

Volume 14, Issue 1 Spring 2016

Fetcham In Focus

U3A



Three Queens in Liverpool

The Newsletter of Fetcham University of the Third Age

Chairman's Column



Welcome to our April issue of the Newsletter. Many thanks to all those who have contributed items to our Editors. I know it's a chore - but without you we wouldn't have a newsletter.

From the 'What's Going On!' section you can see the changes on the committee. Members have now drawn a short straw in having me as Chairman, but I have Tony R as Vice Chairman who will make sure I don't stray too far from the rules. Mary C (a hard act to follow) is now Speaker Secretary. 'Young Malcolm' H returns as Treasurer. We have two new committee members, Linda G who is helping with the Groups and Workshops, and Jenny B who is currently planning First Aid Training.

The committee wish you all a great summer and we hope you enjoy the varied events that have been organised for you.

Chris W

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

Three Queens Trip to Liverpool



The Cunard 175th Anniversary showpiece the 3 Queens, Mary 2 (the most expensive ocean liner ever built) alongside the Victoria and Elizabeth sailing into Liverpool's Albert Dock in May. Day 1 had seen us travel to Shugborough in Staffordshire, the UK's only complete working estate with kitchens, a dairy, watermill, brewhouse and farm all manned by costumed guides. The house was well known as the residence of Lord Lichfield and there was much there to remind us of him, including many of his iconic photographs. We then continued to Cheshire, stopping on the outskirts of the village of Anderton for a trip on the Boat Lift - a magnificent structure linking the River Weaver with the Trent and Mersey Canal.

The next day we headed to the Albert Dock to join the celebrations as the Elizabeth, which was already moored

there, sailed out to the mouth of the Mersey to greet the Victoria and Mary 2 and lead them back to the centre where they gracefully performed a 'dance' – not easy with vessels of that size! There was a real carnival atmosphere with singing and a band performing on the steps of the original Cunard building.

On the 3rd day we had a trip on an iconic Mersey Ferry – Sir Peter Blake had repainted the Snowdrop and it was renamed the Razzle Dazzle. It certainly did that in spite of the somewhat chilly weather. We got up close and personal with the Victoria, which was the only ship left in the Dock as the other two had sailed away overnight, and the passengers on board waved their flags as we passed by. Back at the Terminal there was an original captured U534 submarine, cut into sections and used for a very interesting U-boat Story exhibition. You could get a real sense of the restrictive atmosphere on board. From there we went on to tour Chester – a beautiful example of old world England with timber-framed buildings, panoramic city walls, a magnificent Roman amphitheatre and the Victorian Eastgate Clock.

Our final day was a full one. We firstly visited Port Sunlight, where a very knowledgeable and pleasant guide



took us, and the coach, on a guided tour to learn more about the village and its creator, William Hesketh Lever. After free time to explore both the village and the Gallery we left for our final visit en route home – Biddulph Grange Gardens now owned by The National Trust. I must confess I knew little about the gardens and the house which had been the residence

of James Bateman for over 30 years but they proved to be extremely interesting though, with steep steps and paths, walking around them was not for the faint hearted. The facade of a beautiful Japanese house, built beside a small lake, was a complete but pleasant surprise. The house was then sold to

Robert Heath, who also lived there for 30 years. It was then sold on to Staffordshire County Council and turned into a hospital. The National Trust purchased the gardens in 1991 and the building was turned into flats by a private developer. The piece de resistance was the cream tea. We then set off on our return journey after a very full 4 day trip.

Our Quiz Winners



Liz R
 Larry R
 Terry T
 Veronica T
 Michael D
 Moira D
 Malcolm H
 Pat H
 Geoff R
 Geoff H

Walking 1

We have endured some wet walking conditions this Winter following a very mild Autumn but a hardy core of walkers are still making the effort to get some fresh air and exercise. We are muddy but unbowed! We take



turns to lead a walk so the area of countryside covered is a surprise every month. Some members bring the dogs so that they too get a change of scene. We talk the whole time we are walking and seem to enjoy one another's company. The lunch at a nearby hostelry, which always follows our walk, is our reward for our efforts. There are a few places available on our monthly Thursday walk – see the website for details. The picture shows us listening to Tony telling us about Albury church on a winter walk.

Heather D

Bryan's Quiz

- 1 Which country has more polo clubs than any other?
- 2 How many feet does a snail have?
- 3 The masked hero 'Zorro' took his name from the Spanish word for which animal?
4. Which member of the British royal family is the Chancellor of Cambridge University?
- 5 In/on what object would you find a 'Rampart' above an 'Escapement'?
- 6 Which British capital city stands on the River Lagan?
- 7 In June 1965, astronaut Edward H White II, became the first American to do what?
- 8 What is the nearest capital city to the equator?
- 9 The Great Smoo is Scotland's largest what?
- 10 Which is the world's oldest walled town?



Answers on back cover

Jewellery and Accessories - 1 and 2

We have been exceedingly busy during the last few months and have produced some really different items - beaded needle cases and Christmas angels, as well as beautiful necklaces.

Group 1 set the trend and embarked on making beaded tassels – a new venture and great fun using new equipment and needing lots of extra fingers while putting it all together! They were all a great success and some of you may have seen them at the recent AGM. I am attaching a couple of photos to give you an idea of just how lovely they are.



Group 2 have been equally busy and have made several different designed necklaces and are about to start making their own beaded tassels.

The warping board will again be clamped to the kitchen table while we make the threads for the tassel skirt. This is then wrapped round a template to make the actual skirt and which is



attached to our painted wooden tassel tops. Then comes the fun part with the beaded embellishments!

Lots more beading is planned for the coming months but, while we are busy, we always have a lot of fun, plenty of lively chatting and putting the world to rights, and enjoying coffee and scrumptious biscuits.

Brenda D

Free Legal Helpline

Arc Legal Assistance, in partnership with Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, will be the new providers of a legal helpline service available to U3A members. The telephone number is 0344 770 1040 and quote 'U3A Legal Helpline'.

U3A 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 Chicago on the second Thursday and the fourth Thursday of each month from 10am to 12.30pm.

The dates for the rest of 2016 are:

April 14, 28

May 12, 26, June 9, 23

July 14, 28, August 11, 25

September 8, 22, October 13
(only one in October as hall in use by church)

November 3, 10, 24, December 8
(3 in November in lieu of one missed last month)

Subscriptions became due on 1 January and remain the same as last year, £21 if paid as a lump sum in advance for the year's meetings or £2 payable at each meeting for those not



paying the lump sum. These amounts include coffee/tea and a biscuit. All players must be

a member of a U3A but it does not have to be Fetcham. This is a joint venture with our friends in Bookham and Leatherhead U3As.

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.

Current Group Status: Vacancies

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

Trevor A



Happy Birthday!

Roy C, who runs our Jazz Appreciation Group, celebrates his 90th birthday later this year.

Card 1

Following our Glass Blowing in August, Card Group 1 got down to the serious business of producing Christmas cards, using a variety of techniques and materials. One of my personal favourites was an open sash window which looked on to decorated Christmas trees, which appeared to be outside in the garden. Members also enjoyed using glitter - the thing about glitter is that somehow it seeps into everything and one is still sweeping it up at Easter! Stamping, embossing, die-cutting, decoupage, cutting, sticking gems and beads – we give them all a go.



We ended the year with a Christmas lunch at Elizabeth's new restaurant in Bookham. Happily every member of the Card Group was able to attend and it was a lively, and quite noisy occasion.

Tradition dictates that at the beginning of each year we make a series of cards suitable for men and the first card in January produced a layered hedgehog snuggled up in a bed of beech leaves, collected from our gardens.

Jan is already preparing workshops for the forthcoming year and is anxious to convert us all to "Macrame". Macrame tends to have an image reminiscent of 60's and 70's pot holders, for those of us who can remember that far back(!), but Jan wants to introduce us to modern interpretations, so watch this space!

Anne W

Wine 4 Celebrates 10 Years

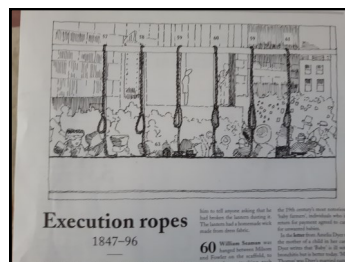


Where has the time gone? We're older but are we any wiser about wine? Well hopefully we have a thirst for knowledge as well as a thirst for wine! Our membership has changed over the years but we still have ten of the original members which says something for our staying and quaffing power.

We've had an annual visit to a vineyard together with a summer garden meal and a Christmas gathering. For our 10th Christmas we had a special meal put on by John and Jan E with nostalgic quizzes. In March we had a celebratory

Exploring London 7

A fascinating trip to the Museum of London In February took us to see "The Crime Museum Uncovered", a special display of selected items from Scotland Yard's private "Black Museum". This illustrates how the police force came into being, crime through the ages, and how the police forces of the time dealt with it all. It was well laid out and took us through crime of varying sorts over the centuries to the present day. There was a display of death masks from offenders hanged outside Newgate prison, with names and the crimes for which they had been hanged. Illustrations showed how the hangman went about ensuring it was as quick a death as possible for those found guilty. It showed the equipment used. The executioner would use the same rope several times. We viewed 6 nooses dating from 1847 – 96.



A section on Jack the Ripper covered the period from April 1888 to February 1891, when eleven women were brutally murdered (though not all by "Jack" himself). It showed objects relating to the murders, plus newspaper articles of the time which made grisly reading.

The exhibits ranged from petty crime, drugs and riots, to terrorism, how the police are tackling cyber crime today and much more. We all thought it was well worth the trip.

Jenny B

Wine 4 Celebrates 10 Years - continued



dinner at La Meridiana. Each year we have supported St Nicolas's 'Taste Wine and Dine' and our own combined wine groups' Autumn Social. That leaves eight home presentations shared by our members; most of the wine producing world has been covered.

So if you are not in a wine group and would like to be, why not start another one.

David C



Mary C, Mary and Ron H and Chris W -

How our committee members enjoy themselves!

French Conversation 2

After another series of extremely varied talks and lively discussions we decided to hold our traditional end of term party in January instead of December. We enjoyed a delicious lunch which included French bread, cheeses, quiches and wines before studying French poems. This is one about friendship.

Amitiés

par Auguste Brizeux

Le soir où j'arrivai, le chien dans sa loge
 Aboya, les deux chats accroupis sous l'horloge
 Hérissèrent leurs poils, et l'enfant, réveillé,
 Dans son berceau se prit à vagir, effrayé,
 La fermière sur moi fixait un oeil farouche:-
 Si j'arrive aujourd'hui le rire est sur sa bouche,
 L'enfant me tend les bras au bord de son berceau,
 Le chien sur mes genoux vient poser son museau,
 Sur la cendre à mes pieds les chats viennent de même:
 Les voilà tous amis de celui qui les aime



Lesley H

French Connections

We are fortunate in having access to several language groups in the area but the French groups have always remained the most popular and we now have three, with slightly different approaches. What we have in common is a love of the country, whether through maintained childhood friendships, through our own children, through holidays and even our careers.



An excellent example is Geoff H who through his friends in Nantes, where the LU petit beurre biscuit was created, brought us this charming explanation of its symbolism -

LU are the initials of the creator Louis Levèvre and his wife Pauline-Isabelle Utile. The biscuit's design was inspired by a tablecloth belonging to Louis' grandmother and it first appeared in 1886;

The four corners represent the seasons;

The biscuit was simple enough to be eaten every day, so the fifty-two 'teeth' around the edge represent the weeks of the year;

It is seven centimetres wide; the days of the week;

The twenty-four dots are the hours of the day and the packet always contains twenty-four biscuits.

So, Alsace to Languedoc, with a few detours. If we were to plot on a map where we have all been this year, we would have covered quite a wide geographical area of France. And, of course, we have been engaging with the 'locals' as much as possible.

Recent research tells us that learning a language has a positive effect on maintaining or even developing our 'grey matter'. Two members of French 1 belong to three different language groups and most of us have experience of two foreign languages, so we persist in the hope that as well as enjoying the company of other Francophiles, 'It's doing us good!' Do enquire if you are interested in joining us.

Anna B

Welfare of Members

Brenda D is our Welfare Organiser. Members are asked to advise her of anyone who is ill, in hospital or otherwise indisposed.

London History 2

The History of Somerset House – continued

During the Civil War Somerset House was used as quarters for General Fairfax who commanded the Parliamentary Army. When Parliament ordered the dispersal of the royal treasures in 1649 much of the collection was gathered at the House and sold.

Cromwell died in 1658 and his body lay in state at Somerset House for many weeks. Although some genuinely did mourn his death, for many it came as a relief, marking the end of harsh puritan rule and opening up the possibility of the restoration of the monarchy.

Just two years later, Charles II was restored to the throne and Cromwell's body exhumed and hanged at Tyburn! After Charles II's restoration in 1660, Henrietta Maria, Charles I's widow and now Queen Dowager, returned to Somerset House. During this time, as well as the construction of stables, coach houses and apartments, a significant new building was erected housing the Presence Chamber and Privy Chamber.

A river front gallery was also built - its five open arches and sculptured keystones providing a model for the



Strand frontage of the new Somerset House some 100 years later.

The plague of 1665 prompted all to leave London. Samuel Pepys' diary for 29 June 1665 records, "By water to Whitehall, where the Court is full of waggons and people ready to go out of town. This end of the town every day grows very bad with the plague. Somerset House where all were packing up, too; the Queen-mother setting out for France this day..."

Henrietta Maria never returned to England and died in France four years later. The great fire of 1666, started to the east of the Strand, destroyed nearly three-quarters of the City, with the fire stopping just short of Somerset House.

*To be continued
Tony C*

Outdoor Bowling



The U3A Bowling Group has now been running for five years on a Monday afternoon. We have an arrangement with East Horsley Bowling Club to use their Green and facilities which are set in a splendid quiet local setting.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY YOUR HAND!

All you need is casual clothes and flat soft soled shoes. The Bowls and all equipment will be supplied to us along

with tuition.

We have a very friendly Group and will welcome new members, It is certainly a Sport for all ages, with the added advantage of maintaining regular fitness in the open air and meeting with like minded people from the Club and the U3A.

Did you know?

- ♦ History reveals that the oldest UK Bowling Green still played on is in Southampton, and has been in continuous use since 1299.
- ♦ The most famous historical link with the sport recorded is that of Sir Francis Drake of Spanish Armada fame. On 15 July 1588 he is reported as saying "his game of Bowls upon Plymouth Hoe had to be completed before he transferred himself to the Man O War sailing ship to engage the enemy" The War was won although he lost the Bowls game.

Please contact me should you wish to obtain further information about this sporting pursuit and joining our Group.

Mary C

Vegetable Gardening 1

All U3A members are invited to a talk held at Bookham SPACE sports centre. Paulo Arrigo of Franchi Seeds will be talking about growing and cooking unusual vegetables. He will talk particularly about the summer sowing varieties for autumn and winter harvest. To quote Paolo "We are the best country in the world at sowing in the spring and the worst at sowing in the summer and autumn!"

Date - Wednesday 1st June at 2.30. Cost £5.



Hugh B

One Hour Walking

The winter being what it was, we have been able to walk every Wednesday morning, though decided not to on 23 December. We have tried to keep to paths that are not too muddy, and have managed to incorporate a few new walks such as on Wisley Common and through Great Ridings Wood.

In early December we, unusually for us, did a pavement walk around some of the 'Heritage' points in Dorking. On arriving at Pippbrook Pond in Meadowbank we were lucky enough to see a kingfisher come out of the sandbank, perch on a branch before diving into the water and then coming up with a fish and sit on a branch further away from us but with his back to us so that we could see his luminescent blue feathers. A rare sight.

We intended on one walk to cross the stepping stones on the River Mole at the foot of Box Hill but, as it was shortly after a lot of rain, the stepping

stones could not even be seen let alone walked on as the river level was so high. The river was also very fast-flowing and we were glad to use the footbridge to cross the river instead.

With the imminent threat of car park charging at Newlands Corner we have tried to do a number of walks in that area using the café over the road to go to afterwards for our refreshments.

Again, I have been glad that other group members have led walks in the last few months – Brenda K led us from Pyrford Lock through the Golf Course and back along the tow path;



At Stoke Lock

Anne F took us around the fringes of Polesden Lacey with a few challenging hills to get up and go down; and Brenda K took us on an equally challenging walk

around Oxshott Woods. More walks by members are planned and I am hugely grateful to those who feel able to do this.

Liz C

Wine 1 Visit to Plumpton College

In August our wine group visited Plumpton College, near Ditchling in East Sussex. It is a very interesting College, offering a wide range of vocationally-focused, land-based courses. The Wine Department offers a number of courses including BSc (Hons) and Masters degrees in Viticulture and Oenology, Foundation and BA degrees in Wine Business, a Foundation degree in Wine Production and several diplomas as well.



We travelled by minibus and the journey took us just over an hour. Sarah Midgley, the wine maker at Plumpton, greeted us and started by taking us to the vineyard. There are three vineyards, covering 9.2 hectares (22.5 acres) and ten different varieties of grapes are grown. Sarah told us about the issues regarding our climate – particularly when there are late Spring frosts which destroy the buds. She explained about the growing cycle and the ongoing work needed, most of which is done by hand by the students at the College.

After this very interesting talk, Sarah took us into the modern winery. Here again she explained the various machines and processes, from the initial crusher/destemmer to the final bottling and labelling. Some wines are aged in stainless steel tanks, others in wooden barrels. Last year they produced 24,000 bottles as the weather had led to a very good harvest.

Finally we enjoyed tasting four of their wines, starting with The Dean Brut – a sparkling wine. This was followed by Cloudy Ridge white, followed by Cloudy Ridge rosé and finally Cloudy Ridge red. Many of us bought some to take home with us.

The minibus then took us to The Half Moon pub near the College where we enjoyed a very pleasant lunch, before coming home.

It was a very enjoyable visit and Sarah, who has been at Plumpton for just one year, gave us so much interesting information without being too technical – excellent.



Jo and Ernie H

Bird Group

We met at Larry R's house in January to discuss the future of the group and to see his wonderful photographs of birds taken in Africa. There was a good turnout and it was agreed that we wanted to carry on. This can only happen if members take it in turns to organise outings. Some members have already volunteered but we still need volunteers for August, September and October.



On 10 February we had a lovely walk at Riverside Nature Reserve near Burpham. We didn't see any unusual birds but there was plenty of activity, bird song and beautiful scenery.

Kathryn N

Group Leaders Lunch - March 2016



Fetcham U3A Family History

The group has had a very productive year in its researches into our family histories. At all of our meetings, members continue to give support to each other whether new to the subject or "old hands".



During the year, some members had a very useful visit to the National Archives at Kew. (I would recommend a visit to anyone, not necessarily family history buffs, as it contains many historical documents and frequently puts exhibitions on of its holdings.)

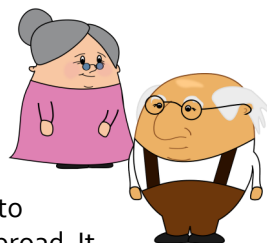
At Christmas we had a joint reception with Fetcham U3A Family History groups 1 and 2 together with the Bookham group. Three talks were given by members, followed by drinks and mince pies.

We look forward in 2016 to even more surprises in our researches and few but not too many "brickwalls". I would also like to thank each of our hosts who kindly accommodate us each month.

James G

Needlework

Having had a very enjoyable Christmas lunch at The Anchor Bookham who looked after us well, it is now time to settle down to another year of innovative ideas.



We have started with ideas for the charity we would like to support this year having done a number of projects for abroad. It has been decided to do Fidget Blankets for the elderly suffering from dementia which will then go to a local home in Bookham/Fetcham

If you are wondering what these are and maybe have a chat with a view to joining us, come along to Barn Hall on the second and fourth Fridays of the month from 10am. Our meetings are held in the Waterfield room to the left as you come in the main door

Jan E

U3A Aviation Group Winter 2015/16

Our group flourishes still after some 10 years of being formed and comprises of U3A members from Fetcham, Bookham, East Horsley, Leatherhead, Ashted and West Molesley, making a total of some 70 persons with an interest in aviation. U3A members are welcome to visit us - we meet on the second Wednesday of the month between October and April at 14.00 hrs at the Pastoral Hall, St Nicolas Church, Bookham.

9 December - A PowerPoint presentation was given by myself on the history of the Messerschmitt Me.108 "Typhoon" by Dr Eng Heinz Schneider with whom I

have recently been in contact about an



article I wrote for the Aeroplane Monthly magazine for the same type of aircraft with a Swiss registration, which I saw land at Heston Airport in 1950. This type was developed as a 4 seater light touring aircraft in 1934 and made various record distance flights by Elly Beinhorn, a well-known female pilot of that time. Later the aircraft was further developed to become the Me.109 fighter of WW2.

13 January - We shared a DVD viewing of the "Antonov 225" - the World's largest cargo aeroplane powered by six turbofan engines and is the longest and heaviest airplane ever built, with a maximum take-off weight of 640

tonnes.

Also in January, I gave my first presentation to the Royal Aeronautical Society Heathrow on "The history of the Airways Aero Association-1947-2012" a Power Point lecture which I previously showed my U3A group in October 2014. In 2012 I received a cardboard box full of archive material, from the redundant Chief Flying Instructor who I had met a couple of time before, including large photographs, photo albums, newsletters and documents from this period.

British Airways, the previous owner of this



Association had decided to sell the club to save money, so that I was the sole owner of this box and decided to amalgamate all of this archive into a lasting record on the Internet. After my presentation, I was given a plaque for my efforts, signed by the Chairman of the Society and Willie Walsh, the CEO of British Airways as a celebration of 150 years of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

24 January - Mr David Hasard gave us a visual presentation on "The Kingston Aviation Story- over a hundred years of aviation history" starting with Thomas Sopwith's early interest in learning to fly at Brooklands to eventually forming an aircraft manufacturing company at Kingston upon Thames in a recently

closed roller skating rink near to Kingston Railway Station. He produced thousands of biplanes here for WW1 together with subcontractors. Bankrupted after the war by punitive anti-profiteering taxes, he later formed a new company under the name of his chief engineer and test pilot, Harry Hawker. This company took over another building at Kingston on the Richmond Road and produced a multitude of Hawker biplane types such as the Hart and Hind used by the RAF Squadrons until the Hurricane evolved as a fast modern monoplane which equipped the RAF during the Battle of Britain and outnumbered all other

British fighters combined, and shot down 55 percent of all enemy



aircraft destroyed. In the new jet age the Hawker Hunter evolved and sold to many air forces worldwide, followed by the Sea Hawk and later the Harrier, the world's first vertical take-off jet. A fascinating lecture by David Hasard, full of vintage photos and detailed information, which was well received by the audience.

Lawrence H

Quiz Answers

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Argentina | 7 | Walk in space |
| 2 | One | 8 | Quito (capital of Ecuador) |
| 3 | Fox | 9 | Cave |
| 4 | Prince Charles | 10 | Jericho |
| 5 | A clock | | |
| 6 | Belfast | | |



Articles and items for October 2016 Newsletter should be with John C by 3 September 2016, please.

