30am for an
hour.

We can't promise all the poem
suggests, we just have a bit of
fun and try, oh we try, to keep
fit!!

If you are interested, please
contact Enid B.

This poem was written by Marion K (a member of Bookham U3A) for her WI in 1990, but it's still relevant today!

Getting Older - Wine Quiz

Can you unscramble these words which all relate to wine?



1. EROS _____
2. EXDAUROB _____
3. SHRAY _____
4. UQUOTE B _____
5. PINTO OGRIIG _____
6. PAGER _____
7. TOBLET _____
8. TENBRACE _____
9. LEAFDINNZ _____
10. DENYRAVI _____
11. GLIRESIN _____
12. CANNYHOARD _____
13. ROCK _____
14. RECENTDA _____
15. MOLTER _____
16. ROSEMELIM _____

Jo H

Answers on page 16

HAVE YOU GOT ICE IN YOUR MOBILE PHONE? "ICE"

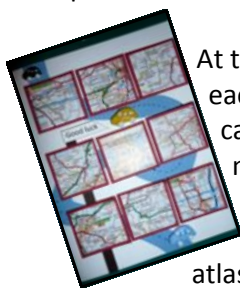
stands for "In case of emergencies" - placing it in the numbers directory in your phone, with the number of your next-of-kin, will tell the emergency services who to contact if you suffer a misfortune. Police, paramedics etc know about this and will check your phone.

Card Craft 1

Jan's Card Group had a very enjoyable Christmas meal at The Grumpy Mole in Betchworth, in December 2014. As everyone was able to come along, it was a good opportunity to all get together. As Card Group 1 is split into two for practical reasons, we do not often all meet up together – except of course for her Workshops, which she is already arranging for 2015.

Following the successful Willow Weaving workshop, we are to have another of these in July – this time making a jolly white snowman, complete with willow hat, all ready for Christmas. Nothing like being prepared early! A request to members to save large tins was taken to heart by Yvonne who had access to catering tins, and these are all ready to be

transformed with pictures from calendars or magazines, but not in a way we have ever seen before. Watch this space!



At the beginning of each year we make cards suitable for men. The first one this year used pages from road atlases, and the results

were very unusual and attractive. Instead of making a birthday card, as most other people did, mine was perfect as a "Good Luck" card for my grandson who was just about to take his driving test. I managed to select areas of Surrey which were relevant to him, and the card was a great success – as indeed was the driving test!

Anne W

'The Naked Island' by Russell Braddon



One of the most inspiring books I read recently was 'The Naked Island' by Russell Braddon. It tells the true story of a young Australian man who at the age of 18 decided he wanted to help the war effort and fight the Germans. This was in 1941. He actually ended up on a ship taking him to Singapore and eventually became a Japanese prisoner of war.

Although this story tells of all his suffering, throughout he maintains his sense of humanity, and was brave and ingenious to the extreme. He endured Kuala Lumpur, Changi jail and worked on the 'railway of death'. An unforgettable story and well worth reading. A lesson for all.

Lorraine D

One Hour Walking

Our weekly walks carried on over winter with only a few needing to be cancelled. For the most part we were able to choose routes that weren't too muddy which is one of the advantages of having so many well-kept National Trust sites nearby, and we spread our wings a bit further afield walking in places such as Milton Heath, Newlands Corner, Wisley Gardens and the Riverside Park near Burpham. We also took advantage of Painshill Park's free opening on Wednesdays last November. We have continued to welcome new members to the group throughout the winter.



We were extremely lucky in the middle of February when we went to Polesden Lacey to be able to see the Winter Garden with the

snowdrops and winter aconites in

gorgeous flowering clumps in the sunshine, and both pictures are from that walk. As well as the cameraman (David C) not being visible, two other members of the group are not shown as they were taking a separate slower route from the main group. Each month on the third Wednesday we now have one 'ordinary' walk, and one walk which is slower, flatter and shorter for those who are not feeling so energetic or are recovering from health-related issues. These slower walks are more popular as the weather improves.



Liz C

Quiz Answers

1. The Wash
2. Tintern Abbey in Wales
3. 80%
4. The Kestrel
5. The National Theatre
6. Whelks
7. Historic aeroplanes
8. The Crown Jewels
9. Rope making
10. Cambridgeshire



Winnie Benford



Congratulations to Winnie B, Publicity and Social Events Organiser for Fetcham U3A since its inception 12 years ago, who was recognised with a Group Travel Organiser 2014 award from Group Leisure Awards Magazine at a ceremony in Birmingham last September. She had no idea that she had been recommended for the award by travel agents with whom she has worked over the years and was astonished to receive a call to attend for interview in London as one of four

shortlisted group travel organisers selected from the hundreds who had been put forward across the country.

The Awards Ceremony proved to be most interesting as it covered all aspects of travel, including coach companies, local historic landmarks, cities, airlines, adventure parks and lots more.

During the evening she was approached and kissed on the cheek by a gentleman who said he had seen her picture on the Group Leisure website and had looked forward to seeing her again. He said he would ring her during 2015. She has no idea who he was and is awaiting his call with interest.

The attached picture was taken in Bratislava and shows a Napoleonic soldier (model of course!) leaning on a bench and discussing the world situation with Winnie!!

To obtain all information concerning Fetcham U3A
please see our website

Art of the Ancient World - a series of Lectures by Leslie P (BA Cambs)

Agamemnons Mask



The session started in October 2014 with an introduction on how ancient art was preserved, different religious/philosophical attitudes, the role of 'convention' in ancient art and why only the Greeks (and following them the Romans) achieved a 'naturalistic' style. We followed this with Egyptian art at the end of the 18th century; the religious/magical function of Egyptian art; old and Middle Kingdom sculpture. Next we moved on to the New Kingdom of Egyptian art and the reign of Akhenaten, sculptures and paintings of Akhenaten's monotheistic, religious, revolution and its impact on art. This was a more naturalistic style. The next session was devoted entirely to the treasures discovered when they opened the tomb of Tutankhamum and how it relates back to the art of the preceding reign of Akhenaten.

We next moved on to the treasures from the Royal Tomb at Ur (with its accompanying human

sacrifices) and reconstructions of Assyrian palaces and friezes, and then to ancient Persian art and the Royal Palace at Persepolis before moving on to the Minoans and the reconstructed palace at Knossos and the friezes and gold-work. We then looked at the Mycenaean gold-work and on to classical Greek. We looked at the ancient city of Athens (especially the Acropolis) then the vase painting and the changes from black to red figures depicting daily life and the nature of Greek society (war, crafts, symposia and the role of women) finishing with small scale sculptures in gold and silver jewellery and coin.

Later this year (starting in October) we continue with Greek sculpture, on to Scythian gold treasures and Etruscan art before moving to the Roman paintings, mosaics sculptures, cameos, glass (and its influence on the Italian Renaissance) and our final session on Ravenna mosaics.

The first half just completed has been a fascinating glimpse into the art of the ancient world and the second 10 sessions promise to be the best Leslie has shown. If you are interested in joining us forms are available through the website or at the main meetings or contact Bryan D.

Vegetable Gardening 1



You might think that wintertime is a rest time for gardeners. Not so in our Veg Group who have started a exciting new venture. We have taken on an allotment plot and divided it between five members.

It had been neglected for a year or more, so was completely covered with grass and weeds, including nasty bindweed in some areas. One end had enormous blackberry canes totally out of control, in danger of taking over both our allotment and the adjacent one.

Its only a month since we took over the plot; the photo was taken shortly after we moved in, and since then we have made massive inroads. The good news is that the bindweed seems to be confined to the edges of the plot, and the soil itself is light and friable - A welcome change to those used to gardening on heavy Fetcham clay!

As well as those taking plots, other group members have come along to help with digging, taming the blackberries, pruning gooseberries, building a compost heap and generally tidying up the plot.

By the time you read this, I am sure we will have the whole plot well under control, and maybe some planting will have started- early potatoes and broad beans for starters. Other allotment holders are all very friendly and have already offered us surplus plants for us to fight over.

Who knows, next year we may be expanding to take on a second plot!

Hugh B

RHS Garden Wisley

is staging a two day Society Day
on the 20 & 21 of June

This is to publicise most of the main garden societies such as - Alpine Garden, Cottage Garden, Cyclamen, Fern, Hardy Plant, Hebe, (to name a few) each will have a stand.

Also the Carnation and Pinks, Delphinium, and Sweet Pea societies will be staging their national flower shows.

Should be well worth a visit

Ballroom Dancing

The Ballroom Dance group now devotes the first Tuesday afternoon each month entirely to sequence dancing.

When most of us started ballroom dancing (which for ourselves was in the 1950s) we were aware there was no sequence dancing as we know it today. When we first saw sequence dancing (in the 1980s) the only comparison we could make was that it was like 'Olde Tyme Dancing' but there were none of the graceful slow and measured steps which gave Olde Tyme dancing its aura of the past. The music would vary from Waltz to Tango to Cha Cha and Mambo and the steps looked quite tricky.

We weren't at all sure about trying it - weren't even sure we wanted to. Our first attempts were made trying to follow the couple in front of us (all sequence dancing is done in a circle with no overtaking!) but this was hopeless as we'd start off following the couple in front when suddenly they'd turn and we'd turn a few seconds later and were totally lost. So we gave up for many years.

However over the last few years when we went to a Saturday night dance, sequence dances were included as part of the routine and we found ourselves sitting out far too much for our liking. So



we borrowed a DVD, which was excellent, and we taught ourselves a few sequence dances. Gradually we introduced what we'd learnt to the others in our ballroom dance group and before very long we were all finding that we were enjoying doing these dances very much.

We found we could get instructions and watch demonstrations on the computer and so widened our knowledge. Our members would return from cruises and tell us of a new sequence they'd learnt and so far we have thirteen dances we can take part in.

We know there are hundreds more but we are very proud of our achievement and we now devote our first meeting of the month, ie the first Tuesday to sequence dancing and thoroughly enjoy it. It seems to be more relaxing than ballroom and Latin and we have lots of laughs.

We all learn at different speeds but we seem to be able to cope and help each other whenever we can, and it's the kind of dancing where two ladies can partner each other.

So ladies if you'd like to give it a go, get together with a friend and come and join us. Don't forget! - the first Tuesday of the month 2pm at St Mary's Hall. We look forward to seeing you.

PS: We haven't given up ballroom and Latin. We're still practising that on the second Thursday of each month - same time, same place.

Alan W

Fetcham U3A Explores London



In 2003 John and Linda T had the idea of setting up a group within Fetcham U3A to explore London on foot. A meeting to set up the group was held on 30th June and the first exploration into our capital city took place on 4th August. It was to the Strand and the Inns of Court. The idea got off to a slow start but a second group was later formed and in 2007 numbers suddenly shot up with the formation of two new groups. Since then another five groups have been formed and total

membership of the groups is today of the order of one hundred and fifty, making this, alongside Wine Appreciation, the two most popular activities of our U3A. Other local U3As have set up similar groups.

The Group Leaders have gained a wide knowledge and experience of leading forays into London so, on 23rd January, they got together to share information and ideas for the future - places to go to and places to avoid, things to do and things not to do, walkers they have lost and those they have found again! The discussions were followed by a convivial buffet lunch.

Malcolm H has placed details of walks he has devised on the Fetcham U3A web site. The address is www.fetchamu3a.org.uk - Events - London Walks. Malcolm has also placed some sixty walks into Dropbox. You can find out how to access this from your Explore London Group Leader or from Malcolm direct.

Surely John and Linda would be mightily pleased with the success of their initiative of twelve years ago.

Geoff R

Scrambled Wine Words



- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Rose | 9. Zinfandel |
| 2. Bordeaux | 10. Vineyard |
| 3. Syrah | 11. Riesling |
| 4. Bouquet | 12. Chardonnay |
| 5. Pinot Grigio | 13. Cork |
| 6. Grape | 14. Decanter |
| 7. Bottle | 15. Merlot |
| 8. Cabernet | 16. Sommelier |

FREE, 24-HOUR LEGAL ADVICE FOR U3A MEMBERS

Simply telephone
FirstAssist 01455 251 500
and quote the following details:
Name The Third Age Trust
Number 70494

*FirstAssist can advise U3A
members on any legal issues,
not just U3A-related ones!*



Editor this issue: Judy O

Cover Design: John W

**Articles and items for October 2015 Newsletter should be with
newsletter.editor3@fetchamu3a.org.uk by 4 September please**

The first war between King John & the Barons after the Magna Carta was annulled

