

Volume 17, Issue 2 Autumn 2019

# Fetcham In Focus

U3A



**We will remember them**



**The National Memorial Arboretum**

## Chairman's Column



This Autumn Newsletter brings near the end of my first year as your Chairman. We have had some great speakers thanks to Mary C and a number of well supported events ranging from Richard III and the Memorial Arboretum courtesy of Brenda K to our summer event to Scotney Castle which was organised by Anna B and Mary B.

The goods news is that these 2 ladies have agreed to join the Committee. Anne F has decided not to continue as Secretary so we will need a replacement at the AGM. Any offers ?

The Committee works hard at finding events including theatre visits for you all to enjoy but we would always welcome your suggestions so please let us know your ideas.

John E  
Chairman

## Explore London Group 2

As you may remember Group 2 Explore London for the past three years have graced another City with our 'presence'! This year the lucky winner was Winchester. Thankfully – from my point of view – we did not find the river until the end of our stay!



Nine of us set off in two cars to drive to Winchester on a Tuesday morning, however before reaching our destination we stopped at The Hospital of St Cross. First we had coffee and cake and then had a guided tour of this very old and beautiful building. Our Guide was 'Brother George' and he was a great story teller. The tour lasted well over an hour and was full of myths and legends, too numerous to tell here if indeed I could remember them! The gardens were glorious and all managed by one young man. We left this establishment and drove on to Winchester University where we had accommodation in student halls', all self-contained with single bedrooms and shared kitchen.

Winchester, like London, is full of history. Chosen 'seat' of William the Conqueror and therefore the capital of England. First however after 'settling in' we set off for our pre-booked evening meal at a Cote restaurant in the City. Leaving the University we followed – blindly – the route to the restaurant. Through a wild graveyard, round and round the narrow streets with crooked houses etc. for endless hours it seemed to me! Eventually arriving and then a long wait to be served etc etc. We complained and have been promised compensation. We discovered the next day on examination of a map that the route to Cote from the University was very straightforward and only took half the time!! It was however a lovely walk!

The whole visit was great, the town very historical and attractive and the trip to the Hospital of St Cross was very good. We did find the river at the end of our stay and we sat beside it having a cup of tea before heading homewards.

**Joan R**

## Weekend Trip to Leicester

In May 40 members went up to Leicester, to see amongst other things the last resting place of Richard 111 and learn about the last years of his life.

To set the scene before we arrived at our hotel, we visited Bosworth Battle Field, where King Richard died in battle, and their exhibition centre. The exhibition was very interesting, but, unfortunately it decided to rain very heavily as many members were exploring the battle field rendering them pretty wet! But once at the hotel and with their evening meal to look forward to all was fine.

On our first full day in Leicester we were treated to a tour of Leicester Cathedral, saw the medieval Guildhall and went to the King Richard 111 Visitor Centre. The latter occupies a former school next to the car park where King Richard's remains were found during excavations in 2012. Having seen this site and also having seen where King Richard's remains are now buried in the Cathedral it was very moving. In the afternoon everybody had free time in Leicester. Some discovered the river, some the market and some went 'shopping'!



Next day we went to The National Memorial Arboretum which is a national memorial centre honouring the fallen. It contains over 150 memorials for the armed forces, civilian bodies and voluntary organisations. There is a Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness which holds an act of remembrance every morning. Although spread over

many acres, nearly everybody managed to see quite a lot and found the Arboretum really interesting. There were little trains that transported you around the grounds, when you could jump off (well, descend) where you required. We also had our lunch there. As it was bank holiday there was also entertainment around and some of our members even managed a dance!

All in all I think that everybody enjoyed the visits and the whole weekend and came home having had some fun and gained some more knowledge.

On our way home we stopped in Melton Mowbray and visited the Old Pork Pie Shop. Even though it was a very small shop, we all managed, in small groups, to see how they make their famous hand-made pork pies. Many of us bought products in this shop, which included quiches, cheese



Photo Brenda Keddie

and sausages. After our demonstrations and maybe a cup of coffee, we then made our way back to our coach where we proceeded on our way

**Brenda K**

## Report on U3A Trust Conference and AGM

On your behalf I attended the 3 day conference at the end of August in Nottingham University. The hotel is situated next to the Conference Centre. My journey up was so bad I missed the opening welcome but got it the following morning when it was repeated for those arriving on the Wednesday. Some of the groups were interesting and some poorly presented not least by the lady in charge of communications!

I felt the theme that came out from head office was the need to increase public awareness of U3A with which I concur and the need to increase numbers nationally with which I do not. I feel our numbers at about 535 mean that the groups thrive and people can gain a lot from membership.

I became aware of some very large U3As and I do not feel that size matters. It should be what we can cope with as an organisation and which we can comfortably accommodate.

It was interesting to talk to members of other U3As and hopefully learn from their ideas when they are better than ours.

**John E, Chairman**



## Vegetable Gardening 1

Although a bit of a challenging year with all the weather changes the allotment plants have yielded up some lovely fruit and vegetables.

We also had some very interesting visits during the summer.

### May

**Wisley Vegetable and Fruit Allotments.** Jim Arbury gave the group a guided tour around the plots showing especially the oldest national collection of rhubarb. Second year Horticultural students were there taking part in a one year experience on a plot guided by one of the Wisley gardeners.

### June

**Barry Newman's Allotment at Partridge Green.** A very informative visit by Barry who gives talks in all areas.

### July

**Hale Pit Nursery** in Bookham run by Mike and Ann Hannon. A very experienced delightful couple who had wonderful ideas of how to manage different plots.

### September

**Compton Nursery** near Guildford)

Throughout the winter months we have our monthly meetings where we discuss visits for the following year and how the past season has been for everyone on their allotment.

If anyone is interested in joining the group please get in touch.

**Judy W - Group Leader**

Hale Pit Nursery



## Jenny's Quiz Corner



1. Which date and year was Julius Caesar assassinated?
2. Who was the first female surgeon?
3. What is 'TWIGGY's real name?
4. What was the name of the aircraft in which Buddy Holly was killed?
5. How many letters in the Greek alphabet?
6. What is the winter coat of a stoat called?
7. What are all seven of Snow White's dwarf's called?
8. What do you call a robbery at sea?
9. Who is the founder of Amazon?
10. Which is the most populated city in the world?

## Old favourite riddles

At night they come without being called  
By day they are lost without leaving  
What are they?

What has a mouth but does not speak and a bed where none sleep?

*Answers on page 16*

## Dog Walking Group

The newly formed Dog Walking group has now had four outings. We meet on the third Monday of each month at 2.00 pm. We try to choose walks that can end in a dog friendly café – so that we can have a reviving cup of tea afterwards.



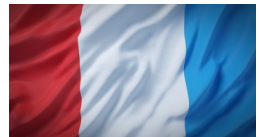
We have been to Hatchlands twice, Polesden Lacey and Sheepheas – and have been very lucky with the weather so far. On our last walk at Hatchlands the forecast was bad, but we set out and luckily got to the dog café just as the heavens opened and it poured – but we were luckily inside by then.

All the dogs get on well and seem to enjoy their time together. The photo shows us at Hatchlands just before the monsoon hit – Ozzy, Phoebe, Mary, Toby and Nellie with their owners and friends.

**Brenda D**

## No storming of the Bastille this year by Fetcham members of French Conversation Group 1.

If you don't know any other date in French history you will know that on July 14<sup>th</sup> 1789, the storming of the Bastille prison in Paris precipitated the French Revolution. The aim was to release the prisoners but in fact only eight were held at the time.



Paris still celebrates this event with military processions and bands along the Champs Elysées, with barricades in place to control the still exuberant crowds. I suspect that many no longer turn out to celebrate the acquisition of power by the people, as much as to see a good show of national prestige. Bastille Day is for many, a good day to remember they are French, with street parties and local gatherings, good food, drink and dancing. Local fire stations organise their own celebrations 'Les bals des Pompiers'.



If we were expats in France how would we celebrate our Britishness? Would it be St George's Day, the Queen's birthday, or perhaps Bonfire Night?

And how do Francophiles mark this Fete Nationale in Britain? The tradition amongst our three French groups in Fetcham, has been to combine for a jolly evening of French bonhomie. On arrival some years ago Keith introduced us to his invention (patented?) Kir Républicain. For those of you who don't recognise this it is his renamed version of Kir Royale. You may have enjoyed this concoction of champagne and crème de cassis or a liqueur of your choice. It seems hardly appropriate to drink Kir Royale on the date when the French were crying for the king's blood; so it acquired its more appropriate name. We in fact substitute sparkling wine for champagne for obvious reasons! While we sip, there have always been wall quizzes on a French theme, generating much chat and, encouraging us to circulate, this being followed by a buffet based as far as possible on French food. We have had some magnificent spreads of pâté, quiche, ham, cheese, baguettes and salads, followed by various *tartes aux fruits*, profiteroles and typical desserts, not to mention a selection of French cheeses, while puzzling over food orientated anagrams.

This event has occurred every Quatorzieme Juilletet, on the exact date, for the past fifteen years with one interruption when we went to Brasserie Côte in Guildford. This was very enjoyable but we missed being able to move around. and meet members of the two other groups. Right from the beginning we have met in the garden of one of our leaders, in turn, and over all these years have only had one evening of miserable weather. On that evening, because we had to move indoors we had our one memorable disaster involving wine spilt on a pale carpet and upholstery. Partly because of this we decided to move to the more neutral ground of St Nicolas Pastoral Centre! The hall has been suitably decorated, by our very agile Leslie pinning up tricolore banners, others decorating tables café style, with check tablecloths and even red, white and blue flowers arranged by Frances. Our background music been good old fashioned nostalgia tracks of 'Café Music, Piaf, Brassens and other old favourites.

And how has our evening ended? With a joint rendering of La Marseillaise, albeit with everyone somewhat conscious of the inappropriate words for today!

This year there seemed to be less enthusiasm, partly because the date fell on a Sunday and people had other commitments. It seemed a natural time to reconsider our celebration. We all feel a little sad that we have reached an end of an era, but perhaps new blood will come up with new ideas?

**Vive La France! Vive Les Français! Vive La République!**

**Anna B**

### **Fetcham's History**

The name Fetcham is derived from the Anglo-Saxon "Fecca's ham" – Fecca's settlement. Fetcham lay within the Copthorne hundred.

Indeed, there is evidence that there were even earlier settlements, with the discovery of Stone and Bronze Age tools and Roman artefacts, as well as three ancient burial grounds.

Fetcham appears in Domesday Book of 1086 as *Feceham*. It was held partly by William the Conqueror; partly by Richard from the Bishop of Bayeux partly by Oswald the Thegn. Its Domesday assets were: 7 hides; 5½ mills worth 17s; 10½ ploughs; 2 oxen; 30 acres (12 ha) of meadow; woodland, herbage and pannage worth 23 hogs. It rendered £10 10s 0d per year to its feudal system overlords per year. Fetcham, therefore, was referenced in the Domesday survey as three manors; one known as King's Manor was probably Fetcham Park; another was given to Odo, Bishop of Bayeux after the Norman conquest. The third was an Augustinian foundation from Merton Priory, at Cannon Court, which Henry VIII dissolved in 1538.

Its small manorial farming community numbered 176 in the survey, but halved as a result of the Black Death in 1349. In the first half of the nineteenth century the population was still only around 370]. In the 1931 census it had reached 1,318, by 1972 it was 7,331 and 7996 in the 2011 census.

**With thanks to Wikipedia**

## Visitors to Wine Appreciation Group 1

We have been very lucky in 2019!! While Donald Trump and his beautiful wife, Melania, were in the UK on their state visit, they found time to spend an afternoon with us ("fake news"?!). Melania and Donald told us a little about his vision to make America great again and his hatred of such news. Then they introduced us to some wines from California. This state produces 90% of all wine produced in the USA and has ideal conditions for growing grapes. There have been difficult times for the wine industry there, including disease and Prohibition. However, since this was repealed in 1933, things have improved with demand growing from all over the world. Our favourite of the four wines we tasted was a Cabernet Sauvignon, with an unusual blend of Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc called "Sunday Funday" the second favourite.



A few months later, our visitor was Nicholas Corfe from Go Brazil. He imports wines from Brazil and he brought eight different ones for us to taste. He told us about the growth of the wine industry in Brazil, mostly in the south of this huge country, with considerable Italian influence. We enjoyed a sparkling wine, two different white wines, four reds and a sweet wine to finish. Our favourite wine

of the afternoon was a red, made from the Teroldego grape, which was new to us all. Nicholas gave us a very informative, enjoyable afternoon.

## Jo and Ernie H



## Visit to Randalls Road Crematorium May 2019

When the visit was first suggested during a meeting of the Science & Technology Group 2 earlier this year there was silence. But when everyone realized a 'volunteer' was not being sought to undertake the whole procedure the mood of the group lightened considerably!



Many of us have attended services at Randalls Road before, but none had ever ventured behind the scenes, so had no idea just how the process of cremation worked. But that was all to change; because on a beautiful sunny spring afternoon nine members of the group were welcomed by a smiling Alex, the Manager, at Randalls Road. She took us round the

back and introduced us to Kevin one of the technicians. They could not have been more helpful, answering all our questions and explaining the cremation process which debunked many of our preconceived ideas.

Once the coffin arrives at the crematorium it is never opened. The coffin and body go as one into the furnace. And there are no flames within the furnace itself; the walls are so hot, over 800C, that the coffin bursts into spontaneous flaming combustion, vaporizing and oxidizing all soft tissues, with the body reduced to bone fragments within 70 – 80 minutes. The fragments are placed in a cremulator which further reduces them to powder. It is this powder which is returned to the relatives.

There is no smell or smoke produced from the process. The filtering system starts with all the vapours passing through the equivalent of a large sealed water tank and on through more and more fine filters and is finally flushed through a web of activated charcoal. The machinery, costing more than one million pounds when installed, has proved to be very effective at capturing all noxious materials; including mercury vapour from old dental fillings.

Metal hips and knees, and anything else metal within the body, are not destroyed during the cremation but automatically separated out at the cremulator process. This 'waste' metal is sold to a Dutch company and all the money given to charity. The exception are pacemakers, which have a tendency to explode on heating, so are removed by the Funeral Director prior to cremation.



Lastly, but much more important than everything else, all the bodies and their remains are meticulously 'tracked' through the whole system, so all relatives can be assured that the ashes they receive really are the remains of their loved one.

We understood how the staff at Randalls Road give a very professional and caring service to the public and are rightly proud of what they do. And we left having had a most informative and, yes, a very enjoyable visit.

**Brian W**

Bookham Science and Technology Group  
Three Fetcham members attend as guests.

### Identify the book from this first paragraph

'Squire Trelawney, Dr Livesey, and the rest of these gentlemen having asked me to write down the whole particulars about....., from the beginning to the end, keeping nothing back but the bearings of the island, and only because there is still treasure not yet lifted, I take up my pen in the year of grace 17—, and go back to the time when my father kept the Admiral Benbow inn and the brown seaman with the sabre cut, first took up his lodgings under our roof.'

Answer page 16

## London History Group 2



At our second meeting, all the members contributed to a study of the life and times of another famous Londoner – Samuel Pepys FRS (1633 - 1703). Pepys was an administrator of the English navy and a Member of Parliament. He rose to be the Chief Secretary to the Admiralty under both King Charles II and King James II through

patronage, hard work, and his talent for administration. His influence and reforms at the Admiralty were important in putting the administration of the Royal Navy on a more professional basis, overcoming the objections of his superiors.

Pepys was born in Salisbury Court, Fleet Street, London on 23 February 1633, the son of John Pepys, a tailor, and Margaret, daughter of a Whitechapel butcher. Pepys was the fifth of eleven children. He went to Cambridge University, and was admitted to Magdalene College. He took his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1664. The following year, at the age of 22, Pepys married fourteen-year-old Elisabeth de St Michel, a descendant of French Huguenot immigrants.

From a young age, Pepys suffered from a bladder stone in his urinary tract. He was almost never without pain. In 1657 Pepys decided to undergo surgery, not an easy option, as the operation was known to be especially painful and hazardous. Nevertheless, Pepys consulted surgeon Thomas Hollier and, on 26 March 1658, the operation took place in a bedroom in the house of Pepys' cousin, Jane Turner. Pepys' stone was successfully removed. However, there were long-term effects from the operation. It may have made him sterile - he had no children, at least, not legitimate ones! He ceased writing his diary due to the deterioration of his eyesight..

On the Navy Board, Pepys proved to be a more able and efficient worker than colleagues in higher positions. He used models of ships to make up for his lack of first-hand nautical experience, and he ultimately came to play a significant role in the board's activities. In 1660, Pepys was made a Justice of the Peace and, in the same year, he was admitted as a Younger Brother of Trinity House, subsequently to be made Master on two occasions. He also received the freedom of Portsmouth.



He was involved in the administration of the short-lived English colony at Tangier. This job required him to meet many people to dispense money and make contracts. Pepys was made a Fellow of The Royal Society in 1665 and later served two years as President. He loved to study mathematics and he worked with Isaac Newton on various problems.

There is no doubt that Pepys was a womaniser and there are many references in his diary to his encounters with the ladies, often recorded in considerable detail in code or obliquely in phrases such as "she gave me of her favours". His diary also shows that he sometimes treated his servants harshly, with records of beatings for misdemeanours, and he was not the kindest of husbands to his wife Elisabeth.

The detailed private diary that Pepys kept from 1660 until 1669 (written in a form of shorthand) provides a combination of personal revelation and eyewitness accounts of great events. From the point of view of London's history, Pepys' diary provides a first-hand account of the Restoration of King Charles II, and it is also notable for its detailed accounts of several major events of the 1660s., Along with the lesser known diary of John Evelyn. It is an invaluable source for the study of the Second Anglo-Dutch War of 1665-7, the Great Plague of 1665, and the Great Fire of London in 1666.

**Geoff R**

### **Pepys' Gambling Question**

Pepys entered in to a correspondence with the greatest mathematician of the day, Isaac Newton, about a question of probability when betting. Which he asked Newton was most likely:

- A. To throw one six at least when using six dice
- B. To throw two sixes with twelve dice
- C. To throw three sixes with eighteen dice

Newton, of course, came up with the answer.....can you?

*Suggest you Google to find the answer, it's too much for this editor!*

## Walking Group 4 – 1 hour walkers



The last week of June saw a departure from our usual Wednesday morning stroll. We had an afternoon walk, taking in two adjacent gardens in West Humble, open under the National Garden Scheme. After wandering among a magnificent display of delphiniums and admiring some beautiful herbaceous borders, we consumed tea and delicious home made cakes, while enjoying the wonderful views across towards Mickleham. Then, after tea, we continued our stroll towards the village and then back towards Denbies.

In the months before and since that midsummer treat, members of the group have led new walks in a number of locations, including Walton on the Hill, White Down and Shere. Old favourites we have also tackled include Old Simm's Copse, Sheepleas, Horton Country Park and Wisley Golf Course.

The weather was kind to us throughout the summer, with very few days when the sun was too hot for us. We enjoyed the bluebells in April and the wildflowers in July and are now looking forward to the delights of autumn walking - crisp leaves underfoot and a nip in the air, with the prospect of a convivial Christmas lunch for the group on the not too distant horizon.

**Anne F**

## Explore London Walking Group 1 August Awayday

For the past six years Explore London Walking Group 1 has hired a minibus and travelled to a new town in August. This year we went to Salisbury, renowned for the Cathedral, its copy of the Magna Carta and "Arundells", the home of Sir Edward Heath.

On arrival our first priority was a caffeine fix, on this occasion at the 15th century Kings Head Inn, now a Wetherspoons, famous for lodging John Taylor, the "Water Poet" in 1623 after he showed the Avon was navigable to London.

Our first stop, after persuading everyone to give up their free coffee refill, was St Thomas's Church to see the medieval Doom painting. Unfortunately, the fresco was in the middle of a major restoration and partly hidden by scaffolding but enough was visible to appreciate the good life in paradise that awaited believers and the miserable prospects for sinners. We then moved to the large Market Square stopping by the statue of Henry Fawcett. He was a liberal MP and a vigorous campaigner for women's suffrage and his wife Millicent's statue was erected in Parliament Square in 2018, the first woman to receive this honour. Part of the inscription on the plinth is in Braille as the MP was blinded in a shooting accident.

From here it was a short walk across the Square to the Guildhall where we stood in the oak panelled courtroom remembering those agricultural workers who were sentenced to transportation to Australia in the Swing Riot trials of the 1830s. This was a time when agricultural workers were protesting at the introduction of farming machinery, falling wages and increased poverty. Threshing machines were burnt across the country.



Behind the Guildhall we found a plaque commemorating Lieutenant Lapenotiere's 37 hour ride from Falmouth to the Admiralty in London with the news of the victory at Trafalgar and Nelson's death on the 21st of October 1805. The horses were changed 21 times on the 271 mile journey at a total cost of £46,19s,1d. The news arrived on the 6th of November and was published in The Times on the same day.

Before lunch we entered the ODEON Cinema, not for a pensioners film offer, but to admire the facade and foyer designed in Tudor style, Its medieval interior has a fireplace with the coat of arms of John Halle who built the original house in 1470.

By now it was lunchtime so back to the Square for what turned out to be a very extended Italian meal. Once fully rested we independently visited the Cathedral Court and other places of interest in the afternoon. Needless to say, the journey home was very quiet!

**Tony and Connie C**

## Jenny's Quiz Corner

### Answers

1. 15<sup>th</sup> March 44BC
2. Louise Aldrich-Blake
3. Lesley Lawson
4. American Pie
5. 24
6. Ermine
7. Bashful; Doc; Dopey; Grumpy; Happy; Sleepy and Sneezy
8. Piracy
9. Jeff Bezos
10. Tokyo – In 2019 census the population was 38 million.

*The answer to question number 10 of the Spring 2019 Jenny's Quiz 'Name the housekeeper in the series Dr Finlay's Casebook' was of course 'Janet'. 'Wud ye like a cup o' tea , Dr Finlay?'*

### Riddles

The stars

A river

### Book

Stevenson's Treasure Island

## 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.

This newsletter with its many photographs may be viewed in colour on our website [www.fetchamu3a.org.uk](http://www.fetchamu3a.org.uk)

<b>Editor this issue:</b>	<b>John C</b>
<b>Cover Design:</b>	<b>John W</b>
<b>Insert:</b>	<b>Judy O</b>

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 2020.

We always confirm contributions. If you do not receive a confirmation of your contribution please check with the Editor.

**John C**

**Articles and items for April 2020 Newsletter should be with Judy O by the 2nd March 2020 please.**



*The Newsletter of Fetcham University of the Third Age*