

Volume 9, Issue 1 - January 2011

Fetcham In Focus

U3A



The Newsletter of Fetcham University of the Third Age

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Chairman's Column

What a rotten way to start my second year as your Chairman. We had no choice but, for the first time ever, to postpone the Christmas party. I am sorry to say the weather finally beat us on one of our Social events. Winnie and I were constantly on the telephone asking 'Should we postpone until the new year now or do we wait a bit longer'. I kept saying wait but eventually, we couldn't wait any longer. We had to admit we did not wish to risk the limbs of our members on the ice, especially those who walked to the hall just so they could have a few extra glasses of the wonderful mulled wine which one of our Wine Groups prepares for us on these occasions. These members would have been walking home, or should I say weaving home, in the dark, on icy pavements and paths, maybe falling in the gutter (or so it might have looked if someone had just stumbled on the ice). I could imagine the headlines now "*Fetcham U3A members drunk after party*". We could have possibly lost a few of our members to broken limbs and we did not want that so we are going to have an 'Un-Christmas Party' in January. I hope this starts the New Year well for us all.

Those of you who attended the AGM will have seen that we elected a new Treasurer and I would formally like to thank Bob

for his 2 years and welcome Hannah onto the Executive Committee - we all look forward to working with her during her tenure as Treasurer. We also increased the number of members on the Executive Committee from 10 to 12 and Tony C and Mary H were duly elected to fill these extra roles. With 550 members and 90 groups there is a lot of work involved in running Fetcham U3A and I felt that it would be advantageous to have these two, who were already acting as co-opted members, to be formally added to the committee. My thanks also to those of you who made the effort to attend the AGM. Here's to 2011, our Outings, Social events and good speakers as well as our groups.

Just as a closing remark, I was reading an article in the newspaper recently about 'The British Social Attitudes Survey' which stated "Many Britons are in denial about their real age, even a number of those who are at least 70 classed themselves as middle aged rather than old (their words not mine). Almost incredibly, 4% of interviewees who had turned 70 described themselves as "young". This 4% must have been Fetcham U3A members. Well done !!! We are still 'Young' to 'Middle aged'.

Bryan



Antiques and Collectables

Our group of enthusiastic members are looking forward to another interesting year in which we endeavour to learn about the items and people that represent a previous era in our society. One of the highlights of our 2011 diary is an evening with John Schroeder, one of the great A & R (artists and repertoire) men of the British pop music industry of the 1960s. John started his career at EMI Records, where he worked as Norrie Parramor's assistant. He co-wrote the song "Walking Back to Happiness" with Helen Shapiro which topped the singles charts in 1961. He also helped shape the careers of Cliff Richard and the Shadows, Pearl Carr and Teddy Johnson, Michael Holliday, Frank Ifield and others. John also launched the career of Status Quo, beginning in 1968, with their first hit "Pictures of Matchstick Men".



This event will be held on Wednesday, 21 September at 19.30 hours in Effingham. As a hall has been hired for the evening other U3A members are welcome to join us. Please contact the group leader as numbers will be limited. There will be a small charge for this event to cover costs.

Marilyn

Armchair Travel

This has been the first full year of the Armchair Travel Group. We have enjoyed a varied programme with group participation. Topics have included a Power point presentation of Norfolk Island past and present/Eco-friendly tourism/the island of Sicily - 2 different holidays taken by members/a favourite city and DVD's of the Ghan railway in Australia and Baltic Cities (interesting for those going on the U3A cruise). We ended the year with a bring and share lunch. The group is now full and meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2.30pm in various homes.



Jackie

Limericks

Edward Lear introduced limericks to this country, and there is actually a 'Limerick Day' on 12th May which is Edward Lear's birthday.

Jenny B has come up with the idea that we should have a section in the Newsletter of limericks produced by members and to start the ball rolling,

Jenny has composed this one:

*There once was a lady called Jenny
Of adventures in life she had many
Got in all sorts of scrapes
Had some narrow escapes
Now she's older she doesn't have any.*

So how about it folks? Ed.

Art Appreciation 1

In September 3 of us had a very interesting trip to the Dulwich Picture Gallery where we viewed the paintings that Leslie Pitcher had shown during his lectures, after which we went round the very interesting but rather unknown Salvatore Rosa Exhibition which we enjoyed very much. In the 18th and 19th centuries an exhibition would have been unthinkable without a Salvatore Rosa painting in it. We were very glad that we had taken no notice of the critics. Salvatore Rosa was a painter during the 15th century but in his day was not really appreciated as his subjects were more mythological and not from usual stories that the other well-known artists were portraying.

In October a party of 12 of us went up to see the Gauguin Exhibition at the Tate Modern. This was a very interesting and well designed exhibition portraying the artist throughout his life. There were 2 sections of letters, writings and handicrafts by Gauguin his family and friends which helped to portray him as a person. Then in November a small party of us went to the National Gallery to see Canaletto and his Rivals. We found it very interesting to see the same Venetian view done by 2 different artists. By the time we had got to the end of the Galleries we were able to pick out the other artist's styles.

Jenny C

Ballroom Dancing Group

Slow, slow, quick, quick, slow.....the Ballroom Dancing Group is learning new steps and having fun in the process. Sixteen of us enjoyed our Christmas Party in the Fetcham Reading Room. Alan and Valerie had planned a varied programme, which included ballroom dances, sequence dances and barn dances, the latter with many errors and much laughter. When do you go under....or over.... or is it best to try both at the same time?!



Everyone contributed to our meal, which resulted in a feast. We want to thank Alan and Valerie for organising this great evening once again and for their patience and encouragement at our group sessions throughout the year.

Ballroom Dancing Group Members



Scrabble for Fun

Anyone for Scrabble? I have just checked our web site and both our groups are listed as full. It only takes two to play, so how about starting a third group? If you offer to be the co-ordinator it is up to you to choose which day of the week and time suits you best. Your only duties are to make sure members take turns to host and have some system to disseminate that information. I promise you it is not a burden.

Janet (Scrabble for fun1)

Birds of Surrey



We are a new group which meets on the second Wednesday morning of the month. Our first meeting was in September when Wendy kindly offered her house and we had a wonderful morning drinking coffee and watching the many birds on her bird feeders.

We had our first trip out in November when we visited the RSPB Pulborough Brooks. Jenny had arranged a guided walk for us starting at 11am. The previous day had been torrential rain and the roads around Pulborough had been closed. However, the 10th November was a beautiful

cold clear bright day. The sun shone for us all the way round. There were 10 of us and the RSPB provided 2 guides so we were very well looked after. First we were shown the heathland restoration project where woodlarks and nightjars may be seen. We then went on a walk round the wetlands past the black fallow deer and the English white cattle to our first hide where we saw lapwing, pied wagtail and various ducks. We moved on past some lovely vantage points to another hide where we watched a flock of cormorants and many more ducks including Black tailed Godwits, Gadwall, Pintail, Teal, Shoveler, Shelduck and Widgeon. I can't honestly say I would be able to identify all of these birds if I saw them again but it was a wonderful day out and we have now started our journey of discovery.

Our December meeting was a trip to Polesden Lacey. Seven of us met for coffee in the restaurant and then we went to visit the hide where the bird feeders had been filled. There was plenty of activity with tits and nuthatches feeding while blackbirds and robins fought over their territory. After a short walk to get the circulation going we had a well deserved lunch back in the restaurant.

Kathryn

General Knowledge Quiz

(answers on page 16)

- 1) Who wrote the novel 'Lady Windermere's Fan'?
- 2) Which former Prime Minister played cricket for Middlesex?
- 3) By what title is Geraldine Granger better known?
- 4) Which singer starred in a series of spoof spy films featuring the character 'Matt Helm'?
- 5) What type of animal is a Chester White?
- 6) In World War II which new weapon was named after a musical instrument popular with radio comedian of the time Bob Burns?
- 7) Which composer studied under Schenk, Haydn and Salieri?
- 8) When Roger Bannister broke the 4 minute mile record, which of his pacemakers became ITV's first newsreader?
- 9) What is the connection between the Great Fire of London and the seven letters used to represent Roman numerals?
- 10) On TV who used the catchphrase was "She who must be obeyed"?

Bridge

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

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

The dates for 2011 are;

January	13, 27
February	10
March	3, 10, 24
April	14, 28
May	12, 26
June	9, 23
July	14, 28
August	11, 25
September	8, 22
October	13
November	3, 10, 24
December	8

Subscriptions become due on 1st January and for 2011 is £16 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

Wine Challenge



There are now **seven** Wine Appreciation Groups in Fetcham U3A—all thirsting for knowledge about wine and after all that imbibing many of them are becoming quite expert. I am sure there are also many more members of our U3A who know a thing or two about their wines.

Reflecting on this, **Jo & Ernie**, who were the Group Leaders of pioneering Wine Appreciation Group 1, thought it would be a good idea to start 2011 off with a simple challenge to tickle our palettes and stimulate our brain cells.

1. Which grape is generally used in the making of Beaujolais?
2. Carmenère is a grape now grown mainly in which country?
3. In which country is the famous wine growing area of Stellenbosch?
4. What is Malmsey?
5. Red wines called clarets come from which region of France?
6. Which grape is used in the making of Chablis?
7. What are Spanish sparkling wines called?
8. What is Shiraz called in France?
9. Is the Malbec grape used to make red or white wine?
10. Is Argentina an Old World or New World wine producer?

(Answers on page 17)

Digital Photography

2010 was a successful year for the Digital Photography Group. We now have more than fifty members, and at least thirty attend our main bi-monthly meetings in St. Nicolas Pastoral Hall, Great Bookham at any one time. We arranged a number of outings during the year and developed a very fruitful cooperation with the Bookham U3A Photography Group. We also showed an exhibition of our work, including our annual prize winning photos, at a main Fetcham U3A monthly meeting. At the start of the year we held a number of “catch-up” meetings for potential new members before they joined the main group. These proved very successful and some existing members also joined them for revision! Other new members, perhaps with a little more experience, successfully joined the main group directly. We always try and make this easy by doing some “recaps” before moving on to new subjects in all our meetings.

In the main meetings we covered a wide range of topics, including composition, because it is still better to take a good photo in the first place despite all of the opportunities for subsequent computer manipulation and enhancement of digital images. We also looked at freely available software such as Picasa and Gimp that can be used to help edit and improve images on a home computer. We looked at various ways of storing and displaying photos, which included producing albums and photo-books, printing your own photos, commercial printing services, making photo-collages, digital photo-frames and producing discs to show on a TV. We are always looking at

how to use the various features and settings on digital cameras and encouraging members not to just resort to “point-and-shoot”.

Outings were an important part of the year because they allow members to show their photos at subsequent meetings and explain how they took them and what processing they have done before displaying the final images in a large meeting room. Looking at photos taken by members has proved very popular with everyone, not just those who took part in the outings. During the year we have been to Ranmore Common at bluebell time in the spring (and were lucky enough to find early purple orchids as well), Polesden Lacey in the summer and Winkworth Arboretum in the autumn. Capturing images of bluebells and getting the colour right is surprisingly difficult! Polesden Lacey provided the opportunity for landscape photography and Winkworth for capturing autumn colours.

The composite picture on the back cover of the newsletter illustrates some of the topics we have covered. The photos are from our Winkworth outing. They have each been processed using the free software we have been using, for example, some are cropped so that they are no longer standard 3x2 size. They have then been grouped, sized and arranged as a collage with a colour background and text using Picasa. The collage could also be used as a stand alone composite picture, as here, or for entries in albums, photo-books, calendars etc.

A highlight of the year was a result of making contact with the Bookham U3A Photography Group. We discovered that the things we do are largely complementary and we now invite Bookham members to our activities. I am particularly grateful to Maurice, who leads the Bookham Group, for joining us at a main meeting to show us how to make personalised photo-books as records of events and holidays. We were all very impressed by the professional quality of the books Maurice had produced using a software service called BLURB. This provides all you need to produce a book and also a very good value printing and production service. Many of us have now produced photo-books, one of which was a souvenir of the Fetcham U3A Holland river boat cruise that a number of recipients of this newsletter now have. It was a pleasure to reciprocate Maurice's session by joining the Bookham Group to present sessions on Picasa and photographic composition. Maurice will be back with us next year and will introduce us to some software that can do even more than Picasa and Gimp.

All this may sound complicated, but don't be put off, it is not at all difficult to tackle the topics we cover and we aim to be a self-help group and meet the needs of enthusiasts and beginners alike. **In 2011** we plan to go back to how to use all of the features of a digital camera and why using the various settings can make for better pictures than just "auto" point and shoot. We will look again at how to store and process pictures and display them and introduce some new ways of doing things. We will cover emailing photos and making souvenirs such as calendars and personalised books. We will

hold an annual exhibition and competition. More outings are planned. It may be of interest to know that we always look for tips on the cheapest way of doing things!

So, if you are interested in the group please don't hesitate to contact me. Come and try one meeting, let me know if you are interested in an introductory group or ask me for more information.

Finally, I would like to thank the small team who plan the work of the group, keep the membership contact details up-to-date and help organise meetings. They are Caryl, Vivien, Christine, Bill and John. Without them we would quickly grind to a halt! We also rely on inputs from U3A friends such as Graham and our own group members who bring their photos to display and their own thoughts and ideas, so thanks to all of them.

With very best wishes for a photogenic 2011.

Larry

Computer Hints

You will often come across the problem of not being able to read a document because the page and therefore the type-face is too small.

You can enlarge it by going to **VIEW** and changing its size in the drop down window.

But there is a quicker way – Press and hold down the Control button and scroll the central wheel on your mouse to achieve the exact size you want.



Family History 2

When we embark on researching our ancestors we never know what we might turn up so it's not unusual to discover family we never knew existed, that lived perhaps just a few roads away from us when we were children. Sometimes the skeletons in our family cupboards are exposed too much, which makes for fascinating reading but also makes us aware of the deep need people had in those far off days to keep their secrets hidden from public knowledge, as their peers were too judgemental and had strict codes of what was acceptable behaviour, although not always following the rules themselves.

Each month we've heard some fascinating stories from various members in our group who have uncovered such secrets as they searched all available records today.

Everyone has found something unexpected in their family tree. Who would ever have guessed that certain relatives never did get married but were simply living together, and that bigamy was actually quite common, also adultery, and to find a black sheep in the family tree is something we are actually pleased about today. What a naughty lot our ancestors were! But their secrets are no longer safe as we sift through the archives and discover things we would never have dreamt about. As an example, the picture is of John Kay, an ancestor of mine - a miner, but never spoken of by his sister, my maternal grandmother, whereas she eulogised over another brother who was a policeman - aren't folks funny.



This month was more of a special occasion and we had an enjoyable Christmas meeting with food and drink, plus we listened to a true story about one person's ancestor who was shipwrecked on an island. Shades of Robinson Crusoe! Now we are looking forward to many more revelations and new, exciting discoveries in the New Year.

Maureen

Census - A census has essential information for anyone researching their family history. A census has been taken every ten years since 1841 and each edition gives information as to who was alive at that time, where they lived, what jobs they did, their ages, therefore their birth year, birth places, spouse names, and how many children, their

Household No.	Family Name	First Name	Age	Sex	Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Other
1	John	John	45	M					
2	Mary	Mary	40	F					
3	William	William	35	M					
4	Elizabeth	Elizabeth	30	F					
5	James	James	25	M					
6	John	John	20	M					
7	Mary	Mary	15	F					
8	Elizabeth	Elizabeth	10	F					
9	James	James	5	M					
10	John	John	0	M					

names, even as to whether any were imbeciles or invalids.

So you can see how important the censuses were, and still are. This year is also a year when a census will be carried out but it won't be available to genealogists for a hundred years. The image on the left is of a page of the 1911 census which is the most recent open to public view.

Maureen

French Conversation 2

We rounded off another series of extremely varied talks and discussions with our Christmas party. Our delicious lunch included French cheeses, quiches and wines and then we studied some French poems and sang carols accompanied by Barbara on the violin and Alfred who played the piano.

This is one of the descriptive poems:

Le Facteur

**Sur la route gelée et dure,
Où tremble de chaque côté
La sombre et farouche verdure
Des sapins au front attristé,**

**Le vieux facteur marche en silence
Frappant le sol de son bâton;
Sur son épaule se balance
Le sac aux lettres du canton.**

**Dans ce grand sac en toile usée
Un curieux découvrirait,
Après l'enveloppe brisée,
Plus d'un mystérieux secret.**

**Tout près des beaux rêves de gloire,
Dont un ami s'enivrera,
Est un cachet de cire noire
Qu'une mère en pleurs ouvrira.**

**Paroles d'espoir attendues,
Hypocrites serments, regrets,
Rires, tristesses éperdues
Reposent dans ses flancs discrets.**

ALBERT GLATIGNY

Bonne Année à tous

Lesley

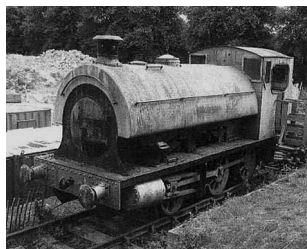
Railway Studies - No. 3837

This is the number of a semi-derelict steam railway engine (see picture below) which has been located for fifteen years behind the Leatherhead Leisure Centre as a plaything for children. Recently there has been a need to clear the site so it was offered for sale. A group of local enthusiasts decided to buy it so they set about raising the money. This proved to be not too difficult because it was sold to them for the sum of £1.80p. However, a condition of the sale was that they had to arrange for its removal - a vastly more expensive enterprise! Its new home will be on the Lavender Line, a preserved railway near Uckfield. Here it will be refurbished and taken into use as a working steam locomotive.

This venture was the first matter to be discussed at the inaugural meeting of the newly-formed Railway Studies Group last November. After coffee the Group watched a video on a number of items of railway history. The plan is that the group should meet in members' homes for a blend of talks and videos on railway subjects, with site visits during the summer. A similar group has just started in Ashted U3A so joint visits might be arranged.

Indoor meetings will take place on the third Tuesday morning of the month. The Group already has as many members as can be accommodated at indoor meetings but anyone interested in joining, particularly to take part in site visits,

should contact me.



Geoff

XXIV IAUTA Conference on Older People, Experience & Sustainable Development

Hosted by the University of Costa Rica in the capital San Jose November 2010

The conference was attended by me, Fetcham and Guildford U3As, on behalf of the Third Age Trust. I was honoured to be nominated by the Trust and elected to the Governing Board at the General Assembly held on the first evening of the conference.

The conference was very well organised by the university with simultaneous translation between Spanish, English and French as required. The Governing Board now consists of representatives of thirteen nations and eight of those made presentations during the conference. The conference incorporated a University of Costa Rica conference on gerontology and that drew in participants from El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico and USA as well as many from Costa Rica.

We were welcomed by Dr Ana Morice, Vice-Minister of Health, on behalf of the country's President, Laura Chinchilla, and by officers of the university. There was much talk of the effect of increased longevity on Latin American societies, and in a recent article Dr Morice had noted that life expectancy in Costa Rica was now amongst the higher ones in the world – 79.3 years in Costa Rica as against 79.4 years in the UK.



My own talk covered the growth of the U3A movement in the UK, Australia and New Zealand and suggested the strong probability of continuing growth in the future and hopefully the expansion into new regions based on international contacts and conferences. The proportion of the over-sixty age group in U3As was mentioned by speakers, although it is a useful measure rather than a defining measure of U3A involvement and success. Adding in the data gained about Sweden and China the figures are shown in the table below.

	Sweden	New Zealand	UK	Australia	China
Population 60+ (%)	24.8	16.2	20.8	16.8	12.5
U3A Membership (%)	1.0	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.6
Average U3A Size	900	172	322	342	108

Each day ended with demonstrations of musical and dancing talent with seniors represented in the formation dancing group from the university. On the third day we were offered the opportunity of being shown around day centres and residential facilities for the older citizens. We also took in the museum of the central bank which has a marvellous collection of pre-Columbian gold artefacts.

It was unfortunate that the IAUTA President, Stan Miller of Evesham U3A, was not able to attend in person on medical advice. However, he was able to join us by Flash Meeting on the final afternoon of the conference and wished everybody future success. Although not finalised it looks as though the next IAUTA conference will be in Lisbon in the Spring of 2012.

Ian

Saluti to Italian Holidays

Our expedition to the 'Heel' of Italy last September proved a great success. From a very comfortable hotel close to Alberobello, without travelling far we discovered a good part of the Apulian region., in company with experienced, enthusiastic guides to enlighten us about a variety of historic sites and local life today.

Over centuries in this region people have lived (and still do) in some quite extra ordinary buildings. We were shown the white-washed conical Trulli houses, visited the Sassi cave-style dwellings and churches in Matera, and extraordinary ancient castle mysteriously constructed on a hexagonal theme with eight rooms in eight towers. We also enjoyed plenty of opportunities to sample local cuisine and browse in the shopping areas or just enjoy the sunshine. One wet morning did not deter us from exploring a picturesque hilltop town, despite umbrellas unable to protect our feet from rainwater streaming the old streets – perhaps we were not fully appreciative of great views across the surrounding countryside!

Apulia is indeed a very interesting and worthwhile region to visit, which I can recommend if you are attracted to Italian culture. Our "package" was taken from Page & Moy's brochure and can well be extended beyond a week if you wish to explore a bit further.

Or how about joining with our group next September when we set off to appreciate Italian delights in the Veneto area, including Bassano, Padua, Venice, Vicenza, etc?

Sheila



Bookham Humanities Group

(A study of twentieth century life and arts)

This group has been running successfully in Bookham for seven years. Originally the arts, literature, social history and political life of the Georgian period were studied, followed by those of the long reign of Queen Victoria. We have been looking at aspects of Edwardian life for the past year and should like to extend our membership to include participants from Fetcham U3A.

Meetings last year included an Edwardian picnic, a presentation on life upstairs and

downstairs and an illustrated talk covering art nouveau in Britain and Europe. Our next three meetings will cover Edwardian gardens, poetry and journalism. We plan to proceed into the nineteen twenties after Easter.

Members choose a topic of interest to them and offer a presentation which usually takes the form of a talk with book illustrations, slides or videos and we meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.30 p.m. Please contact me if you would like to find out more.

Caroline

Jazz Appreciation

At the September meeting I illustrated on the piano the many different ways of playing the blues - eg, in a Major or Minor Key, in 4/4 or 3/4 time mostly in 12 Bar groups but I have occasionally played an 8 bar blues. In general the 12 bar blues covers such well known themes as C-Jam Blues, In the Mood, and Bluesology. Following this I played a record called "Stolen Moments" written by Oliver Nelson which is a very cleverly chorded version of the 12 Bar with interesting voicing.

Amongst other records, we played a couple of piano trio recordings by Victor Feldman and Benny Green (the American Benny Green), a big band version of "The Goof and I" by Woody Herman's 2nd Herd and a version of "Nuages" by Stephane Grappelli played by Paul Desmond who for many years played with Dave Brubeck - who you may have seen celebrating his 90th birthday recently - still playing!!

When George Gershwin wrote "I've got Rhythm" he probably had no idea that the basic chord structure would appeal to most jazz musicians as an ideal vehicle for improvisation - but it most certainly is and many tunes have been written on this format- eg, "Things ain't what they used to be, "Anthropology", - and even the theme tune from the "Flintstones"!! and I illustrated these.

One of our members asked if we could feature a different instrument monthly and we are now spending the first part of each meeting on this project and started in October with The Piano.

Before playing records I illustrated how the soloist weaves a pattern through the chord sequence which is the basis on which the tune is built - and on which - in essence - we try to improvise another melody. Then followed contributions from Dave McKenna, Errol Garner, George Shearing, Oscar Peterson, Monty Alexander, Bill Evans, Victor Feldman, Art Tatum and Allan Broadbent.

The evening concluded with a variety of other soloists and Jackie Dankworth on vocals. Similarly in November we dealt with the clarinet covering Benny Goodman - Woody Herman - Artie Shaw - Ken Peplowski - Mark Crooks - Julian Stringle - and Eddie Daniels.

Very unfortunately snow caused cancellation of the next meeting but we are hoping to start on the tenor sax in our January meeting. We would welcome any new members and please phone me if interested. All meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm at my house.

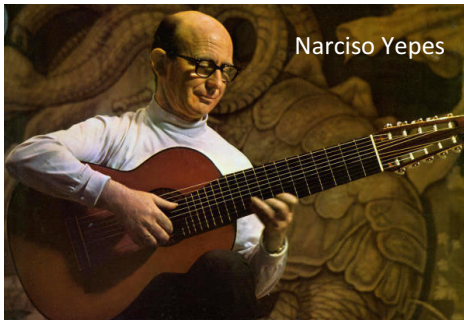
Roy



Music Appreciation 1

Our final musical evenings of 2010 have been more of mixtures.

Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, Clarinet, Piano and Horn concertos and pieces from Così Fan Tutte, followed by Nana Mouskouri (there's a change for you if ever there was one) followed by Narciso Yepes, a new one to me.



***Yepes** was born into a family of humble origin in Lorca, a town in Murcia, Spain. His father gave him his first guitar when he was four years old. He took his first lessons from Jesus Guevara, in Lorca. Later his family moved to Valencia when the Spanish Civil War started in 1936. When he was 13, he was accepted to study at the Conservatorio de Valencia with the pianist and composer Vicente Asencio where he studied harmony, composition, and performance. On December 16, 1947 he made his Madrid début, performing Joaquin Rodrigo's Concerto de Aranjuez with Ataulfo Argenta conducting the Spanish National Orchestra. The overwhelming success of this performance brought him renown from critics and public alike. Soon afterwards, he began to tour with Argenta, visiting Switzerland, Italy, Germany and France. During this time*

he was largely responsible for the growing popularity of the Concerto de Aranjuez. He died in 1997, after a long battle with Lymphoma.

Then we were treated to some songs from Montserrat Caballe. This was the lady who, joined with Freddy Mercury to sing the song "Barcelona" which introduced the Olympics of 1992.

Being posh our next meeting was the ballet "Swan Lake". I never realized that there were different endings to this ballet. I always thought the swan died, but not in this one.

We then had a trip round Europe with Walton and Holst representing England and Dukas for France. We had a piece played on the Oliwa Cathedral Organ. Oliwa Cathedral is 107 metres long, that's a long walk for a bride getting married walking down the aisle of the cathedral to get to your groom. You would need a long piece of music for that one.

We then had a piece from Joseph Rheinberger, another child genius. At the age of 7 he was the local church organist. Mozart and Strauss represented Austria, the Three Tenors, Italy. We ended back in England with Copland, Elgar, Goodwin, Parry and Green with the 'Evening Hymn and Sunset'. What a grand evening, as they always are.

For December, I broke with tradition and allowed the group to talk as much as they want at our annual Christmas nibbles and wine. The background music was superfluous.

We have had a great year and wish everybody in Fetcham & District U3A a Happy and Healthy 2011.

Bryan & Penny

Music Appreciation 2

The new group held its first meeting on 21 October. The evening was taken up with procedural matters so we didn't manage to hear any music. However we did establish that generally we are fond of almost every type of music. We agreed that our meetings would feature the choices of all the members of the group either individually or collectively.

Consequently the second meeting on 18 November was taken up with choral music in CD form presented by all those present. Sadly illness and other difficulties meant that only four of us could attend though this did not prevent our enjoyment of a very varied programme. Modern vocal music and ensembles were contrasted with Verdi's Requiem and some less well-known pieces by Beethoven and Berlioz.

The next meeting is on 20 January and each member will be featuring his or her favourite composer. It should be stressed that composers can include any of the classical favourites but, if desired, the likes of Lennon and McCartney and Richard Rodgers etc.

We still have a couple of vacancies in this group. Please contact me.

Laurie

Fitness & Fun

Join one of the Fitness & Fun Groups. We have room for you at either the 9.30 or 11.00 sessions on Fridays. We meet weekly to do low impact exercises to music plus some stretching and strengthening exercises, and we get plenty of laughs. The classes are run by our expert teacher, Janella, and everyone works at their own level. The photo shows some of us who gathered for a special New Year's Eve session.

To find out more contact Enid, the greatly appreciated hard-working Leader of all three Fitness & Fun Groups.

Sandy



Fetcham U3A “Old Lags” dine at

THE CLINK is the first commercial restaurant to open INSIDE a British prison. THE CLINK is managed by THE CLINK CHARITY, offender's ex-offenders, inside or out of prison, the opportunity to achieve national catering qualifications – to gain experience within an exciting, operational business – to receive effective guidance into full time employment – and, in turn, acquire self respect, secure housing, a stable family life and a decent life in a decent society.

From the 12th century until 1780, The Clink was Britain's most notorious prison, condemning heretics and priests, debtors and rebel rousers to a diet of bread and water, at best, things change. On May 11th 2009, The Clink re-opened, this time at Her Majesty's Prison High Down, Sutton serving quality food to prison staff, visitors and the public as part of an innovative resettlement program.

The Clink offers a memorable dining experience. Patrons approach the restaurant via the prison gates, following a security check, and cross a yard to a barred door. There, patrons are admitted into a sixty by seventy feet dining room, illuminated by sophisticated computer controlled lighting. From the reception area's ten foot etched glass panel, customers are led by a prisoner-turned-waiter, to prisoner-designed and built tables and elegant seating. The restaurant seats eighty customers at eight tables, served by eight inmates.

Members of the public can book, but the prison must be able to verify the names of people coming, to avoid security risks and two weeks notice is normally required. You need to bring photo ID and must leave your mobile phone at the door (as well as any scissors, knives, aerosols or chewing gum), but this is a small price to pay when in return you have the real treat of a very decent lunch from under a tenner – payable only by cheque.

This is a must for the New Year

Please mention when booking that you are a member of Fetcham U3A.

Here's the address.
H.M.P. High Down,
High Down Lane,
Sutton,
Surrey, SM2 5PJ
Tel: 020 7147 6524



Malcolm



Walking 1

The last two walks of 2010 proved interesting.

On the first, our route took us from the Boldermere car park to the ***Chatley Heath Semaphore Tower***. It was once part of a chain which was used to pass messages between the Admiralty in Whitehall and the Royal Naval Dockyard in Portsmouth. It was built in 1822 and is now the only restored surviving tower.



Then on to the disused ***Wisley Airfield***, where a surprise greeted us – fourteen acres of land had been transformed into French World War 1 battlefields and trenches as Steven Spielberg was using the area as one of the sets for his film of ***“War Horse”***. It was fascinating and the film is due for release towards the end of 2011.

On the last walk of 2010, we set off along the top of Reigate Hill, firstly passing ***Reigate Fort*** – one of thirteen mobilisation centres built at the end of the 1800s in a defensive line stretching along the North Downs for 72 miles. It was fully restored in 2000 and is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument.



Soon after this we passed a ***memorial seat***, which marks the spot where a Flying Fortress crashed as it returned from a bombing raid in 1945, killing all nine American airmen on board.

Then as we came to the top of Colley Hill, we saw the ***Inglis Memorial***, from where there are amazing views to the South Downs.

We are now looking forward to our walks in 2011.



Jo and Ernie

Answers to the General Knowledge Quiz

(from Page 4)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1) Oscar Wilde | 6) The Bazooka |
| 2) Sir Alec Douglas-Home | 7) Beethoven |
| 3) The Vicar of Dibley | 8) Chris Chataway (Sir) |
| 4) Dean Martin | 9) MDCLXVI is 1666, the year of the Great Fire |
| 5) A Pig | 10) Rumpole of the Bailey |

Wine Appreciation 6



Wine tasting is the sensory examination and evaluation of wine. Our Group sommelier, Kathy, is a knowledgeable wine tasting professional !!!!!!! ??????????

Following a tough year of evaluating over 60 wines from across the World, the group adjourned to the Grange Hotel, Bookham for its annual exploration of how food and wine, beer, spirits and other beverages work in harmony together.

Please note the use of the English mini “Vuvuzela” for awarding points for each selected wine.



Malcolm – Wine duff in the making

Wine Challenge Answers

(from page 5)

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Gamay | 6. Chardonnay |
| 2. Chile | 7. Cava |
| 3. South Africa | 8. Syrah |
| 4. A sweet, fortified wine mainly from Madeira | 9. Red |
| 5. Bordeaux | 10. New World |

Wine Appreciation 7 – French Trip

Following the success of our first visit in March, it was decided that we would have a second trip to France on 12th December for lunch, wine tasting and shopping. Once again the minibus collected us from 6 different addresses in Ashted, Bookham and Fetcham and we arrived at the Eurotunnel Ashford terminal in time to catch the 10.20 train. During the 35 minute train journey we enjoyed refreshments provided by various members of the group.

As with our previous trip our lunch and wine tasting had been organised in a local restaurant in Ardres by Guy Boursot at a cost of 27 Euros each plus 8 Euros each for the wines. This was based on a glass of bubbly on arrival, 3 whites and 3 reds during the meal and a dessert wine to finish – extremely reasonable for 8 full glasses of wine each. Guy joined us for the meal to speak about the wines being tasted, the current state of the wine industry and its possible future directions.



We were greeted at the restaurant with glasses of Couronne d'Or (Chapin & Landais) a dry sparkling wine produced in the Saumur region of the Loire, by the Méthode Traditionnelle, once called the Champagne Method. We were also tempted with a wide selection of nibbles to keep us going until the meal itself.

Prior to the trip we had made our selections from an excellent menu which had 5 choices for each course. We asked Guy to include a Chablis in the white selection, not realising that earlier in the year he had been crushed by a pallet of the same Chablis (Henri de Villamont, 2008) falling off the back of a lorry. This broke his collarbone and femur placing him in a wheelchair. Fortunately, he is well on the way to recovery and was able to walk with the aid of crutches by the time of our visit.

The final red wine on our list was Torus, Alain Brumont (Madriran), 2007. Madiran makes deep rich wines from the Tannat grape and this example had plenty of flavour whilst retaining a degree of elegance. This is an excellent wine and much

more “In your Face” than most French reds. Our dessert wine was Château du Juge, Cadillac (Bordeaux), 2006. The area of Cadillac, close to Loupiac and Sauternes, was granted its own status in 1973, and has produced some very good sweet wines. These tend to be lighter and more refreshing in style than those of Sauternes.

Following an excellent meal and wines we enjoyed coffee and more nibbles before walking back to Guy’s shop in the centre of Ardres for additional tastings, and to purchase some of those wines we had tried. Guy sells wines from as little as 2,60€ per bottle. On the way back to the Eurotunnel terminal we just had time to make a quick diversion to the Majestic warehouse where we had 15 minutes to purchase some bargain price wines that they had on offer.

A lot of thanks have to go to Haines Minicoaches for providing a very comfortable vehicle with an excellent driver and to Guy Boursot for arranging the meal, wines and talks. Guy’s web site is <http://www.boursot.co.uk/>. Final cost per head for the trip taking account of exchange rate differences and credit card charges was £64.99 which included the minicoach, crossing, the 4 course meal, the wine tasting and a £24 tip for the driver.

Adrian & Jenny

Joint Wine Tasting

Eighty members of Fetcham U3A’s seven wine groups held their annual joint tasting last October in St Mary’s Annexe.

The two Heathers from “Red, White and Rosé” led the evening with the theme of “*Call My Wine Bluff*”. Each of them gave a different description of the wines and we had to decide which was correct.

It was a fun evening and ended with an individual challenge to determine a winner. The winner was Geoffrey S.

Jo & Ernie



The two finalists



‘Bottoms up’

Battle of Britain Dance

With the 'All Clear' reverberating around the Old Barn Hall, decorated with Union Jacks, bunting and posters from the wartime, the Station Commander told the assembled company that all planes from both squadrons had safely returned to base, they could now stand down until 0545 tomorrow morning and push off to the NAAFI to dance to the music of Tuxedo Junction.

Thus started the **Battle of Britain Dance**. In spite of the heavy rain which had fallen all day it was encouraging to see that so many members had taken the trouble to don appropriate dress for the occasion and, later in the evening, following a parade around the hall, prizes were given to two RAF officers, a land army girl and a nurse. The food was appropriate to the period, including Lord Woolton Pie - a mixture of vegetables with a potato crust - and one of the desserts was made with evaporated milk and jelly, and very tasty it was too!

To add to the authenticity - but really because of the heavy torrential rain - the kitchen became flooded, but it could easily have been the result of a bomb landing on the NAAFI. Willing members lent a hand to stem the tide of water which began to seep into the hall, and all the while the band played on. People gave very generously knowing that all the proceeds from the raffle would be given to the local **Help for Heroes** fund.

At the end of the evening, following a singsong of the most famous wartime tunes, the Station Duty Officer gave the alert that fifty plus bandits were approaching the airfield (accompanied by film of evacuating Londoners making for the shelters and the sounds of bombs dropping) so we should report to our duty stations or take cover in the shelters. The evening was both nostalgic and happy, and as members left they were still humming the old songs.

The last sound was Winston Churchill with his now famously stirring speech about so much being owed by so many to so few. There proved to be no better way to end!

Winnie



Committee Members

Chairman	Bryan
Vice-Chairman	Mary C
Treasurer	Hannah
Secretary	Diana
Membership Secretary	Kathy
Groups Co-ordinator	Enid
Speaker Secretary	David
Publicity Officer	Winnie
Member	Graham
Member	Tony R
Member	Ian
Member	Mary H
Member	Tony C

Support Services

Welfare of Members	Jo H
Tea Organiser	Jean
Social Events	Winnie
Outings/Theatre Visits	Sheila
Floor Manager	Bob
Newsletter Editors	Judy
	John
	Caryl

*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.*



*DIGITAL
PHOTOGRAPHY
GROUP OUTING
TO WINKWORTH
ARBORETUM*

