

Volume 8, Issue 1

Reg Charity No 1097536

February 2010

www.fetchamu3a.org.uk

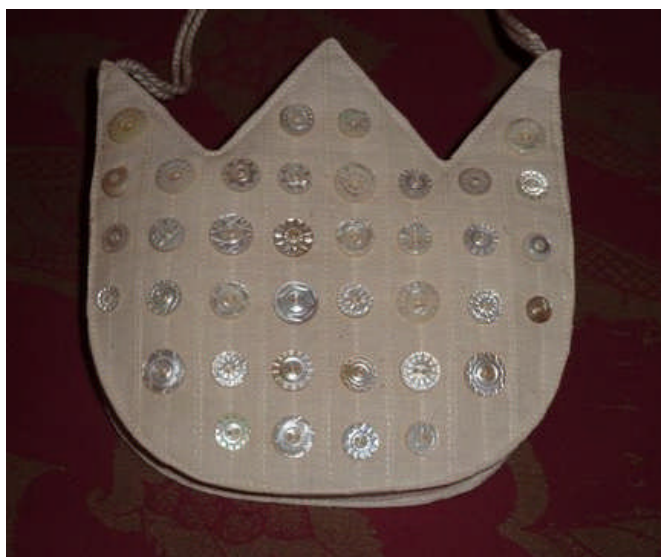
Fetcham in Focus



The Newsletter of Fetcham U3A



Clockwise from Top Left: see pages 6, 13, 8, 12



In this Issue

P 2 Chairman's Column

P 2 Guess these London Locations

P 3 Programme of Meetings, Events & Visits

P 4-5 Group List and Contacts

P 6 Competition Winner

P 6 17th Century Art Lectures

P 6-7 Groups A to B - News

P 8 My visit to Japan

P 9 City of London Churches

P 10-12 Groups B to J - News

P 13-15 Groups J to W - News

P 15 Explore London Markets

P 16 Roy's Resistance

P 16 Committee & Services

Chairman's Column



As your new Chairman may I first say a big thank you to the committee members, past and present, for their support over the past 5 years that I have been a committee member, first as your Treasurer, then as your Vice-Chairman. During those five years, under the Chairmanships of Ian and Tony, Fetcham U3A has grown in stature and numbers. We have been referred to as the flagship of the Surrey U3As and, in my

opinion, rightly so.

We have around 520 members and 80 groups. That is 1 group for every 6.5 members. This shows the strength we have in our Group Leaders, so another big thank you goes to them. Our monthly meetings are supported by 130 to 145 members each month. I am sure this number would be greater if we could cram some more people in but we have to restrict numbers for safety reasons. These meetings need helpers and we are lucky to have a group of stalwarts who we can rely on to help on most occasions, so a big thank you goes to them also. Our Social events go from strength to strength, organised by Winnie and her team of trusted helpers, we have had some great events over the years. Having just had the Christmas party, I would like to apologise to everyone for the terrible 'The Law is an Ass' quiz I did for you. I built this from various quizzes in magazines and newspapers last year and just could not resist having a bit of fun at your expense. Sorry. I will make it easier next year. That is a promise I intend to keep. (Believe that and you believe anything)

Regarding my Chairmanship there is one change which the committee feels would be advantageous to all of us. In order to speed up contact and reduce postage costs, we propose to use email contact where possible and feasible. Firstly, we propose to send out notice of future AGM's and your membership renewal forms, via email, so we would appreciate your help:-

- (1) In providing us with your email addresses and
- (2) PLEASE ensure that this information is kept up to date.

We do already use email contact if an outing or social event or something of this nature comes up at short notice, we will first contact those members whose email we have.

The committee we now have is great and has evolved over the years but we must not allow it to stagnate. We must have new blood at some time. So anyone who feels that they might like to join us sometime in the future, please let me or another committee member know.

I am looking forward to the next 3 years and the challenges it will bring.

Bryan

Guess the Four London locations

Put together from Explore London Group 6 - Malcolm Hill



(A)

Behind every door of these tall elegant houses there is a story to tell. Henry VIII's Manor House and Winchester House once dominated the riverside. Since the 18th century the road has attracted famous people from all walks of life and continues to do so. It is only possible to mention a few of them who lived here.

- 3 - Keith Richards and Anita Pellenburg.
- 4 - Marian Cross, better known as George Eliot.
- 5 - Another character, James Neild, a miser and eccentric to the end.
- 6 - The Italian doctor Dominicetti opened a medicinal baths.
- 10 - David Lloyd George, PM and the only Welsh Prime Minister.
- 16 - Sir Paul Getty, the billionaire philanthropist, lived here in the 1980s.
- 27 - Bram Stoker (1847-1912), creator of Dracula.

(B)

Londoners in the 17th century must have wondered what had hit them when, within months of fighting off the Great Plague, a fire of monumental proportions began at a Bakery in Pudding Lane. It was 2am in the morning on 2 September 1666 when the baker discovered the fire. He escaped to safety along a roof, but his young assistant was not so lucky. Neither were the 13,000 houses, 87 churches and 40 livery halls that perished in the flames but, incredibly, only eight people lost their lives, although how many later died after being left homeless is unknown.



(C)

Charles Dickens, who was a keen walker who often covered 20 miles a day, was a frequent visitor to the area and used it as the setting for some of his novels. Born to parents who lived beyond their means, Dickens first saw the darker side of life when his father was imprisoned for debt. This experience formed the basis of his views on the injustice of poverty. At the age of 15 Dickens spent a year as a solicitor's clerk in Grays Inn.

(D)

It is the autumn of 1888, and a sinister serial killer is loose on the streets of London's East End. At first he is known simply as 'The Whitechapel Murderer'. But in time, thanks to a mysterious letter sent to a London news agency, he would become known as 'xxxxxxxxxx,' in which capacity his name will become famous throughout the world.



Answers on Page 14

2010 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 *

23 March	Lambeth Palace and People	Joan Cottle
27 April	My 30 years at court (as a Wimbledon Umpire)	Janet Jones
25 May	The funny side of 35 years in the Police Force	Kenneth Exworth
22 June	Don't touch me with a bargepole	Pat Bettsworth
27 July	Motor cycling across Canada	Roger Wakefield
24 August	Petworth House	Sue Ellis
28 September	Send a Cow	Mike Wigley
26 October	The work of a Military Chaplain	Ian McFarlane
23 November	AGM and talk - Another Opening Another Show	Simon Gilbert

(*note the AGM is to be held in Yehudi Menuhin Hall)

Associate members should contact Kathy
if they would like to attend any of the monthly meetings

Other Local Events

9 February	Associate Members' Meeting	2.30 pm to 5 pm	(St Mary's Hall)
6 March	Quiz Night	7.15 pm start	(Old Barn Hall)
30 March	Group Leaders' Lunch	12.30 start	(St Mary's Hall)
13 July	Associate Members' Meeting	2.30 pm to 5 pm	(St Mary's Hall)
2 October	70th Anniversary of Battle of Britain - Dance		(Old Barn Hall)
7 December	Christmas Party	2pm to 5pm	(St Mary's Hall)

Associate Members should contact Winnie for information and tickets

Outings & Visits

26 - 31 March	River Cruise - Dutch Towns & Waterways
27 June	Hog Roast & Jazz Band

To book contact Winnie

Outings & Visits with Bookham U3A

Woking Theatre Trips (by coach) -

25 March	Northern Ballet Theatre's	'Peter Pan'
31 March	Agatha Christie Theatre Company	'Witness for the Prosecution'
6 May	English National Ballet	'Giselle'

Tours -

26 April	Coach tour of London Olympic Site
----------	-----------------------------------

To book theatre trips and the tour contact Sheila

Active & Proposed Groups & Their Leaders

Group	Leader	Meeting	
Alpine Gardening	Alan	3rd Monday at 14.30	V
Antiques & Collectables	Marilyn	3 rd Wednesday at 14.30	F
Armchair London History (1)	Geoff	2nd Thursday at 10.00	V
Armchair London History (2)	Geoff	3rd Friday at 14.30	F
Armchair Travel	Jackie	2nd Monday at 14.30	V
Art Lectures	Leslie - Bryan	Contact Bryan for details	V
Art – Mixed Media (1)	Margaret	Alternate Thursdays at 10.30	F
Art – Mixed Media (2)	Janet	1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 14.00	F
Art - Mixed Media (3)	NEW LEADER REQUIRED		
Art Appreciation	Jenny	4 th Wednesday at 14.00	F
Aviation & Technology	Lawrence	2nd Wednesday at 14.00	F
Ballroom Dancing	Enid	2 nd Thursday at 14.00	V
Book Club (1)	Penny	1 st Wednesday at 14.00	F
Book Club (2)	Liz	3rd Tuesday at 14.00	F
Book Club (3)	Linda & Gill	2nd Tuesday at 14.30	V
Birds in Surrey	NEW LEADER REQUIRED		
Bridge for Improvers	David	1st & 3rd Thursdays at 14.00	V
Bridge	Trevor	2nd & 4th Thursdays at 10.00	V
Canasta	Genie	2nd Monday at 19.30	V
Carbon Rationing Action	NEW LEADER REQUIRED		
Card Craft	Jan	Contact Jan for details	F
Card Craft (2)	Jenny	Contact Jenny for details	V
Cardboard Model Making	NEW LEADER REQUIRED		
Computing	Tony	As advertised	V
Cookery	Diana	2 nd Tuesday at 12.00	F
Cooking for Men (Beginners)	Linda	6 Week Course	F
Creative Writing	Edwina		V
Current & Social Affairs	Alfred	2nd Tuesday at 14.30	V
Digital Photography	Larry	2nd Monday at 19.30	V
English Literature	Barbara	4th Monday at 14.30	V
Explore London Walking (1)	Linda	1 st Monday at 09.45	F
Explore London Walking (2)	Tony & Joan	4 th Monday at 09.45	F
Explore London Walking (3)	Rosemary	1st Tuesday at 09.45	F
Explore London Walking (4)	Vivienne	1st Thursay at 09.30	F
Explore London Walking (5)	Geoff	4th Wednesday at 09.45	F
Explore London Walking (6)	Malcolm	3rd Wednesday at 09.45	F
Explore London Walking (7)	Geoff	2nd Thursday at 09.45	V
Family History (1)	John	4 th Thursday at 14.30	F
Family History (2)	Maureen	3rd Tuesday at 14.30	V
French Conversation (1)	Anna	1st & 3rd Mondays at 14.30	V
French Conversation (2)	Lesley	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays at 14.30	F
Fitness & Fun (1)	Enid	Fridays at 09.30	V
Fitness & Fun (2)	Enid	Mondays at 09.30	F
Fitness & Fun (3)	Enid	Fridays at 11.00	V
Hand Knitting	NEW LEADER REQUIRED		
Industrial Heritage	Ian	3rd Monday at 10.00	V
Italian for Beginners	NEW LEADER REQUIRED		
Jazz Appreciation	Roy	1st Wednesday at 19.30	V
Jewellery & Accessories	Brenda	Contact Brenda for details	F
Line Dancing Beginners	NEW LEADER REQUIRED		
Line Dancing Improvers	NEW LEADER REQUIRED		
Local History	Lynsaye	1st Tuesday at 10.00	F
Mah Jong	Margaret	2nd & 4th Thursdays at 14.30	V
Music Appreciation (1)	Bryan & Penny	2 nd Wednesday at 19.45	F

Active & Proposed Groups & Their Leaders (cont)

Needlework (1)	Genie	2 nd & 4 th Fridays at 10.00	F
Needlework (2)	NEW LEADER REQUIRED		
Outings & Theatre Visits	Sheila	Various times and dates	A
Parchment Craft	Genie	Alternate Thursdays at 10.00	V
Play Reading	Barbara	2nd Wednesday at 14.00	F
Scrabble For Fun	Janet	3 rd Wednesday at 19.30	F
Scrabble For Fun (2)	Jane	1st Wednesday at 14.30	F
Singles Dining	Genie	Contact Genie for details	F
Spanish Conversation	Anna	2nd & 4th Mondays at 14.30	V
Sunday Lunch Club (1)	Geoff	1 st Sunday at 12.00	F
Sunday Lunch Club (2)	Rita	3rd Sunday at 12.00	F
Sunday Lunch Club (3)	Geoff	2nd Sunday at 12.00	V
Stamping & Paper Craft	Kathy	Contact Kathy for details	V
Vegetarian/Vegan Cookery	Anita	Contact Anita for details	V
Walking (1)	Jo & Ernie	4th Thursday morning	F
Walking (2)	Keith & Frances	3rd Monday at 09.30	V
Walking (3)	Pat	2nd Wednesday at 09.30	V
Whist	NEW LEADER REQUIRED		
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)	Jean & Bob	2 nd Tuesday at 19.45	F
Wine Appreciation (4)	Bob & David	2 nd Wednesday at 20.00	F
Wine Appreciation (5)	Bob and Madeline	1st Thursday at 14.30	F
Wine Appreciation (6)	Kathy	Contact Kathy	F
Wine Appreciation (7)	Adrian & Jenny	2nd Thursday at 19.30	F
World Civilisations	Roger & Gail	2nd Tuesday at 16.00	V

Abbreviations: F = Full, P = Proposed, V = Vacancies - (situation as at 13 January 2010)

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	Listening to Music
Art Appreciation (3)	Military History
Badminton	Opera (2)
Basic Cookery	Phoenix Group Concert Party
Cycling	Poetry
Easy Rambling	Session for Songsters
History - Classical Period	Table Tennis
History of Music	Woodwork & DIY

For details and current vacancies Contact Christine

Surrey Network Study Days in 2010

Surrey U3A Network now has a website for the study day programme. For details go to
<http://u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/>

All available application forms plus details of the East Grinstead Conference on Friday 23 April
and the Chichester Summer School from Tuesday 6 to Friday 9 July can be downloaded.

Antiques and Collectables

Last September our group of eighteen members enjoyed a talk by Mark Towers (of TV fame - see picture on page 1) who has a collection of TV and Movie memorabilia. Mark came along with a vast array of old movie posters which, in Britain, were printed in a landscape format whereas American posters were printed in a portrait format. Movie posters are now classed as art work and the original 'quads' (30" x 40") were always folded, never rolled. An original first release is now worth £5,000+ (Goldfinger £7,000) and reprints can fetch up to £250. In October we hired a hall and had our own Antiques Roadshow. Andrew Hawkins from Bonhams came along to value our items. In fact Andrew had actually been a valuer on the Antiques Roadshow. The afternoon was great fun although we were a bit disappointed that none of us turned out to be millionaires by the end of the day.

Our November meeting was also held in a hall when Kit Wallis, one of our members, gave us a very interesting talk on his forebears, especially his father who could not bear to throw anything away. Kit brought along some of the items to show us and gave us the history and background to the collection. His mother's side of the family was equally interesting, being descended from three ancient families dating in one case to 1066. Everyone was interested in a book which had been in the family since 1660. It detailed the trial of the 29 Regicides, those responsible for the execution of Charles I, including the gory details of the treatment meted out to those found guilty. This year's diary is being compiled and I hope that we shall be able to invite other members of Fetcham U3A to some of our events. Please contact me if you should come across any interesting collections or events that we might include in our programme.

Marilyn

17th Century Art Lectures

After the first 10 weeks of sheer bliss the 17th Century Art lectures by Leslie B.A. (Cambs.) closed for the Christmas period. Seventy five members from 6 local U3As signed up for 10 of the most fascinating lectures. We have covered El Greco, Valasquez, Poussin, Claude, Zurbaran, Caravaggio and Bernini just to mention a very few.

Whilst many of the pictures were unknown to us, several had been actually seen by members who had visited the National Gallery in London, the Uffizi in Florence, the Vatican in Rome, the Louvre in Paris, the Prado in Madrid and many other galleries around the world. It is quite nice to see some of these pictures again.

With Caravaggio, we learnt that he was brilliant when painting still life and the detail in his paintings reminded me of the attention to detail with the Pre-Raphaelite movement, especially with fruit in a bowl where the fruit was slightly going over and the mould was starting or bruising. Magnificent.

When we think of El Greco we think of his 'elongated' figures. Leslie showed us his earlier works where his figures were 'normal'. He elongated his figures mainly on his religious pictures.

Valasquez, again with his attention to detail in his earlier works, especially his still life paintings. His later works left me a bit cold as his pictures got darker and with less detail.

We closed this first part of Leslie's 17th century lectures with works from Poussin and Claude amongst others. These 2 painters also spent a lot of time on detail and I was surprised to learn that John Ruskin, the Victorian Art Critic, was very critical of their works, especially when you remember the enthusiasm he showed for the works of Millais, Holman-Hunt and Rossetti in those times. The Pre-Raphaelites would never have survived without the help of Ruskin but thankfully these other greats survived despite Ruskin's bad reviews. It shows cream will always rise.

We are still reprimanded nearly every week for not asking enough questions but Leslie's description of the paintings is always so complete that even when we think of a question, he usually answers it before we can get his attention.

We must also thank Roy who, as our projectionist for all of these weeks, is responsible for fine focussing each and every slide. We now look forward to January 2010 when we start the second part of our 20 week course.

Bryan

Art Appreciation

For the October meeting we had proposed to go to the Lightbox Gallery at Woking to see the exhibition 'Da Vinci – Leonardo and his inventions', but when the time came many of us found that we had other commitments so we were unable to go. Hopefully we will go to another exhibition there in the future.

In November 5 of us went up to London to see the Turner Exhibition at the Tate Britain. This was a marvellous show as it showed how Turner was influenced by other painters. His paintings were set along side works by Canaletto, Rubens, Rembrandt and Titian who all had had a great influence on him. There were also a lot of paintings by Constable with whom Turner had a great rivalry. At the Royal Academy exhibition in 1832, Turner upstaged Constable by adding a dash of red to his own painting at the last minute – and Constable was none too pleased. It gave us a great insight into another side of Turner showing that he wanted to demonstrate that he was as good if not better than the old masters.

On January 29th 2010 (weather permitting) we are going to the Guildford House Gallery (a favourite of ours) to see a photographic exhibition of the ill-fated Polar Expedition to the South Pole by Herbert Pontin.

On Friday February 26th there will be a meeting at my house when we shall see part 1 of Vasari's 'Art of Italy' and have a discussion about future events.

Jenny

Competition Winner

The winner of the Prize Word Search competition in the last Issue of Fetcham in Focus was **Jean** who made up a staggering 42 words from the letters given.



Aviation & Technology Group

October :

We viewed the DVD "Bristol Aircraft" which showed one of Britain's pioneering companies from the time when George White, a locally born businessman experienced in the manufacture of trams and motor buses became interested in the Wright Brothers' early experiments of powered flight, and the Bristol and Colonial Aeroplane Co. evolved.

A former tram shed was adapted to house the assembly of Bristol's first aircraft, the Boxkite, a replica of the original wood frame, canvas and wire frame can be seen at the world renowned Shuttleworth Collection's flying displays in Bedfordshire.

In later years, the company built the Blenheim and Beaufighter, notable for WW2 operations.

The base at Filton and the surrounding residential area suffered devastating air raids during the war. During peacetime, the company diversified by producing cars and prefabricated buildings.

Soon afterwards the Brabazon and Britannia projects emerged, followed by the type 188, the last aircraft to carry the Bristol name. Bristol had a main role in the development of the Concorde and is today part of BAC mainly constructing wings for Airbus.



November:

A return visit to the RAF Museum made the most of an otherwise wet and windy day.

December:

Kenneth Exworth of Woking U3A gave us an interesting insight into the achievements of "Five Early Female Aviators" by way of a Powerpoint presentation. In brief:

- Edith Cook was notable for being the first British woman to fly solo in 1910 in a Bleriot at Pau, France but was later killed that year when parachuting as her "chute" failed to open.
- American Ruth Elder tried to fly the Atlantic eastwards in Oct.1927, accompanied by Capt. George Halderman, but their attempt failed when the aircraft had to ditch in the ocean, luckily they were rescued by a steamer.
- Lady Mary Bailey flew solo in a Cirrus Moth in 1928 from Croydon to Cape Town and return.
- Also in 1928, Elsie MacKay, a wealthy heiress tried to fly the Atlantic from the U.K. with Capt. Hinchcliffe, but they both disappeared during their flight.
- The Hon. Mrs Victor Bruce was a regular competitor in European road and speedboat races from 1927. Having learnt to fly, she decided in 1930 to fly round the World in a small Blackburn Bluebird biplane from Heston. She became the first woman to fly the World alone (ocean crossings made by ship only) as well as the first person to fly from England to Japan. She later helped pioneer mid air refuelling, set up air freight and passenger airlines, was the first person to introduce air hostesses, and was a major force in pre-war commercial aviation. During WW2 she had a factory at Cardiff rebuilding damaged RAF aircraft and looped the loop in a 2 seat Chipmunk at 81 after a brief refresher course in flying.

Five very distinctive aviators.

Lawrence

Ballroom Dancing Group

The Ballroom Dancing Group held their Christmas Party Dance in the Fetcham Reading Room on Saturday, 12th December. The whole evening was superbly organised by Valerie and Alan, with ballroom dances interspersed with games and barn dances – when chaos reigned at times!! As for the game with lemons don't ask!



Everyone contributed to a delicious festive meal and the evening was a great success, ending with the Gay Gordons. Many thanks to Valerie and Alan.



Some of the group are now looking forward to polishing their skills on the Isle of Wight for a dancing weekend at Warner's Bembridge Coast Hotel.

Members of the Ballroom Dancing Group



My trip to Japan

As someone who did not 'host', I did not expect to be invited to go on the return visit. I went without my wife and with six others, three from Fetcham; Roger and Gail Partridge, Trevor Jones, the others were from Reading and Wokingham.

My initial impression on the train from Narita airport to Hayama was that towns looked very industrial – it still is. We were warmly met at the rail station by Keiko Toya, the group leader, whom you may have seen, with others of their group. My hosts, Takukuma and Shigeko Okuma-san were a delightful couple who were so worried about me being lonely, because of their lack of English, requested someone to keep me company – Trevor. We all got on very well and managed to engage them in many long informative chats, to the benefit of all. Breakfast was the only meal that they supplied but it was a banquet even for jumbos Trevor and me. Judge for yourself; a huge plate of lettuce, cucumber, other vegetables with an omelette, next a bowl of soup with bacon, cabbage and potato, a glass of tomato juice, toast, bread, small croissants and large peeled pears, grapes, not forgetting brown tea and a glass of milk.

The most memorable event at Hayama was us all being dressed in kimonos. This involved being dressed by two or three ladies, in three layers of very tight bound material. (see below and on front page)



We saw a tea ceremony, visited shrines, restaurants and many other interesting places, ending up on the last day at Keiko and her husband Yusaku's house for a party.



I always thought that the Japanese were very serious people, they are not and love a good joke. Shigeko at the kimono ceremony shows this. (see picture on Page 1) I would not like to guess her age but she is probably older than me and still does voluntary work whilst Takukuma does the cooking.



Next stop Narashino, where we were again met at the rail station by several of the group led by Naoko Tedaka, the lady who demonstrated origami. I stayed with Kiku and her husband Yosuke in a very new house with a traditional tatami matted room, where I slept.



I suppose our main outing was to the Sumo practice at Onomatsu-beya Stable in Narashino, arranged by the mayor who actually came, sat and watched for a while. We sat on a mat at one end of the area which was about 50 foot square with a slightly lower fighting circle, all loosely covered in sand, continually swept over by the apprentices. No comments were made about the nearly naked sweaty sand covered bodies. You can see the fear in the man's face when I was persuaded to show him what English blubber can do!

(thank goodness Graham was not persuaded to wear traditional costume here - Ed.)



Most of us then went to Kyoto for the Jidai Matsuri, Festival Of Ages, which was a two hour procession of costumes and characters of their culture.



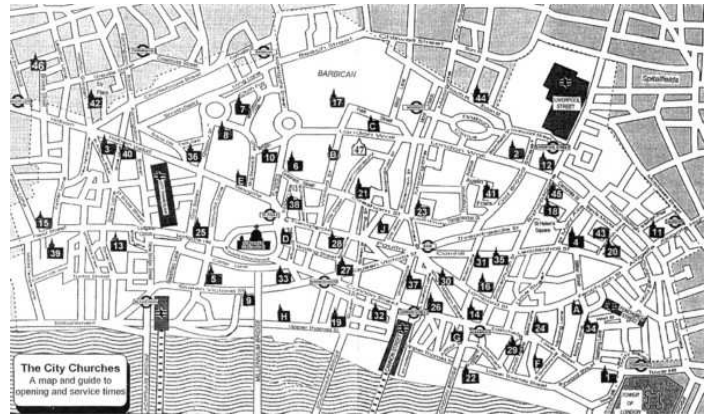
We then parted from each other to go our separate ways; I went to Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Nara, several unpronounceable aviation museums and to see Himeji Castle.

Everywhere I was treated with kindness and respect even by the Police, when I tried to cross a road in the wrong place or got too close to the barrier to take a picture of the bullet (Shinkansen) train.

Graham

The intention is to have a special meeting with a slide show and talk, where all those interested in learning more may come.

City of London Churches



In the City of London there is to be found the greatest concentration of church buildings of outstanding quality of anywhere in the country. There are no fewer than 42 places of worship situated within the Square Mile of which 39 are Anglican churches all listed either Grade I or Grade II.

At one time the number was greater – after the rebuilding programme following the Great Fire of 1666 there were around 75 churches, but as people moved out of the City the churches inevitably suffered a decline in their numbers of regular worshippers with the result that in the 19th Century a number of the churches closed and were pulled down.

By 1910 the number of Anglican churches in the City had fallen to 56 and by 1939 that number had reduced to 49. Then came the bombing of the City in the Second World War which further reduced their number. No fewer than 23 churches were badly damaged or destroyed and after the War five were totally written off. Of these five in two cases the towers were retained, and in another two the towers and the remains of the walls were landscaped into gardens. The Dutch Church was rebuilt to a completely new design.

By the late 1960s there were altogether 39 Anglican churches all in very good condition having been restored or rebuilt as necessary.

Tony & Joan



Pictures:

Top - map of the City of London's Churches.

Above - Christ Church Spitalfields
(Nicholas Hawksmoor)

Left - St Paul's Cathedral
(Sir Christopher Wren)

Bridge

Fetcham U3A members play at St. Mary's Church Hall, Fetcham usually twice a month, unless the hall is needed for a Church event, and the sessions are organised by Leatherhead U3A.

We play Rubber on the second Thursday and Chicago on the fourth Thursday, from 10am to 12.30pm.

The dates for 2010 are;

January 14, 28

February 11, 25

March 11, 25

April 8, 22

May 13, 27

June 10, 24

July 8, 22

August 12, 26

September 9, 23

October 14

November 4, 11, 25 (three this month due to hall in use by Church in October)

December 9

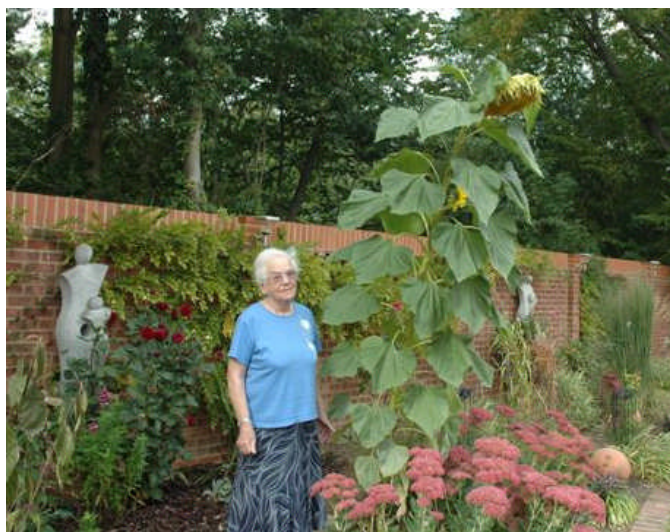


Subscriptions become due on 1st January and for 2010 is £15 if paid as a lump sum in advance for the year's meetings or £1.50 payable at each meeting for those not paying the lump sum. These amounts include coffee/tea and a biscuit.

New members, including Associate members are very welcome. The meetings are very friendly and relaxed and there is usually no need to bring a partner. Please feel welcome to come along, meet new friends, and enjoy playing bridge.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to join us or if you need more information.

Trevor



Card Craft 1

We had great fun growing our sunflowers for a competition and we did have an outstanding winner with a plant that reached 10 feet grown by Joyce. Other plants failed the grade some only achieving one foot, more effort is needed I think.

Our cards are beginning to look very professional and cost half the price of a shop bought card and have a more personal touch. Our last meeting of the year is a lunch to celebrate all our hard work and much laughter we have had during the year. We start all over again in the middle of January. Thank you Jan for another very successful year and happy card making.

Yvonne

Card Craft 2

The majority of the population goes shopping to purchase cards, the range of which it has to be said is enormous, but none are unique. A minority, however, choose to make their own cards and guided by Jenny's expertise they are sure to be successful and no two ever come out the same! At classes we are presented with the day's challenge. When we are shown the completed card we wonder how we can replicate perfection, however it would seem that any obstacle can be overcome, so that, by the time we leave we do so with a card, or sometimes two of which we can be proud.

Yes, we do work very hard but we socialise too, putting the world to rights over cups of tea and biscuits, however all talk stops when concentration is required. The cards we make are very varied, being anything from cut out layered pictures (decoupage), fabric cut into shapes to form flowers, paper and card cut into various shapes, plastic strips melted to form interesting patterns and require numerous pens and paints to create different textures. All these items are supplied for our use, no wonder Jenny has a large shed in her garden filled with card making materials.

We were delighted to present some of our cards to the Japanese visitors when they came to England to see for themselves what U3A was all about.

A highlight of the present course was not in fact making cards but our Christmas party. First we had an excellent lunch at The Windsor Castle, after which we repaired to Jenny's to attempt some rather tricky quizzes she had organised and an hilarious afternoon ended with tea and mince pies.

Elizabeth



Computing

If you are looking for a computer course now is the time to register your interest. Beginners and Intermediate courses are currently being run in conjunction with the Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership in Bookham and Leatherhead. Contact me for details.

A new web portal on computers for beginners and improvers has just gone on line at www.surreytransformit.org.uk. It contains some useful info. Go to Learner Zone, then Beginners and see Starter for 10 videos, all worth a glance. Hopefully John Thurlow the author of the site will be speaking to the Computer Group in the New Year, so best to view before he speaks, he's interested in our views

Tony

Explore London Walking 1

After missing several monthly walks due to inclement weather, absence due to ill health/holidays we finally managed a walk on Monday 7th December.

Armed with our 4 for 2 train tickets we left Cobham Station and arrived at Bank Station where we walked through the Royal Exchange. Then through alleyways we visited three Wren Churches each with interesting histories and had a bargain lunch in Leadenhall market where the Christmas lights were splendid. We then spent an hour in the Bank of England Museum and tried to lift a solid gold bar worth £278,812. Then to another two of Wrens Churches and into The Guildhall where we listened to a rehearsal by The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for a few minutes. A walk back to Bank Station and the underground to

Waterloo, back to Cobham by 16.30- tired but better informed about the history of the Square Mile.

Linda

Explore London Walking 2

Just a short up-date from our group – we have had a very happy, sociable set of walks during the last year, well attended and enjoyed by all.

Perhaps we should be renamed the London Social and Strolling Group.

A decision was made to leave the centre of London to the tourists for the summer months and to visit some of the villages in the suburbs. Therefore we went to Wandsworth, Richmond, Ham and Petersham, Wimbledon and somewhat nearer to the centre we included Marylebone and Little Venice. It would be interesting to have a little competition to see how much of what we saw we remember! No matter it was all good fun.

Just before Christmas we decided to visit some of the City churches on the basis that they may provide warmth and shelter – which was fortunate as it rained all day. We enjoyed a convivial good lunch in the Counting House Public House in Cornhill.

Tony & Joan

Explore London Walking 3

In December fourteen of us went to Hyde Park where there was a 'Winter Wonderland' including a German Market, Fun-fair and Ice Rink.



We used our Bus Passes (for we are of a certain age!) from Waterloo to Piccadilly Circus and then walked to Hyde Park.

After our Winter Wonderland treat we worked up an appetite by walking all the way back to Piccadilly Circus. There we enjoyed our Christmas meal at the Audley pub and restaurant.



Then Bus Passes at the ready – back to Waterloo.

Rosemary

Explore London Walking 7

To meet demand from members a seventh group has now been formed to explore London. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month and spend the day finding out about areas of our capital city and the places of interest we come across. Up to three miles of leisurely walking is involved, with stops for refreshment. We aim to be back in Leatherhead by five o'clock.. The size of the group has to be limited for practical reasons but there are a few vacancies at the time of writing. Please contact me if you would like to know more

Geoff

Family History

2009 was yet another successful year for our combined group of family historians. When we embark on finding information about our ancestors, who we may or may not remember from our youth, we really do begin a very interesting journey, which can throw up quite a few surprises. Some of our members found more interesting facts about their ancestors on their computers and some travelled to where their ancestors actually lived and worked to discover as much about their lives as possible. The tales we heard on their return were always full of amazing facts and coincidences and generally provided an entertaining afternoon.

Each month we've also had a talk by one or more of our members. These talks are always most enlightening and entertaining and provide a great deal of debate afterwards. We've learnt how one person has progressed over a year of research, from relative beginner to a competent researcher, and we've seen how others have stored and catalogued their information as and when they found it, which gave us all pointers as to how we should store our own information.

Our December meeting was a festive social affair during which we had a good selection of seasonal edibles and wine and, of course, the usual tea and biscuits. During that meeting we also had the opportunity to see two family trees, which had been mounted on boards to make for easy viewing. One was compiled many years ago, before computers became the easier option for research, but the other was more recent and the difference in presentation was quite significant, which highlighted the difference computers have made to our hobby.

Now we are all looking forward to 2010 and all the opportunities we know we will have to continue our searches.

Maureen

German Conversation

Unfortunately we have decided to wind up our conversation group. Numbers have reduced to an unviable level.

Tom

Music Appreciation

After a very successful and enjoyable musical year, the members of the Music Appreciation group 1, hope that all of Fetcham U3A's members had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that we can all keep healthy for the next 12 months at least.

Bryan & Penny



French Conversation Group 2

We continue to meet twice a month to discuss a wide range of topics inspired by the detailed talks prepared by members of the group. We began our Christmas meeting with a lunch party which included French cheeses and wine. We then studied a selection of poems and sang French carols accompanied on the violin by Barbara, one of our members who was a professional musician.

This is one of the moving poems:

Intérieur

La mère de famille a quitté la maison,
Elle dort maintenant sous la colline verte.
Le père s'est assis dans la salle déserte,
Tandis qu'à l'âtre éteint fume un maigre tison;

Le père s'est assis, les coudes sur la table,
Et present dans ses mains son front chargé d'ennui;
Ses trois fils aux bras forts, rangés autour de lui,
Ne sauraient soulever le fardeau qui l'accable.

Mais la petite fille a neuf ans, pour le moins!
La petite descend, va, vient, court, se trémousse,
Elle commande aux gens et grossit sa voix douce,
Ménagère à l'oeil bleu, qui jouait dans les foin!

LOUIS BOUILHET

Bonne Année à tous

Lesley

Jewellery & Accessories



We continue to enjoy our monthly 'get-togethers' and have produced a lot of work as a result. Some beautiful sparkly necklaces were made using Swarovski crystals – everyone chose a different colour scheme and the finished results were fabulous.

Putting beads aside for a short while we are currently making some very pretty small cream calico bags (see picture on front page) which are decorated with pin tucks and tiny pearl buttons. We have been raiding the charity shops in search of old pearl buttons and have unearthed a huge variety. We shall continue until these are finished and then we are promising ourselves a treat – an afternoon out for a special tea – possibly at Fanny's Farm in her wonderful tree house.

More beading will follow, plus visits to bead shows whenever they happen within striking distance.

Brenda

Jazz Appreciation

In our September meeting I played several tracks from possibly our best known Jazz Export - George Shearing - who had just celebrated his 90th birthday the previous month. Over the years he has provided a wealth of diverse music with many variations in instrumentation and types of music. For many years he was able to accompany large classical orchestras playing completely from memory having learned from braille originals. Eventually he had to give up when his phenomenal memory let him down - although I gather he was in most instances capable of busking his way out so the average listener would not notice.

In October a friend of mine attended a memorial ceremony for Peter Newbrook who used to live in Cobham. He was a very highly respected cameraman who worked alongside David Lean and was famous for his work on Lawrence of Arabia - and The Bridge on the River Kwai amongst many others. In addition, back in 1947 in co-operation with drummer Carlo Krahmer, he established Esquire records a label devoted entirely to the production of British Jazz records. Now Carlo was at that time the drummer and leader of the group which played every Saturday and Sunday at the Feldman Club in Oxford Street and George Shearing was then the regular pianist. I used to sit in during the interval and mostly play boogie woogie and was sometimes accompanied by Carlo. At the time I was playing elsewhere with Norman George and we made 2 private recordings at Carlo's studio - just Norman on tenor sax - a drummer - and myself- (In those days bass players were not always included and the pianist had to make up for his absence).

I was able to produce the original record made of solid metal coated with lacquer - so heavy that it would stop a modern turntable dead. Fortunately I had a CD produced from it by a specialist in this field which I played to the group and despite the age the quality of reproduction was quite remarkable. It should also be noted that at that time you only had about 3 minutes to create the disc and there were no facilities for making corrections afterwards -. I often regret that tape recorders were not around in those days.

Apart from making a feature of a particular artist occasionally, most programs are designed with variety in mind in order to give a complete contrast and hopefully find something to satisfy all tastes. This covers inclusion of occasional big band tracks, the odd vocalist, and an excursion in to the classical field with a jazz background. In all cases I try to maintain a melodic flavour throughout.

If anyone is interested I am sure we will be able to accommodate you - just give me a ring. It is held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Roy



Wine Appreciation 1

Unusual wines and unusual places featured at our autumn meetings. During our September tasting, one of the wines we all enjoyed a red from South Africa, from the Goats do Roam Wine Company – the wine was great and the name intriguing. Our very successful joint tasting in October, when members from all seven U3A groups joined together, was entitled “A Mediterranean Cruise” and was led by Heather Dougherty, a qualified and experienced wine educator. We tasted wines from different countries round the Med. with one of our favourites being a red from the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon. Our group's November meeting was led by Erica Dent and she brought eight wines from Austria for us to taste. This was another less well known wine producing country. Erica is experienced and qualified in wines and spirits teaching and was very informative and interesting. Although we enjoyed a number of the wines, they were comparatively quite expensive. We are now looking forward to expanding our knowledge of this vast subject in 2010.

Jo and Ernie



Walking 1

Our September walk was through Shere and Albury. Inside the beautiful old St Peter and St Paul Church in Albury, with the Pugin designed mortuary, was fascinating.



October saw us walking round the Vann Nature Reserve in Ockley and through some beautiful countryside. Epsom Common's all weather track was perfect for our November walk, when we visited the Stew Ponds and Christ Church.



We didn't have a drop of rain for any of these autumn walks, in fact we had wall to wall sunshine for two of them – wonderful! We didn't have a walk in December as the 4th Thursday was Christmas Eve. Then the snow arrived and we had to cancel our post Christmas lunch, but we hope to rearrange this in the spring.

Jo and Ernie

Guess the London Locations

Answers

- A - Cheyne Walk
- B - Monument
- C - The Inns of Court
- D - Whitechapel

Walking 3

Notwithstanding an earlier meeting – as held on August 6th 2009, at Jo & Ernie's house – where considerable interest and enthusiasm was expressed toward the formation of another U3A Walking Group, alas, only three members (Barbara, Ann and Neville) reported at the usual venue of Lower Shott car park for the very first walk on Wednesday October 14th 2009, at 9:30 hours.

However, it proved an enjoyable walk, with a pleasant trio company and quite dry under foot and not too strenuous route.

We departed from the public car park adjacent to Bocketts Farm and travelled over the Downs onto the Norbury Estate – National Trust, passing Norbury House and the Sawmill on the way, then headed, or changed direction into Updown Wood within which we enjoyed a short rest upon a seat overlooking a wonderful panorama of part of the Mole Valley with Leatherhead in the mid distance. We then passed through 'Walnut Tree Stump'.

Our journey continued winding its way through the woods, passing under well established trees – both horse and sweet chestnut, oaks, birch and different species of conifers – all endeavouring to display their seasonal profile, which nature so regularly provides at this particular time of the year! Indeed, a very pleasant mixture of autumn colours upon mixed foliage and even some leaves beginning to fall, indicating a change in the season! It was also noted the habitat was occupied by deer, moles, foxes and badgers to name a few animal 'residents', with ample evidence of their presence. Overall the distance walked being less than four miles and accomplished well under two hours.

The next walk – Wednesday 11th November 2009 – was organised by the Group Leader, Pat, accompanied by her constant companion, a loving dog of nearly six years, a black Labrador named Pepper, whom it might be said covered more than twice our mileage of about 3 ½ miles on the day. This late autumn/ early winter walk was again (alas alas) only enjoyed by three members, namely the Group Leader, along with Irene and Neville. The weather was kind for the season of the year, remaining free from rain throughout the walk. Under foot at times, being quite slippery! Although this was a more remote Surrey Hills area, off the Mill Way (B 2033), known as Cherkley Wood/ Nature Reserve, as managed by the Surrey Wildlife Trust, less than a handful of other like minded walkers were seen on the whole route, thus extremely peaceful amongst the fast falling leaves, mainly beech, as they gently glided in spinning motion from the canopy above to the ground, thus providing a deep carpet as it were beneath our feet. At the early part of the walk we descended a tree cover vale with ample surrounding 'past life' in the form of rotting wood with varying inhabitants therein and fungi growing profusely.

Thus, well within the walk it became necessary to ascend via a gradual incline to again reach the higher ground.

Apart from our constant four legged companion, Pepper, no animals were seen, not even as we finally emerged at the far end of the 'Gallops' and as we headed toward the original starting point, which of course was the end of a good walk, although plenty of varied bird life moved from tree to tree.

Walking 3 (cont.)

As we regularly walk as 'Group 3' every second Wednesday in the month, weather permitting, with a predetermined exciting and varied route, it is indeed sincerely hoped we may be able to welcome or expect to increase previous member participation.

Simply contact Pat so as the Leader has advance knowl-

edge of all whom may be expected to participate on the day.

All members are encouraged and welcome to propose a suitable walk of four miles or less, most preferably with maximum cross country terrain, circular, with appropriate refreshment facility at the finishing point. Assistance to prepare your route can be provided – willingness is all that is required. *'Western Walker'*

Exploring London's Markets

There are many markets in our capital city ranging from the large wholesale markets such as Smithfield, Covent Garden and Billingsgate, through covered retail markets such as Borough and Leadenhall Markets, to open street markets such as Petticoat Lane. Out of the wholesale markets only Smithfield is still located on the site which it has occupied for centuries, although the present buildings go back only to 1900. In fact, Smithfield meat market is all that remains of mediaeval London's greatest entertainment, Saint Bartholomew's Fair, which featured sports, dancing, carousing, gambling and all types of merrymaking as well as trading in goods and livestock. Both Covent Garden and Billingsgate Markets have been moved out of the centre of London to new premises in Vauxhall and Poplar respectively but the buildings they previously occupied have been retained and put to new uses.

Bringing street markets under cover was mainly the idea of the Victorians who had developed the skills necessary to erect the iron structures over them. Thus Leadenhall Market, which nestles among tall office blocks on the site of the Roman Forum, was erected in 1881. I think that the Victorians would be very surprised by the variety of stalls and bars to be found there today.

Whitecross Street Market, to the North of the Barbican Arts Centre, claims to be London's oldest daily open street market. It specialises in food from all over the world, both in its raw state and cooked ready to buy and eat on the spot. The sights and smells tempt every passer-by.

Camden Market is one of London's newest markets but it must be the largest by far. The heart of the market is on the site of a former timber yard on the bank of the Regent's Canal at Camden Lock but it has stretched outwards in many directions. Much of it is now located in the arches under the railway lines at Chalk Farm. The part which has just recently opened is on the site of the Old Horse Hospital which was built to stable and treat the horses used to pull the barges along the canal and also horses used by the railway for shunting and deliveries. In this area are to be found some excellent full-size (and some even larger) statues of horses, carts, farriers, carters - anything to do with the "horsey" history of the area.

The six "Exploring London" groups have visited many of London's markets, sometimes by design and sometimes by accident! If you would like to come exploring, whilst most of the groups are full, Group Six may be able to accept one or two more members. Street markets would also be an interesting subject for the "Armchair London History" groups to study. Care to join them? But if you like street markets and you are ever in the Camden area with time to spare do visit the market at Camden Lock - it will amaze you! You can go to Paddington station, walk along the canal bank to Little Venice and cruise by water to Camden. How about that for a day out when you have visitors coming to stay?

Geoff

New Proposed Sport Groups

Croquet

Epsom Sports Centre are intending to offer facilities for U3A Groups to play Croquet starting in April on their sports field which is situated behind Epsom Hospital. I have registered Fetcham U3A's interest. The Days and Times have not yet been decided until the Sports Club has some feed back on the number people interested.

Bowling

East Horsley Bowling Club have offered facilities for U3A's to set up "Bowling Groups" to use their Greens on a Monday afternoon s on a weekly basis starting on the 24th April. Bowls would be supplied to you and although Bowlers wear Grey Trousers and White Tops this would not be obligatory for you.

So there would not be big outlay for equipment except a pair of smooth flat soled shoes suitable for wearing on The Greens. The Cost would be £ 3.00 a session.

If you would like more information about Croquet & Bowling please contact Mary

**To register your interest please contact Enid
or add your name at the next Monthly Meeting.**

Committee Members

Chairman	Bryan
Vice-Chairman	Mary
Treasurer	Bob
Secretary	Diana
Membership Secretary	Kathy
Groups Co-ordinator	Enid
Speaker Secretary (Part)	David
Publicity Officer	Winnie
Member	Tony
Member	Graham
Member	Ian
Member	Mary
Member	Tony

Support Services

Welfare of Members	Jo
Refreshment Organiser	Jean
Social Events	Winnie
Outings/Theatre Visits	Sheila
Meetings Manager	Bob
Newsletter Editors	Judy
	John

email:

email:

*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's Resistance

Over 60 years after the Second World War ended one of Fetcham U3A members has been honoured for his covert war effort. Roy was part of Winston Churchill's secret resistance movement established in 1940 in readiness should the country be invaded – a very real threat at that time.

Roy was an officer in charge of a secret underground communications network operating from underground bunkers covering the South East of England.

There was a strict code of secrecy still in place 50 years after the war and therefore there was no official recognition of Roy's war efforts – until last year when Roy received a certificate and medal from The Government Code and Cypher School, signed by the Prime Minister.

After the war Roy had a successful career as a script writer for many well known TV programmes.

