



'And the next prize winner is'



5th Anniversary



Thursford



'Serious' wine tasting



5th Anniversary



Renaissance Art



The winner
'takes the biscuit'



Norbury Blue



Thursford

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Chairman's Column

Did you miss our Day and, like me, learn about it after the event? Yes, there was a day when we were all meant to celebrate our years, but how many joined in the toast to the First National Day for Older People on the 1st October? The U3A diaries didn't prepare us for it only making reference to the fact it was the anniversary of Muhammad Ali beating Joe Frazier in a World Heavyweight Fight in 1975. The prospects for 2008 are no better, with 1st October noted as the 100th anniversary of the Model T Ford going on sale in the USA. With memory decline an ever present danger I hope we can rely on future U3A diaries to remind us of this important date in the calendar.

Subsequently, after some surfing on the internet, I found we older people have our own website, "GenerationXperience" with its own weblog so the Government knows what we think, commissioned (would you believe) by the Democratic Engagement Branch of the Ministry of Justice - Sounds like something out of Orwell's 1984. Here I learnt that Older People's Day is to celebrate our achievements and the contribution we make to society. What's more there was a programme of events throughout October that demonstrated just that. I missed that too! All these activities were to raise awareness of the choices now available and to counter the negative stereotypes of older people - seems to have a lot in common with the U3A's aims and guiding principles.

However it was not only a Day we could call our own, but a Government Study as well that discovered the over fifties, called, "Gotys" (Getting older, thinking younger) are the happiest they have ever been. It found people were not only living longer, but living differently, they were more energetic and willing to explore new fields and activities. These findings won't surprise you, and perhaps the authors should have spoken to our members first. It also found that the majority of the people aged 55 - 71 reported positive benefits from further learning, a finding that would be endorsed by our own members who now participate in more than 50 Interest Groups and a programme that has provided insights into such diverse topics as the Gurkhas, Houses of Parliament and the Age of Steam to mention but a few topics covered in the past year.

As always the Committee's aim is to build on the success of the past 5 years, with more Groups covering a wider range of activities, with travel to foreign parts and speakers that introduce new and unfamiliar topics. Your ideas and aspirations are important in the programme, so get to know the Committee and tell them how you would like Fetcham U3A to develop in the future.

Tony

Thirties Dance - Seventy one years later

The 'BBC Announcer', in true thirties style, read the statement by Edward, the Duke of Windsor, which was to change the face of the British Monarchy. He then told listeners that the 'BBC' was going over to The Old Barn Hall, in Bookham, Surrey, for a night of dance music and entertainment. Thus we started our Thirties Evening in September.

Although ticket sales had begun slowly they picked up nearer the time and eventually a Thirties decorated hall was host to about 90 people. It was unfortunate that the evening coincided with so many holiday arrangements, but we had little choice on date and had had to take what was available. Tuxedo Junction provided exactly the right music for the period and Vi, U3A's Ballroom Dancing Teacher, got everyone on the floor and demonstrated the Charleston with her son as her partner. Some surprising variations of the dance emerged from those who took part and Vi's energy put us all to shame!

As a change from the norm a cold libation of salmon or ham, with a salad and hot new potatoes, followed by a choice of desserts, tea or coffee was served halfway through the evening and then back to the dance floor to work it all off.

Bryan and Penny had organised a raffle and we ended with a singalong recalling songs from the period, the words appearing on a drop-down screen as an aide memoire.

At the end of a happy evening, the 'announcer' signed off from the BBC and we went home humming the tunes of yesteryear.



I must record my thanks to Geoff the BBC announcer complete with his 30's microphone, immaculate in his evening suit (as they were in those days), Bryan and Penny for the raffle, the ever trusty Food Team of Beryl, Joan, Brenda and June, Rita Wood for the lovely table arrangements and Graham and all those who worked hard decorating the hall. Without them we would have no events. My thanks also to those who had taken the trouble to dress for the period to give the right atmosphere.

We are already putting on thinking caps for next year's event which we hope will be slightly later in the year to miss late holiday arrangements. Please let me know if you would like something special and I will see what I can do to arrange it. These events are organised for you all, so your input and ideas are always most welcome!

Winnie

2008 Programme of Meetings

Lectures & Talks at the Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are held on Tuesdays at 2.30 pm
in St. Mary's Church Hall, off The Ridgeway *

22 January	Life in the House of Lords	Richard Skilton
26 February	History of the Order of St John	Dr Richard Olliver
25 March	New York	Alan Thomas
22 April	Sleeping Dragon (China)	Gill Grange
27 May	Pedalling Through Three Continents	Pam Goodall
24 June	Rowhurst - A House Built of Stories (Fire & Iron)	Lucy Quinnell
22 July	Médecin sans Frontières	'a Field Worker'
26 August	History of Fetcham	Goff Powell
23 September	National Maritime Museum	James Taylor
28 October	Birds and the Countryside at Risk	Roger Suckling
25 November	AGM and Talk - Headmaster Yehudi Menuhin School (*note the AGM is to be held in Yehudi Menuhin Hall)	Nicolas Chisholm

**Associate members should contact Brenda (Membership Secretary)
if they would like to attend any of the monthly meetings**

Other Local Events

4th March	Associate Members' Meeting	2.30 pm to 5 pm	(St Mary's Hall)
8th March	Quiz Night	7.15 pm start	(Old Barn Hall)
8th April	Group Leaders' Lunch	12 noon start	(Fetcham Village Hall)
9th December	Pre Christmas Event	2pm to 5pm	(St Mary's Hall)

**Associate Members should contact Winnie
for information concerning the Associate Members' Meeting and the Quiz Night**

Outings & Visits

14 to 21 September	RHINE IN FLAMES Cruise by coach and boat
12 November	Trip to MAGIC CIRCLE by coach

Contact Winnie

Active & Proposed Groups & Their Leaders

Alpine Gardening	Alan	3 rd Monday at 14:30	V
Antiques & Collectables	Marilyn	3 rd Wednesday at 14:30	F
Art Appreciation	Jenny	4 th Wednesday at 14:00	F
Art – Mixed Media (1)	Margaret	Alternate Thursdays at 10:30	F
Art – Mixed Media (2)	Janet	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays at 14:00	V
Aviation & Technology	Lawrence	Contact Lawrence for details	F
Ballroom Dancing	Enid	2 nd Thursday at 14.00	F
Birds in Surrey	New Leader Required	tba	V
Book Club 1	Penny	1 st Wednesday at 14:00	F
Book Club 2	Liz	Contact Liz for details	V
Bridge for Beginners & Improvers	David	Contact David for details	V
Bridge	Pam (with L'head/Bookham)	2 nd & 4 th Thursdays at 10:00	V
Canasta	Genie	Monday evenings	V
Card Craft	Jan	Contact Jan for details	F
Computing	Tony	As advertised	V
Cookery	Diana	2 nd Tuesday at 12:00	F
Creative Writing	Reg (with Bookham)	Contact Reg for details	V
Current & Social Affairs	Alfred	2 nd Tuesday at 14:30	V
Digital Photography	Leader Required		V
European History	Roger & Gail	2 nd Tuesday at 16:00	V
Explore London Walking (1)	Linda	1 st Monday at 9:45	F
Explore London Walking (2)	Tony & Joan	4 th Monday at 9:45	V
Explore London Walking (3)	Rosemary	1 st Tuesday at 9.45	V
Explore London Walking (4)	Vivienne	1 st Thursday at 9.45	V
Family History (1)	John	4 th Thursday at 14:30	F
Family History (2)	Maureen	3 rd Tuesday at 14.30	V
French Conversation (1)	Anna	1 st & 3 rd Mondays at 14:15	F
French Conversation (2)	Lesley	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays at 14:30	F
Gentle Movement (1)	Enid	Fridays at 09:30	F
Gentle Movement (2)	Enid	Mondays at 9.30	V
Gentle Movement (3)	Enid	Fridays at 11:00	F
German Conversation	Tom	Contact Tom for details	V
Industrial Heritage	Ian	3 rd Monday at 10:00	V
Italian for beginners	Marilyn	Contact Marilyn for details	V
Local History	Lyn	1 st Tuesday at 10:00	V
Mah Jong	Margaret	2 nd & 4 th Thursdays at 14:30	V
Military History	John (Bookham)	Contact John for details	V
Music Appreciation (1)	Bryan & Penny	2 nd Wednesday at 19:45	F
Music Appreciation (2)	Hugh	Contact Hugh for details	P
Needlework	Eileen	2 nd & 4 th Fridays at 10:00	F
Parchment Craft	Genie	Alternate Thursdays at 10:00	V
Play Reading	Geoff	1 st Thursday at 14:30	V
Renaissance Art	Leslie - Bryan, (admin)	Contact Bryan for details	P
Scrabble For Fun (1)	Janet	3 rd Wednesday at 19:30	V
Scrabble For Fun (2)	Jane	Contact Jane for details	V
Singles Dining	Genie	Contact Genie for details	V
Spanish Conversation	Anna (with Bookham)	Alternate Mondays at 14:30	F
Sunday Lunch Club (1)	Geoff	1 st Sunday at 12:00	F
Sunday Lunch Club (2)	Fred	3 rd Sunday at 12:00	V
Walking (1)	Jo & Ernie	4 th Thursday morning	V
Walking (2)	Margaret	3 rd Monday at 09:30	V

Active & Proposed Groups & Their Leaders (cont)

Wine Appreciation (1)	Jo & Ernie	3 rd Tuesday at 14:30	F
Wine Appreciation (2)	Geoff	3 rd Tuesday at 14:30	F
Wine Appreciation (3)	Chris & Rosemary	2 nd Tuesday at 19:45	F
Wine Appreciation (4)	Bob /David	2 nd Wednesday at 20:00	F
Wine Appreciation (5)	Ian & Madeline	Contact Ian or Madeline for details	F

Abbreviations: F = Full, P = Proposed, V = Vacancies - (situation as at 13 December 2007)

Would group leaders please keep Enid informed of any changes to the information given above.

To join a group or proposed group please contact the group leader or speak to Enid, Groups Co-ordinator
and to suggest new ideas for groups speak to Enid, Groups Co-ordinator.

Note that **Bookham** U3A would welcome Fetcham U3A Members to the following Groups where they have vacancies

Art (4) - Painting Workshop; English Literature; Flower arranging; History - Classical Period;
History of Music; Listening to Music; Opera (2); Science; Session for Songsters; Woodwork.

Contact Christine at Bookham U3A

Collective Wine Tasting

On 16th November, members from all the wine groups assembled in St Mary's Hall for a presentation and tasting by Advintage wines. The evening was a great success thanks to the organisation of the Group Leaders who provided savoury snacks to accompany the wines.

Advintage Wines, of Wimbledon, is run by two very enthusiastic importers, Marleen Stumpel, from the Netherlands, and Axel Gim-sing, from Denmark. They presented ten wines to tickle our pal-lets, with a price range from £5.00 to £23.50 per bottle, mainly from France and Australia with one or two from Spain and Argen-tina. As is usual we tasted the whites then rosés and finally the reds.

Taste is a very personal matter but a consensus emerged on our table regarding our favourites.

WHITE - Of the *whites* we preferred a **2005 Sancerre, produced by Domaine Gerard Millet in the Loire Valley**. This Sancerre was produced solely from Sauvignon Blanc grapes The initial impression on the nose was lemon and grassy but the taste was honeyed countering the crispness of the citrus. It was £11.75 a bottle. Ideal with seafood, fish and white meat.

ROSÉ - Perhaps we expected Provence, the home of **rosé** wines, to produce our favourite rosé, and we were proved right. This wine was produced by **Gasquet-Pascaud, in Château de Pampelonne**. At £5.50 per bottle for the 2006 vintage, it was silky, well rounded and very quaffable. It was produced by a blend of Cinsault, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Rolle, Syrah, Tibouren and Ugni grapes. Great with grilled fish and white meat – or on its own on a hot sunny day in the garden when you can dream of the Mediterranean.



RED - Out of the four **reds** on offer we eventually settled on **The McRae Wood Shiraz produced by Jim Barry in Clare Valley, Australia**. At £20.00 per bottle it was not cheap but not unexpected for a 2003 vintage. This was a full bodied Shiraz with concentrated fruit, spices and a velvety tannin. It had great length and a smooth finish. Ideal to accompany steaks and lamb chops.

These were selected by a straw poll on our table - the original hardened (*sorry I should say discerning*) drinkers of Wine Group 1 – so they may not suit everyone, but, in our opinion, well worth trying. You can obtain the phone number of Advintage Wines by asking any Wine Group leader.

John



Internet Social Networking – a teenager's view

There are now a myriad of social networking sites each competing for more members, and therefore advertising revenue, than the next. **Msn messenger** was undoubtedly the predecessor of these, and there was a time when it was the only viable way for teenagers to communicate quickly using the internet. It was based upon the premise that you could add your friends' email addresses and then when they signed in you could type messages which would then be instantly received. This relatively simple concept revolutionised teenage communication, no longer was there a need for phoning around all your friends, usually multiple times having to relay answers. Instead you could add them all into an instant messaging conversation. However msn did have its flaws, though recently upgraded you could not previously leave messages to those offline, rendering them un-contactable if not already signed in.

Myspace was the next craze, where after creating a homepage users thrive on collecting virtual "friends". Though this is an excellent way of expanding your social circle, when the link between you can be tenuous or even non-existent you are likely to end up with an inverse proportion of virtual friends to real ones. Myspace had the advantage over msn that you could leave messages or comments whether or not the person was online as well as browsing the profiles of acquaintances or musicians, adding songs to your profile if you were so inclined. While this time wasting is not productive even for teenagers, who have far less responsibility than the average adult it is a growing problem among the older generations with the Guardian estimating that "Studies have shown that up to £130m a day in productivity is lost because of the sites, with **Facebook's** British members spending an average of 143 minutes logged in". In the case of Myspace as the name "social networking" suggests it was a concept created for adults that was appropriated by the teenage masses as an excellent way of communicating.

However the aforementioned Facebook started off as an inter-school network and gradually expanded to a worldwide phenomenon which now has around 5 million regular users in the United Kingdom alone. Facebook takes knowing your friends activities to new extremes, everything they do on the site is logged on your homepage in constant updates. One of Facebook's innovations is being able to "tag" people in photos, meaning every photo taken of you will appear on your homepage, the downside being that every embarrassing photo ever taken will miraculously reappear for the world to see. Currently, Facebook is the most popular site for those in my age bracket and with its many applications ranging from the whimsical to the useful it is easy to see why. You can also take advantage of its more practical side such as planning an event and notifying the guest list.

Though some claim the advent of the computer age is making us a more isolated society, unable to communicate if not virtually, social networking sites often help bring people together. When meeting new people phone numbers are no longer exchanged; with all the frantic rummaging for a pen and an awkward recital of digits that entailed, now all you need is someone's name to find them from anywhere in the world and that is a testament to the digital age we now live in. So log onto www.facebook.com and make some new friends.



Laura
(grand-daughter of Tony)



Epsom Hospital Closures

In August this year Tony our Chairman, talked to you about the above closures and gave you the opportunity to write to the Hospital Trust and your GPs. Some of us, I believe, have received replies, but it is still difficult to know exactly what is happening.

I have been in touch for some time with Chris Grayling, the MP for Epsom, and I wrote to him at the end of November asking him for an update on the situation so that I could pass on this information to you. With his permission I am quoting from his reply to me dated 28 November 2007. Mr. Grayling had met the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Trust the previous Friday. He says that although there are many rumours in circulation at the moment there have been no service cuts at Epsom and he has been assured he will be told if there are to be any. He said:

"The management is more upbeat about A & E than they have been for a long time, saying that they believe its future is now pretty secure. However, the maternity issue has not gone away, and they are still planning to consult on options, though probably not until the Spring. They are focusing heavily on the safety issue given the new Royal College guidelines which affect St. Helier, and may yet affect Epsom. One issue is that the number of births at Epsom has nearly risen to the 2500 limit after which maternity units are governed by much tighter guidelines. Campaigning may have to restart in the New Year."

In December he told me that Adrian White was involved in detailed discussions with the Trust and Adrian's plan is to inject a substantial sum into modernizing the hospital and for it to become part of a charitable trust in partnership with the NHS

Pam

NEW FREE BUS PASS

A new free Bus Pass Scheme will be introduced from 1st April 2008 which will enable residents aged 60 and over to travel free on off-peak local bus services anywhere in England, rather than at present where this concession applies only to the local authority area. This concession will also apply to eligible disabled people of any age.

Free bus travel for those eligible will be from 9.30am to 11pm on weekdays and all day at weekends and on bank holidays anywhere in England.

Those residents who already have a free Bus Pass will be contacted automatically by the local authority and will need to supply a photo ID and complete an application form. Those people who are eligible and who do not at present have a free Bus Pass should contact the Council Offices at Pippbrook, 01306 885001 or the Leatherhead Help Shop. The new Smart-cards will be issued shortly before 1st April 2008.

The scheme will not be available on scheduled coach services or on trains or trams but many of these operators offer some reduced price concessions already.

Everybody who is eligible is urged to take advantage of this new scheme and who knows, Fetcham U3A could perhaps start a 'Bus Pass Group' devoted to traveling to far flung places of interest using the free passes.

Perhaps there would be a competition to see who could travel the longest distance using this scheme!

Trevor

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Central Surrey Region

Central Surrey Region held its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary celebration at Denbies Wine Estate on Thursday 29th November 2007. Arthur Browne, our Regional Contact, and I invited all the U3As to set up stalls showing the highlights of their activities. Meanwhile, Winnie had been organising publicity and inviting the Chairman of Mole Valley District Council to open the exhibition. From the early hour of eight o'clock we set about arranging the displays and twelve U3As came along with display boards, computer projectors and screens and examples of their art and handicraft. It all fitted together beautifully, even allowing sufficient floor room for the Banstead Circle Dancers. At 11am Councillor Jean Pearson opened the exhibition and gave a stirring speech and a pat on the back to all involved. Jean and her husband Tony live in Capel and they were delighted to hear that Arthur is hoping to guide the formation of a new U3A in the village and Jean will be an active supporter of this new venture.



Shortly after the opening Councillor Jean Steer, Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, arrived at the invitation of her local U3A and both Jeans then walked around the various stalls talking to members. We were very pleased with the attendance and by the end of the day around four hundred and fifty people had seen the exhibition. The visitors to the Fetcham stall were given copies of our newsletter and application forms if they lived in our locality. We had just enough of each to last the day and we feel that quite a few new members will be likely to join in due course. Other people were discussing new opportunities for U3As and three other locations besides Capel have now been identified.



The success of our local U3As and the friendly social atmosphere that attracts new members all the while is borne out by the figures; in Mole Valley there are five U3As already with over two thousand members and this is over 10% of the population over sixty. Our founder Eric Midwinter has set us the impossible target of 10% of the eligible target, "no longer in full-time employment", but we must be reasonably close to the target in Mole Valley.



Overall this was a lovely day when members enjoyed showing off their work to the public and each other. We certainly felt inspired to hold another exhibition, but not for two or three years when we look forward to showing off even greater activity.

Ian

Fetcham 5th Anniversary Celebration Exhibition

The 5th Anniversary Exhibition at St Mary's Hall on 16th October was an impressive display of Fetcham U3A's activities and provided an opportunity to find out exactly what the groups did.

The diversity of interests, the quality of the crafts, the scope of the studies, and the depth of the research were impressive and true to the ideals of the U3A. Our founders would have been proud of us. Our visitors were equally inspired and 21 new members joined, a record for this time of the year, making a total membership of 477, and all looking forward to the next five years.

Tony



More pictures on page 1 & 16

Antiques & Collectable Group

Another year and another interesting series of topics for our members to enjoy. Below lists the diary dates for the coming year:

20 February - Antique Engravings and Prints.

19 March - A talk and slide show on "Saints Cosmas and Damian - the Medical Saints in Art". Members outside of our group are invited to attend (£1 entry fee). The talk will be held at The Pastoral Centre, St Nicholas Church, Bookham at 2.30 pm. Would you please let me know in advance if you will be attending (in case there are any alterations to this event)

9 April Antique Books.

21 May Goss and Crested China.

18 June Coins.

16 July Visit to an auction.

August No meeting

17 September Collectables - What to Collect.

15 October Visit to the V & A.

19 November Wooden Furniture.



If any member has a collection which our group could view and discuss I should be delighted to hear from you.

Marilyn

Art Appreciation Group

The 1st of November saw a party of 8 members at Somerset House for the Malmaison Exhibition. This consisted of objects collected by Empress Josephine, Napoleon Bonaparte's first wife for their house Malmaison. The collection was sold to the Hermitage in St Petersburg after her death and had been brought over to London for the Exhibition. There were some beautiful pictures by artists such as Gabriel Metsu (1629-1667), fabulous dinner services that featured the paintings that they owned, magnificent jewelled clocks made by James Cox 1772 a sumptuous court dress worn by the Empress, letters and accessories which gave a fascinating insight into her lifestyle.

At the beginning of December a party of 4 of us went up to the National Gallery for the Renaissance Siena, art for a city Exhibition. This was particularly interesting as most of us had been to Siena and had been inspired by Leslie's lectures on the Renaissance. We were very interested by The Story of Griselda by the Master of the Story of Griselda (1490-1500) as it was in 3 pictures - part 1 Marriage, part 2 Exile and part 3 Reunion. Each picture featured the same people about 4 times in different positions in the painting which told the story of Griselda's life with the Marchesa her lover and husband. We were also interested in the pictures of the Saints such as St Jerome, St Augustine St Benedict St Bernadino and St Catherine of Siena as so many of them have featured in Leslie's lectures. There were paintings by Benvenuto di Giovanni, Raphael, Beccafumi and a relief by Donatelli amongst other artists.

We have just had a very interesting DVD presentation on John Everett Millais given by Bryan. He gave a wonderful description of Millais' life and some 20 of the paintings that we will see when we go up to see the exhibition on January 11th 2008. We will meet at 9.00am at Leatherhead Station so that we are ready to catch the 9.26am train to Waterloo.

Jenny

Aviation & Technology Group



Memorable dates experienced in September were, a visit to the renowned Shuttleworth Collection of meticulously preserved vintage aircraft in flying condition at their annual "Pageant" near Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. Typical of the earlier years of aviation shown statically in the hangars, are a Bleriot X1, Bristol Boxkite, Deperdussin Monoplane, Avro Triplane, constructed of wood stringers, wire and irish linen also a D.H.88 Comet twin



propeller racer, which was built for the 1934 Air Race from the U.K. to Australia, of which one Comet won. These early built machines, due to their rarity and vulnerability are only flown when the most favourable weather conditions apply, mainly in fairly still air and a relatively clear sky, but are a joy to see when they putter overhead at a leisurely 30-40 knots and give an insight of aviation as it was in its infancy. This time however, the afternoon flying display gave a varied show of early types from the Avro 504, Sopwith Triplane, Hawker Hart, Gloster Gladiator to Miles Magister, Hurricane, Avro Anson and 1930's german training aircraft as the Bücker Bestmann and Fokker Stieglitz amongst others.



Also the following weekend, a party of us attended the "2007 Hovershow" at Lee on Solent, where we explored the Hovercraft Museum, both inside and outside of the hangars of what was once HMS Daedalus and seeing the unique display of



historical hovercraft, the invention of Christopher Cockrell in the 1950's, which once formed this growing industry, centred around the Isle of Wight and Southampton. As well as inspecting the two large SRN4's outside and within, which only a few years ago were still operating on

cross Channel routes, carrying up to 250 passengers and 33 cars each, there was a display of the smaller SRN6's gas turbine engine starting up and subsequent lift-off to hover on its rubber skirt. All in all an excellent museum with video presentations, some hands-on participation, including smaller hovercraft giving joy rides on the Solent, next to the Museum's slipway which leads down to the beach. We sat and ate our lunch on a grassy bank overlooking the Solent with views to the Isle of Wight, when Britain's latest hovercraft, the BHT 130, newly built at Bembridge, I.O.W. for Hovertravel's Southsea/Ryde service suddenly approached from the east and made several demonstration passes, showing off its manoeuvrability and relative quietness. Altogether a worthwhile visit and the event is repeated each year although dates can vary.



Another highlight in October was our 2nd Annual Pilot's Forum, which we extended to include Bookham and Leatherhead U3A's and was attended by 25 persons. 3 pilots participated giving talks on their flying experiences, illustrated by Power-Point presentations and the audience were able to ask questions directly afterwards. An impressive presentation was made for a start by Roger Partridge who learnt to fly whilst still a student with some financial help from his father who owned his own Aircraft and business. After completing his Private Pilot's Licence at Elstree in a Miles Hawk Trainer, Roger later decided to fly with a fellow student, both aged 17, to the Brussels World Expo in his father's twin-engined Miles Gemini. The two of them packed a mini-scooter into the luggage department of the Gemini and flew from Elstree to the nearest private airfield to Brussels. After an overnight stop, they travelled from the outskirts of Brussels to the Expo by mini-scooter. We were then shown film of various European trips his father took him by single-engined Miles Messenger, sometimes flying over the snow-covered Alps to such places as Locarno, Switzerland (Lake Maggiore) Venice and Tours, France.

Ted from Leatherhead U3A (ex BA Viscount/BAC111 Capt) gave a graphic lecture on Instrument Flying, explaining the different instruments used from the initial earlier basic cockpit to later jet aircraft and showing a simulated category 3 "blind" landing at Gatwick Airport as well how to correct a spiral "graveyard" dive in an aircraft.

Finally, Martin, a current pilot with past experience of flying the DC3, Dart Herald, Boeing 707 and DC10, the latter two with Laker Airways, gave us an insight of how lucky one can be if you happen to be in the right place at the right time and how he has managed to travel half way around the world in his chosen occupation of aviation, for which he is still very passionate.

Lawrence

Bridge Group

(Leatherhead, Bookham & Fetcham)

The meetings will be held as usual at St. Mary's Church Hall on the second and fourth Thursday mornings (unless noted otherwise below) from 10 am to 12.30pm. Rubber is normally played on the 2nd Thursday and Chicago on the 4th

The year's subscriptions are due on 1 January 2008. £12 lump sum in advance for the year's meetings or £1.50 if paid at each meeting for those not paying the lump sum.

Please always sign the attendance book. Newcomers should make themselves known to Frank (from Leatherhead U3A) on their first visit, leaving their name, address and telephone number, together with the name of your U3A, in the event of him needing to make contact.

Meeting dates for 2008

24 and 31 January (note not second but fifth in lieu due to panto in hall)

14 and 28 February

13 and 27 March

10 and 24 April

8 and 22 May

12 and 26 June

10 and 24 July

14 and 28 August (note August again included this year)

11 and 25 September

9 and 23 October (note 23 may have to be changed if half term)

13 and 27 November

11 December

Pam



Computing Group

We've had two interesting meetings in the past quarter. In October Peter Cutler shared his secrets on how to avoid trouble with computers. He emphasised the importance of keeping the anti-virus up-to-date, using an effective firewall to ward off intruders and a spam filter for protecting against suspect e-mails with regular backups. He mentioned that slow start-ups can be improved by going to "start-up" and consigning programmes to the waste bin. This allowed the programme to be reinstalled if removal caused any problem.

In November the meeting began with Tony showing us what we can expect from surface computing in the next few years. Then Hugh reminded us of the power of the "right click" in providing numerous options without recourse to the toolbar and the benefits of using Foxit to open pdf files. Later in the evening, in response to a question, Michael demonstrated how to download clipart pictures into a word document and embed the pictures in text in various ways. As always web sites were exchanged and problems discussed and solved during the tea break.

The next meeting will be in February

Tony

(Computer hints on page 15 - Ed)

Cookery Group

At October's meeting our theme was "Apple Recipes" both sweet and savoury. Here is a very quick recipe for using up some of those apples lingering in sheds and garages.

apple mousse

Ingredients: 1-lb Bramley Apples
2 ozs Sugar
1 Lime Jelly
¼ pint Double cream



Method

Peel, core and slice the apples thinly.

Cook slowly with sugar in 4 tablespoons water until soft.

Puree and cool. Make jelly to ½ pint with boiling water, cool but do not allow to set.

Lightly whisk cream, whisk in cooled jelly, fold in puree.

Set in mould and decorate with sliced glace cherries, grapes, or cream – if desired and ENJOY.

Diana

Current & Social Affairs Group

Our Group has been running for nearly two years now, and we have 12 registered Members and at most meetings we have 6 to 8 people. We meet at 2.30pm., on the second Tuesday of each month, and discuss a particular topic at each meeting. Recent topics covered, have included:



**The Situation in Pakistan,
The Role of the Services in a Free Society,
Care of the Elderly, Educational Standards,
Migration into the UK, and
Hospitals.**

At each of our meetings, we normally agree the topic for discussion at the next meeting, and the Group Leader and others use the Internet and Newspapers to get background information, data and opinions which are debated and discussed at length.

Our Members have wide and diverse opinions, which means that the debates are always lively, and interesting. Our collective awareness of what is happening locally, nationally, and internationally, is increasing, as we exchange information, and learn from each other.

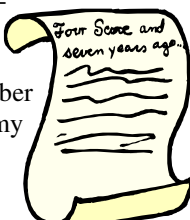
Alfred

Family History Group 1

Since the last newsletter our group has spent a day at the Public Records Office in Kew and a final day at the Family Records Office in Islington. Sadly the FRO is closing and the records will be gradually removed to Kew. In the meantime the only easily accessed records will be via the internet.

We have held monthly meetings in members homes when we share information on our personal family researches. One of our members has returned from her first meeting with her father's family in Italy-all as a result of a long and determined research into her family history! Genealogy can be very rewarding - once you know how! Perhaps you saw our display at the 5th anniversary exhibition in October when you would have discovered a bit about me and my family!!

John



Explore London Walking Group 1

Our August walk took us away from London and down to Alresford in Hampshire. We enjoyed looking at this pleasant market town and its long established watercress beds, trout streams and colour-washed houses.

September's walk was over the course of the River Tyburn and October took us via the Metropolitan Line to Harrow-on-the-Hill where we saw the impressive Harrow School and the spot where Byron wrote some of his poetry whilst a pupil.

In November we went to Guys Hospital near London Bridge Station-which brought back fond memories for one of our members who trained as a nurse at Guys. She was able to give us some personal reminiscences as we looked at the Hospital Museum. We then walked through Bermondsey, Surrey Docks and on to the Brunel Museum which is housed in one of the original buildings belonging to the Wapping Tunnel which was his first major engineering feat.



As is now our tradition we did an "out of Town" walk in December, catching the 479 bus to Guildford (almost filling it!). We had guided tours of Holy Trinity Church and George Abbot's Hospital before walking down to the River Wey. After lunch we explored the Castle, saw the family home of Lewis Carroll and spent an hour in the Museum before catching the bus back to Fetcham.

Linda

Family History Group 2

Having reached a high proportion of Bookham U3A members in our group as they hadn't one of their own Neville has opened one for them but we have decided to continue having joint meetings. In future these will be held in the Waterfield Room at the Old Barn Hall, Bookham on the third Tuesday of each month except August. The meetings commence at 1.30pm for beginners and 2.30pm for the more experienced. The newcomers will stay on for the main meeting and some of the experienced members will be available earlier for guidance. We had reached the stage where we had had to stop taking in new members and there was already a long waiting list.

Having stayed together newcomers will retain the advantage of support and advice from the more experienced and also we will not have had to lose the friends which we have made during the past two years. Another advantage of having a larger meeting place is that we will be able to use some of the instructional DVDs available from the U3A Resource Centre.

Maureen & Neville

French Conversation Group 1

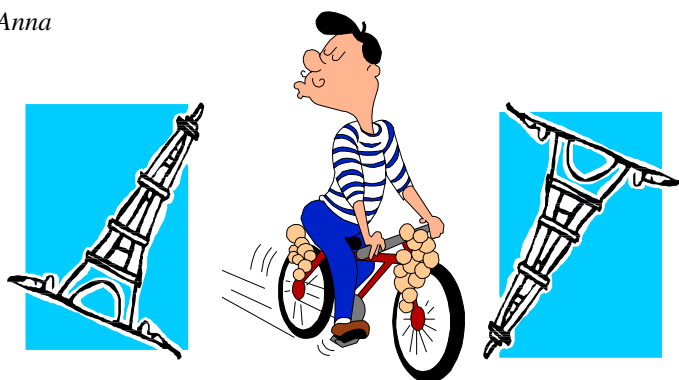
I found this poem many years ago written in a school exercise book, belonging to a then very young French friend. He now commands an anti warfare ship in the French Navy. Merci à Benoît.

Bonne Année

Bonne année à toutes choses, au monde, à la mer, aux forêts.
Bonne année à toutes les roses que l'hiver prépare en secret.
Bonne année à tous ceux qui m'aiment et qui m'entendent ici-bas.
Bonne année aussi quand-même à tous ceux qui ne m'aiment pas.
Rosemonde Gérard [1871-1953]

Happy New Year to all things; to the world, to the sea, to forests.
Happy New Year to all the roses which winter in secret nurtures.
Happy New Year to all on earth who love and understand me.
And Happy New Year anyway to all those who don't!
English version by me

Anna



French Conversation Group 2

Members have continued to prepare fascinating talks on their adventures here and abroad. Nicolas Sarkozy's attempts to modernise the French economy and the resulting strikes have provided topical material for discussion. At our Christmas social we sang French carols and read French poems. This is one of the dramatic ones:

Après la Bataille

Mon père, ce héros au sourire si doux,
Suivi d'un seul housard, qu'il aimait entre tous
Pour sa grande bravoure et pour sa haute taille,
Parcourait à cheval, le soir d'une bataille,
Le champ couvert de morts sur qui tombait la nuit.
Il lui sembla, dans l'ombre, entendre un faible bruit;
C'était un Espagnol de l'armée en déroute,
Qui se traînait sanglant sur le bord de la route,
Râlant, brisé, livide et mort plus qu'à moitié,
Et qui disait: «A boire, à boire, par pitié?»
Mon père, emu, tendit à son housard fidèle
Une gourde de rhum qui pendait à sa selle,
Et dit: «Tiens, donne à boire à ce pauvre blessé.»
Tout à coup, au moment où le housard baissé
Se penchait vers lui, Phomme, une espèce de Maure,
Saisit un pistolet qu'il étreignait encore,
Et vise au front mon père en criant: «Caramba!»
Le coup passa si près que le chapeau tomba,
Et que le cheval fit un écart en arrière.
«Donne-lui tout de même à boire», dit mon père.

VICTOR HUGO

Bonne année à tous!

Lesley

Military History Group

(with Bookham)

This popular group started life in January this year with a brief history of the Crimean War given by David Williams of the Association of that name and since that date has met regularly each month. The emphasis so far has been on recollections of World War II with two of its members giving their impressions of their times with Coastal Forces in the North Sea and in Burma respectively. The latter speaker even brought along a captured Japanese flag and sword! Talks have been given by visiting speakers on subjects ranging from service in the Home Guard through life in a German POW camp to the campaign in North West Europe. For our first trip sixteen of us went by minibus in October to the Imperial War Museum.

Next year continues in the same vein until in April four of our members have volunteered to talk about their National Service experiences for 15 to 20 minutes each -one of our three lady members will let us know what life was like in the WRNS as a regular.

A day out is planned in June to a military history location in Hampshire and in July, in the spirit of the U3A's "modus operandi, we shall have our first presentation prepared "in-house"- on the History of Anti-Tank Weapons.

John

Music Appreciation Groups 1 & 2

Grand Jazz in Bookham

What do you get if you take a grand piano, sixteen U3A members and a jazz pianist? "A memorable occasion", "an evening to remember", were just two of the comments at the end of the Jazz evening held by Music Appreciation Group 2 as a combined event for both MAGs.

Members were held spellbound as member Roy, a professional jazz pianist, gave us a sequence of jazz items, starting with a scratchy old 78, CDs of jazz from all eras, and, most impressively, playing live on his grand piano to illustrate styles and techniques. Thanks again Roy.



MAG2 currently has vacancies and welcomes new members. We meet in members' houses on 1st Wed at 7.30pm. Usually the host(ess) provides the musical program, loosely based around a theme of their choice. All styles of music are encouraged, from classical to jazz.

Hugh

Renaissance Art Lectures

We are now at the end of the first part of the Renaissance Art lectures by Leslie (BA Cambs). These cover the period from 1480 to 1580.

53 U3A members from Fetcham, Bookham, Leatherhead, Ashted and Epsom have been enthralled by Leslie's talks. We have concentrated on the works of Leonardo Da Vinci, Raphael and Michelangelo and the main problem we have is to decide who we think is the greatest. With regard to painting alone, perhaps Raphael would be most people's choice but when you take into consideration sculpture then decisions might change.

Many of our members will have seen Raphael's work when visiting Rome or Florence as some of us did last year after Leslie's first lectures.

Michelangelo's work of course is all over the Sistine Chapel ceiling or again in Florence. Leonardo's strength was the fact that he studied the anatomy of the human body so was able to get his drawings and paintings anatomically correct.

I am not going to state in print who I think was the greatest, other than to say I never did think much of the Mona Lisa, however he does excel with his studies of horses and the human torso and one must remember who designed the helicopter and submarine over 500 years before any one else. He just couldn't build them.

El Greco said that he thought that Michelangelo couldn't paint and was a better sculptor and looking at some of his paintings of women, I must agree. Michelangelo himself seemed to go more on the sculpture side as he always felt that in any piece of marble was a great statue waiting to get out and that he was the one to do it.

With the Sistine chapel Michelangelo and Raphael were both working there at the same time and there was animosity between the two as Michelangelo always felt that Raphael was pinching his ideas so had the rooms shut up at night. However I feel sure that money changed hands and Raphael did get to look at Michelangelo's work when he wasn't there.

But to be true I am not too worried if anyone copied someone else, their works live forever for humble people like us to stand in awe of great masters.

We all look forward to part 2 of Leslie's lectures starting after Christmas on 16th January 2008 with 4 sessions on Venetian art including Titian, 5 sessions on Renaissance art in Northern Europe, then finishing with Holbein's portraits and should anybody else like to join us there will be spaces available as there are a few members who have other commitments and are unable to attend part 2 of the course. Just give me a call

Bryan

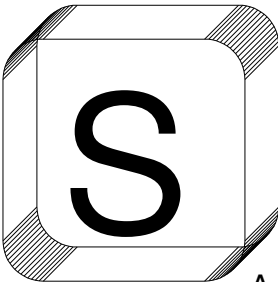
Sunday Lunch Groups

Signs placed outside inns and ale-houses helped our illiterate forefathers to tell one from another. The "**Red Lion**", the "**Bell**", the "**Star**", etc. could easily be recognised. Here are some names which are harder to explain.

In Ross-on-Wye there is the "**Moody Cow**" - named after an unpopular landlady, maybe? Malmesbury has the "**Smoking Dog**" - nowadays to be seen only in the garden, no doubt. When on a pub-crawl in Wales, might one finish up in the "**Stumble Inn**" in Llanfyllin? In Horn-don there is the "**Elephants Nest**" - so don't stand under the trees! A pub in Doddiscombe must be a poor investment for the landlord because it is called the "**Nobody Inn**". Perhaps the strangest name of all is carried by a pub in Hollingbourne where the locals might go out to spend an evening at the "**Dirty Habit**"!

We spend one Sunday lunchtime a month having a convivial meal and erudite discussion in a Surrey pub or restaurant. For more information give me a call.

Geoff



Scrabble Group 1 Competition

I have managed to persuade one of our Scrabble Group to run a simple word game -

A word puzzle to pass the time - no prizes, but the winner will be announced in the next newsletter.

Have you enjoyed (or avoided) the January Sales? How many words can you make from the letters in

RETAILING

Form as many words as possible of two letters or more, using each letter in the word only once (so two i's are acceptable). Any words in the Scrabble dictionary are allowed. No proper nouns.

You may email your answers or hand them to Janet or Margaret at the monthly meeting.

Janet

So now you know

"There are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns - the ones we don't know we don't know"

Donald Rumsfeld - former US Defence Secretary (12 Feb 2002)



Walking Group 1 (Thursday Mornings)

"Norbury Blue cheese is delicious!" was the opinion of most of the group on our September walk. As we passed Norbury Park Farm, we were given some of the hand made blue cheese to taste - a few of us hadn't heard of it and many hadn't actually tasted it before. October saw us going over and later under the M25 on our way from Headley Heath to Walton on the Hill and back. After several days of torrential rain and thunder storms, we had a beautiful, bright morning for our November walk over Reigate Heath to Priory Park, where a major restoration project is under way. Our walks always end up at a local hostelry for those who wish.

NB Winter walks start at 10.30am. Walk lengths are approximate.

28th February 2008 3.2 miles Thames Path and Desborough Island. Meet at **10.30am** at Cowey Sale, by Walton Bridge (approx. 10 miles from Fetcham). The walk is virtually flat, with a flight of steps up and later down. *Refreshments afterwards, if required, in The Minnow, Thames Street, Weybridge.*

27th March 2008 3.6 miles Beare Green. Meet at **10.30am** in the car park by the pond in Beare Green (approx. 10.3 miles from Fetcham). The walk is mostly flat, through farmland and woodland, with a few stiles. Parts will be muddy after rain. *Refreshments afterwards, if required, at The Stepping Stones, Mickleham.*

NB Summer walks are slightly longer and start at 10am.

24th April 2008 4 miles Sheepleas. Meet at **10am** at **Sheepleas Shere Road car park** (approx. 6 miles from Fetcham) The walk is undulating in places and goes through the woodland and grassland area of Sheepleas – a repeat of last April's walk as the cowslips were so amazing then. *Refreshments afterwards, if required, at The Duke of Wellington pub, East Horsley.*

22nd May 2008 4¼ miles. Banstead Heath. Meet at **10am** on the grass verge opposite the Blue Ball Inn, Deans Lane, Walton on the Hill (approx. 7.8 miles from Fetcham). The walk is mainly flat and passes through Banstead Heath to the Sportsman Inn at Mogador and returns beside the famous Walton Heath Golf Course. *Refreshments afterwards, if required, at The Blue Ball Inn, Walton on the Hill.*

Additional details of all the walks and full directions to the starting points are available at the monthly meetings, on the U3A website or from Jo & Ernie. *Please note that walkers take part entirely at their own risk.*

Jo & Ernie

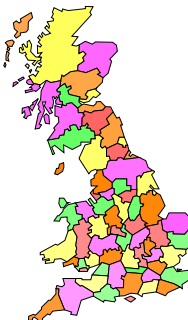


Walking Group 2 (Monday mornings)



There are three items of equipment essential to all walkers - weatherproof clothing, strong boots and maps. The maps used by walkers are either published by the Ordnance Survey or are derived from the work of that organisation.

Threatened rebellion in Scotland and war with France in the eighteenth century brought about the establishment of the Ordnance Survey. George II commissioned a military survey of the Scottish Highlands in 1746 and in 1791 the defense ministry of the time, the Board of Ordnance, instigated a detailed survey of England's vulnerable southern coasts. The first one-inch OS map of Kent was published in 1801 and, by twenty years later, one third of England and Wales had been similarly mapped. Give a thought to the surveyors tramping the countryside in all weathers taking the necessary measurements. Major Thomas Colby walked 586 miles in 22 days on a reconnaissance in 1819.



Our Monday walks are much more leisurely - usually around four miles or so in Surrey's lovely countryside. Why not come and join us? You can contact our leader, Margaret or turn up at the Lower Shott car park, Bookham, at 9.30 a.m. on the third Monday of the month. *Four-legged walkers are welcome but, like the other walkers, they take part at their own risk.*

Geoff

THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

The first contingent waited patiently at the bus stop at the top of The Ridgeway for the coach to transport us to Thursford for the Christmas Spectacular. The weather was cold but dry. One of Epsom Coaches latest additions to its fleet was to be our mode of transport and, my, was it comfortable! The second contingent was ready at Lower Shott and then our party of 48 was on its way.



A comfort stop at Thurrock Services and a lunch break at Bury St. Edmunds meant that we had the opportunity to stretch our legs and we arrived at The Holiday Inn, near Norwich Airport, reasonably fresh and ready for the evening's entertainment. Some rooms were not ready but we were given a welcome cup of tea while we waited and an early very tasty buffet dinner.



The Thursford Collection – about an hour's drive from the hotel – had fir trees bedecked with fairy lights at the entrance and there was sufficient time for everyone to have a good look around the shops within the grounds before the evening performance. We were not disappointed. The carousels, mechanical organs, steam engines were all decorated, with animated tableaux everywhere. The whole building was a riot of twinkling lights. This is one of the most exciting Christmas Spectacular shows and is the most popular of all time in England. It is a blend of glorious entertainment, with songs, carols, dazzling dancers (with figures to die for), beautiful costumes, outstanding music, singing and dancing from a cast of over one hundred. The sound of the Wurlitzer organ, played by Robert Wolfe, filled the huge theatre and, even though cameras focused closely on his hands and feet, he was playing so fast they were a blur.

While the rest of the huge audience queued for mulled wine and mince pies during the interval, we had arranged for ours to be served in comfort behind the scenes. And then we were ready for the second half, with the orchestra taking centre stage. We were entertained by drummers, bagpipes, soloists from the orchestra; it just went on and on. The costumes were even more dazzling and the finale took our breath away!



We left with the true spirit of Christmas ringing in our ears and the journey back to the Holiday Inn was quieter; everyone occupied with their own thoughts. The hotel was buzzing when we arrived, with a wedding party still in full swing. Some of us made for the bar for a nightcap, others made for their comfortable rooms to make a cup of tea before retiring.

Then the fire bell rang and people emerged, not too hastily it must be said, in various stages of undress, unsure whether it was a hoax or for real. One lady came to her door in her night attire, with an alarm clock in her hand. We had to assure her that it was not her clock making the din; it was a genuine fire alarm bell right outside her room.

It seemed to take an age for the fire engine to arrive. No clanging bells or sirens, which was a disappointment. They quietly drove into the car park, two firemen climbed from the cab, disappeared into the hotel and we waited. By this time it was getting very cold and metallic fire blankets were produced for those with little on to keep warm. Eventually it was decided that the alarm had been raised in the kitchen. Thoroughly checked, we were allowed back into the hotel.



There was no rush to depart in the morning and we were provided with as large and varied a breakfast as we could eat. Graham, our driver, packed our bags in the 'hold' and we were away. We stopped for a couple of hours in Cambridge for lunch and arrived home in daylight. We drove through six counties on the trip, were blessed with good, if cold, weather and came back with fantastic memories.

Some people have even said they want to be put on the waiting list for another visit in the future. Such was the impact of the Thursford Christmas Spectacular!

Winnie

THEATRE & EXHIBITION VISITS

Bookham & Fetcham U3As - Contact Sheila

Woking Matinees (by coach)

23	January	Play, AND THEN THERE WERE NONE - Agatha Christie mystery	£17.50
13	February	Musical, ASPECTS OF LOVE - Lloyd Webber's with David Essex	£23.50
5	March	Play, SLEUTH - Anthony Shaffer's clever thriller	£17.50
2	April	Ballet, NUTCRACKER - Matthew Bourne, Tchaikovsky	£30
7	May	Play, SINGLE SPIES - Alan Bennett's Olivier Award winning plays	£20.50

National theatre, London, Matinees (own travel arrangements)

7	February	Play, WAR HORSE - BASED ON Michael Morpurgo's book	£20
11	March	Play, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING - Shakespeare with Zoe Wanamaker & Simon Russell Beale	£20
20/27	February	Play, WOMEN OF TROY - Euripedes, new dramatic interpretation	£20

London Exhibitions (by coach or possibly ticket only)

14	February	TREASURES OF TUTANKHAMUN at O2, Canary Wharf	tba
18	March	TREASURES OF TUTANKHAMUN at O2, Canary Wharf	tba

TRAVEL

Bookham & Fetcham U3As - Contact Sheila

- 21 February CUBA There may be a few places left.
- 14 February MADRID/TOLEDO There may be a few places left.
- October SICILY being planned let Sheila know if interested
- July LIVERPOOL being planned let Sheila know if interested

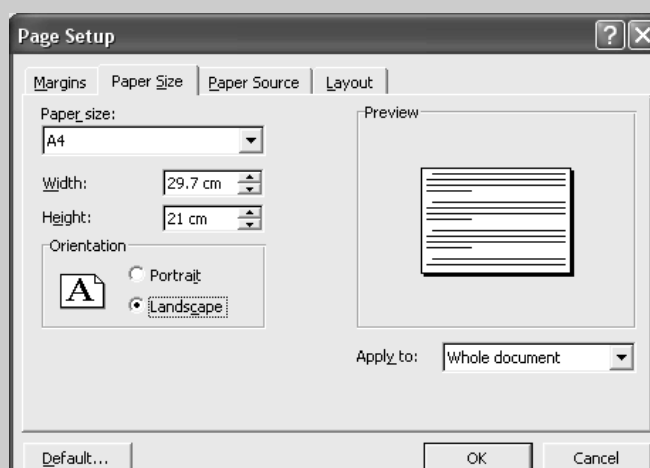
Computer Group Hints & Tips

Want to Word-process in **Landscape** rather than **Portrait**

- First Select the Page Setup (see right >)
(under File or View or on the Toolbar).
- Select the Paper Size tab.
- Set the Radio button (black spot) to Landscape.
- Click Ok.

If you have already been typing,
open a fresh document page and copy all the old typing into
the new setup page.

(The power of Right Mouse Clicking will be in the next Issue - Ed.)



Committee Members

Chairman	Tony
Vice-Chairman	Winnie
Treasurer	Bryan
Secretary	Diana
Membership Secretary	Brenda
Groups Co-ordinator	Enid
Speaker Secretary	Tony
Publicity Officer	Winnie
Floor Manager	David
Member	Graham
Member	Ian
Member	Kathy
Member	Mary

Support Services

Welfare of Members	Jo
Tea Organiser	Kathy
Social Events	Winnie
Outings/Theatre Visits	Sheila
Newsletter Editors	Judy
	John

*The committee meets on the 2nd Monday of the month.
If you have any items you would like to be discussed by the Committee
please contact the Secretary, Diana, in time to have it put on the agenda.*



Roy



5th Anniversary display