

Fetcham In Focus

U3A

Cowes •

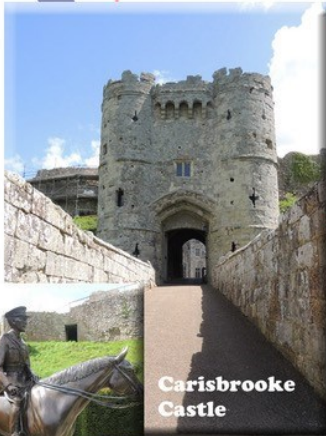


Seaview •



Bembridge •

Sandown •



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Chairman's Column



Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. What a fantastic Summer we've had, now we just need a good Autumn and a mild Winter.

We will be having our Annual General Meeting in November, when I will be passing the reins of chairmanship to John E. I'm sure many will be saying 'great' and a few might be saying 'shame', but a three year term is all that is allowed. At present our U3A is thriving, but Mary H, presently our Secretary, is retiring at the AGM. As you all know Mary is a 'tour de force' and she has been a Committee Member nearly as long as I've been wearing long trousers (she'll hit me for that). We'll never find a replacement for Mary, but we desperately need a Secretary! A Secretary is just responsible for the minutes of our Committee meetings, and is a postal address for all communications. The other works that Mary does can and are being shared out among the Committee.

Please give serious thought to becoming our Secretary, have a word with Mary and I'm sure she'll say that she has enjoyed herself immensely!

Chris W
Chairman

Explore London Group 2

21st Century Canterbury Pilgrims

As the tradition has become for Explore London Group Two to visit and investigate the delights of another city during the month of August - this year Canterbury drew the 'short straw'. Eight members drove in two cars to Canterbury on the 21st August. Mary B very ably arranged a hotel for one night – right next door to the Cathedral! The cost was very reasonable and the hotel fascinating! It was apparently older than the Entrance archway into the Cathedral and was a rabbit warren. Two steps up, short corridor, two more steps up and out on to the flat roof (with views of the Cathedral) and then more steps and we were in our bedroom! I lost count of which floor we were actually on! The floors were very uneven as



From William Caxton's 1483 edition of The Canterbury Tales
Wikipedia



were the ceilings, doorways and windows. The dining room where we had a wonderful Continental breakfast had tables with sloping surfaces due to the floor so one had to be careful where the marmalade was placed!

Of course, following tradition, a river trip was inevitable! However I flatly refused to go in any more punts, so we enjoyed a leisurely cruise on the River Stour in a rowing boat. Not 'row yourself' thank goodness! We had a strong young History student to do all the hard work. There were approximately 15 or 16 people in the boat so it was probably more of a 'barge'. The river winds it's way around Canterbury with many very low bridges or tunnels passing under the roads in the town. These bridges were so low that I am surprised 'health & safety' didn't insist we all wore crash helmets.

The two days were a great success, lots of fun and friendship, eating and drinking. Many thanks to my fellow U3A Explorers for helping to make this another special memory.

Joan R

May Holiday on the Isle of Wight

Fifty members took a five day break "ABROAD" to the Isle of Wight, staying at a Warners Hotel in Bembridge.

We visited Osborne House, Carisbrooke Castle, Quarr Abbey, enjoyed a pleasurable ride on a tractor around the Garlic Farm, visited the Needles, the Battery and finally to watch a Glass blowing exhibition at Alum Bay.

The food at the Hotel was excellent, the staff were great and the evening entertainment was superb, something different every night. After the entertainment had finished those of us who had any energy left proceeded to dance for as long as our legs would let us.

What a break we all had and our thanks must go to our Vice Chairman John E for organising such a successful event. Now we are all home we feel we need another week's break to recover.

Ann C



Jenny's Quiz Corner

1. What is the logo for the 'Lacoste' label?
2. Who's picture is on the back of the new £5 note?
3. What is the highest mental state in Buddhism?
4. Which two film stars married into the Kennedy clan?
5. Which racehorse was kidnapped in February 1983?
6. Who was nicknamed 'The Desert Fox'?
7. Which is the largest organ of the human body?
8. Peter Kay made a video of 'Amarillo' for which charity?
9. What is another name for Wolfram?
10. Which political party was made up of David Owen;

Roy Jenkins; Shirley Williams and Bill Rogers?

Mathematical puzzles

- A. If you add one quarter of the time from noon until now to half the time from now until noon tomorrow, you will get the time.
What is the time now?
- B. How many times does a clock strike between noon and midnight? It strikes only the number of the hour on the hour and it is a normal 12 hour dial. The times are inclusive.

Answers in the Spring.

Picture gallery



Thank you, Sheila



The iPad2 Group hard at work



Entertainment at the Summer Picnic



The Cookery Group hard at work

BLUEBERRIES (ALSO KNOWN AS HIGH BUSH BLUEBERRIES)

Ever thought of growing blueberries? If so, read on! Not only are these bushes very productive but they also have the added bonus of giving superb autumn colour as the leaves change. The berries themselves are high in antioxidants and have been labelled by food gurus as "super fruits". They are expensive to buy in the shops and for environmentalists home grown fruits are not only "free" after discounting initial purchase costs but also come with no carbon footprint.



Ideally you need to start with two or three year old established plants, and for best results buy several different cultivars to ensure heavy yields. The plants are easy to look after as long as you adhere to several golden rules. The most important is the growing medium and to ensure longevity they must be grown in acid soil with a PH of 5.5 or lower. Slightly less important is the watering. Rainwater is always best because of the lime in tap water which the plants hate. Regular feeding with an ericaceous feed throughout the growing season will help to keep the bushes fruiting heavily. Pruning is not usually necessary in the first three years but thereafter remove dead and old wood to encourage new growth and maintain fruiting. They need a sunny position and every year you should mulch with acid material such as pine needles, composted conifer clippings or leaf mould. A dressing of sulphur or ammonia will preserve acidity. Do not use farmyard manure as this is too rich and will damage the fibrous roots.

If your soil is too alkaline (i.e. PH of 7 or more) to grow the bushes in the ground, they are ideal to grow in pots. Starting with a minimum of 12" diameter move them up to pots of 20" diameter as they grow. Use ericaceous compost and keep the compost moist but not soggy. Renew the compost regularly and as before feed regularly during the growing season. Again a dressing of ammonia or sulphur chips will help to retain the acidity and mulching heavily will help retain moisture.

Pick fruits as they ripen i.e. change in colour from green to dusty blue. They can remain ripened on the bush for some time although of course do tend to drop once overripe. They have an excellent shelf life and also freeze well.

One final bit of advice. Make sure you net the bushes once the berries start to ripen otherwise the blackbirds will have a field day!

Brian S

ONE HOUR WALKING GROUP

Our weekly walks have continued throughout the summer despite the heat although we've walked a bit more slowly, done walks shaded by trees, and by walking for only one hour (10.15 am to 11.15 am) we have completed them before the temperatures rose to their highest.



We've had quite a few unexpected surprises along the way. For instance, during one May walk in Friday Street not only did we find masses of bilberry bushes, we also found that the azaleas and rhododendrons in local gardens were at their glorious best, and it mattered not that the bluebells had gone over; we had not expected to see them so it made the walk much more memorable.

Similarly, in June we walked around Wisley Golf Club and came across a newly sown bank of wildflowers in flower (see pic): they had not been there on previous occasions when we had walked that way. We also combined one walk during the month with visiting a garden open under the National Gardens Scheme where we feasted on scrummy cake.

And in July we repeated a walk on Denbies Hillside which this time coincided with the long-established wildflowers being out and swarming with butterflies: some of us were lucky enough to see a White Admiral butterfly flitting from flower to flower.

Each week the number of walkers averages around 8 to 10, and new members to the Group are welcome. Do please contact me if you wish to join us. We try to stay on mainly flat paths and any slopes are tackled at our own pace, however slow that may be, and we always look forward to our refreshments afterwards.

Liz C

Group Leader

Photo by David C

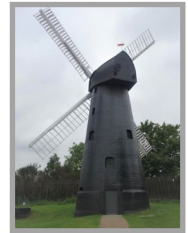
Grand London Prize Quiz Competition

Ian N submitted these questions and as Editor3 I thought that we should tickle members intellect by making it a competition with a prize. Ian tells me that those in the London Explorers groups would find it too easy so I think that they should submit their answers but not be eligible for the prize.

At enormous expense I am donating four bottles of London Porter as the prize.

1. Flour Mill

Q. Where does this flour mill overlook a Georgian gaol?



2. Blue Plaque

Q: This Satirist popularised where?



3. Sorrowful Songstress

Q. Where would you find this sorrowful songstress?



4. Building

Q. What line passes close to this building?

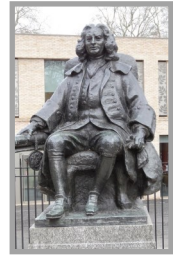


5. Roman

Q. Where will you find this Roman?

6. Good man

Q: This man went from sea to charity. Who is he?

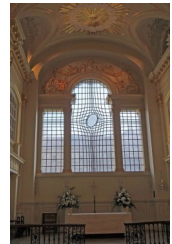


7. Sad man

Q: This gentleman attends meetings ‘as present but not voting’.
Who is he and what is special about him?

8. Church window

Q: Who had a warped sense of humour replacing
the east window of which church?



9. Bridge

Q: Which London Bridge has these brick
piers and mid-river steps?

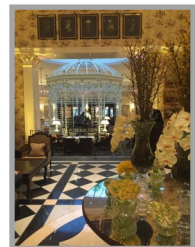
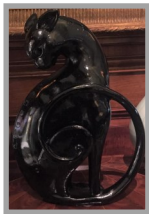
10. Camel

Q: What runs under this statue?
What is the local connection?



11. Cat

Q: Why count on this cat?



12. Where for Tea

Q: A nice place for afternoon tea, but where is it?

See page 11 for details about how to enter

“SOLO WALK ACROSS AFRICA” FRAN SANDHAM

The date was the 24th of July and we THOUGHT we were suffering in the heat until we began to listen to our speaker.

His name is Mr Fran Sandham. Not only is he an author and former “Rough Guides” editor but an adventurer with a capital A.



He told us his fabulous story of how he walked across Africa completely alone with no support other than on one occasion he shared the company of a very troubled donkey.

The walk was from Namibia’s Skeleton Coast in southwest Africa to the Indian ocean near Zanzibar in East Africa.

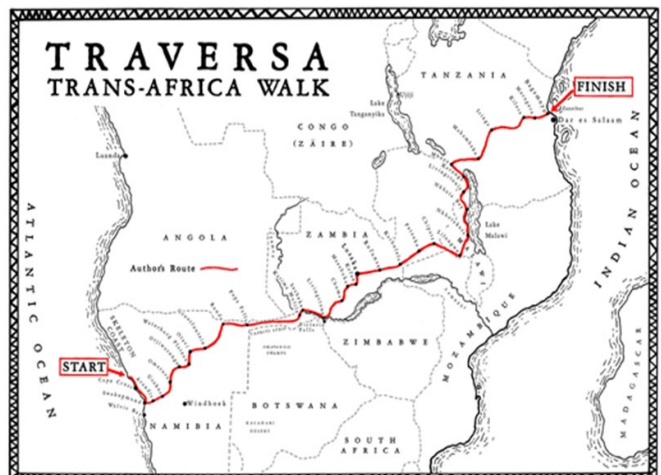
He showed us numerous slides of his journey, suffering from heat, exhaustion, hunger, thirst and many medical problems. On the up side he made many friends and got tremendous help from the locals. His journey of 3,000 miles took 1 year.

On arriving back home he was hospitalised as apart from some health issues he had lost 4 stone in weight.

How’s that for a diet.

What a great afternoon we all had thanks to Fran.

Ann C



London History Group 2



At the first meeting of the new London History Group 2 we set out to discover what we could find out about Sir Richard ("Dick") Whittington. He was born in 1354 to a wealthy land-owning family in Gloucestershire. As a younger son, he stood no chance of an inheritance, which is why he came to London to earn his fortune. We could find no firm evidence whatsoever that he had a cat. The one in his portrait may well have been added later. We thought it unlikely that he would have heard Bow Bells calling him back to London when he was half way up Highgate Hill, over four miles away! (Although there is a stone there which allegedly marks the "spot".) He did become an astute and wealthy merchant and it is correct that he was Lord Mayor of London three times. He did marry Alice Fitzwarren and she was the daughter of an Alderman who may well have employed Dick on his arrival in the capital. But having a feline companion – probably not!

By the way, Dick Whittington's association with a skilful rat-catching cat seems to have begun in a folk ballad of the early 1600's. which later became the basis of the pantomime which we all know and love. It contains many historical inaccuracies. Pepys records seeing a puppetry version of the tale in 1668. So, no cat - unless you, gentle reader, know better!

Geoff R

Grand London Prize Quiz Competition

Please send answers to newsletter.editor3@fetchamu3a.org.uk, use 'Grand London Quiz' as a heading.

Alternatively, please give your answers in a sealed envelope to a committee member at a monthly meeting.

Closing date 4th March 2019

A tie breaker: Spot the difference between two similar items in this Newsletter

In the event of several correct answers, the Chairman will draw the winner from a hat at the 2019 March monthly meeting.

Royal Society Summer Exhibition

As guest members of the Bookham U3A Science group, we visited the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition. Founded in 1660 the Royal Society has been a fellowship of the most eminent scientists, including Christopher Wren, Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and currently some 1800 of the leading figures in scientific research. Its motto 'Nullius in verba' is taken to mean 'Take nobody's word for it!' The appellation FRS is a mark of great esteem. Each year their members present an exhibition of the latest research in science, engineering and technology from universities and research establishments throughout the UK. They and their co-workers are on hand to talk to visitors. This year there were 22 exhibits illustrating work in progress.

The James Webb Telescope is due to be replacing the Hubble in the near future. Twice the size of Hubble and placed some 1.5 million kilometres from Earth, the Webb will enable observation of some of the most distant objects in the universe. Already in orbit is the Gaia that was launched in 2013. One of its objectives is to measure the distances to stars and record their movements to an unprecedented level of accuracy. At the other extreme, was a large walk through replica of the lowest part of the human intestine, the colon, which showed illustrations of the bacteria resident at each stage and explained their function.

If you have an interest in developments in science, I recommend that you put the exhibition in your diary for a visit next July; it will be a real eye opener for you and your older grandchildren.

Full details of the exhibition are at www.royalsociety/summer .

Answers to Jenny's Quiz Corner

1. Crocodile
2. Churchill
3. Nirvana
4. Peter Lawford and Arnold Schwarzenegger
5. Shergar
6. Field Marshal Erwin Rommel
7. The Skin (weight approx 8 pounds – approx 2 sq meters)
8. Comic Relief
9. Tungsten
10. Social Democrats Party

Group meeting refreshments



There seems to be a certain amount of confusion about how much to contribute towards the refreshments at group meetings in members' houses.

The Committee recommends that 50p is a suitable sum, and indeed most U3As think likewise. You certainly can't buy a coffee anywhere now for that price! We know that some members just ask for water or nothing, but the 50p is not just for refreshment, but for the inconvenience, heating and lighting etc.

But in the end it is up to your Group Leader to decide, we can only make this suggestion.

Chris W

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

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|---------------------------|---------------|
| Editor this issue: | John C |
| Cover Design: | John W |
| Insert: | Judy O |

Thank you to all contributors . There were not quite so many as usual but no doubt people are waiting for the next issue in Spring 2019.

Good luck with the London Competition!

Articles and items for April 2019 Newsletter should be with Judy O

by the 4th March 2019 please.



Brighton

