



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE FETCHAM & DISTRICT

No. 3

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2003



FETCHAM & DISTRICT U3A

has pleasure in inviting you to its **FIRST CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**
from **2pm - 5pm on Monday 8th December** 2003
in St. Mary's Church Hall, The Ridgeway, Fetcham.

There will be music, laughter, entertainment provided by "2's Company",
mulled wine, food, a quiz, a table decoration competition, group exhibitions etc.

Partners and friends will be most welcome, but hurry.....

Tickets are limited so will be sold on a 'first come, first served' basis!
Tickets **£6.00** per person available from Patricia or Winnie at September meeting

We are starting the new season with two invitations; firstly to our First Christmas Celebration and secondly to renew your membership for the coming year, confident in the knowledge that we have a thriving U3A which has moved forward in leaps and bounds over the last twelve months. Our first year end happens to coincide with the 21st Birthday of the Third Age Trust, which is also growing at a fine rate with 130,075 members in 514 U3As in April 2003. Our third Newsletter includes reports on the various Group activities, the planned programme for monthly meetings and accounts of opportunities in the South East provided by other U3As. The Committee wishes you a happy new year with Fetcham & District U3A!

Chairman's Introduction by Neville: Elsewhere in this issue you will see my annual report and this introduction to the Autumn Newsletter is necessarily short. My main news is that I have decided to vacate my appointment as Chairman at this year's AGM. When I was offered this position I foresaw it as an interim measure until our U3A had been successfully launched. Now that it has I feel that my years of lobbying for another U3A in the district have been justified and that I can relax into ordinary membership. Additionally my retirement now will make the position of Chairman renewable at a different time than the other Officers under our three-years-in-post rule. Thank you for your support during my term of office and one last request – please renew your membership as this will be firm proof of your satisfaction.

MEETINGS IN 2003/2004

23rd September

Charles Dickens

Carol Chapman

28 th October	A Year at Kew	Dr Peter Brandham
25 th November	AGM + Local Speaker	Keith Weston
8 th December	Christmas Social	
27 th January	Herbal Medicine	June Crisp
24 th February	The World of the Private Detective	Peter Heims
23 rd March	People Who Need People	Colin Fairclough
27 th April	A Word on Plays – Life as a TV Writer	Roy Russell
25 th May	The Do's and Taboos of Public Speaking	Neil Riley

Meetings are held in St. Mary's Church Hall off The Ridgeway at 2.30pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

SPEAKER PROFILES for the forthcoming season

DR. PETER BRANDHAM has a long-term interest in steam locomotives world-wide and has visited many different countries in search of plants most of us have never heard of! However, he will be talking to us about 'A Year at Kew', a place with which most of us are more familiar. He has a BSc degree in botany and a PhD in plant cytogenetics, both obtained at London University in the early sixties. He spent the greater part of his career on the Jodrell Laboratory at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and retired in October 1997 as Head of the Cytogenetics Section, where he still works as a voluntary researcher on the evolutionary aspects of plant chromosome variation. During more than 36 years at Kew, he has developed a great love for and knowledge of one of the world's finest Botanic Gardens and has built up a wealth of experience in photography, both of plants and animals. Giving at least 140 lectures per year on photographically-related subjects, he is always willing to pass on his ideas and tips to other interested people. Taking every opportunity to explore the Gardens and photograph the more interesting examples of the over 38,000 plant species grown there, he has accumulated an almost unrivalled collection of photographs. In his talk some of his pictures will be

used to illustrate a journey through the seasons in the Gardens that will show aspects of their historic buildings and plants that are both familiar and unfamiliar to visitors. It promises to be a most fascinating afternoon for us all.

KEITH WESTON – who will be enlightening us on the art of butchery (and many other things, I have no doubt) during his talk on 25 November needs no introduction to those of us who shop at Rawlings & Kensett in Bookham Village. Now 42, he has been in butchery all his working life. Although he has other interests, most centre on his family, work, fishing and West Ham United Football Club, though not necessarily in that order! He tells me that he was born at an early age and has been lucky enough to have worked in several different shops in different areas, most of which he will enlarge upon as his story unfolds. However, he has spent the last 15 years as the public face of Rawlings & Kensett Ltd. His story will cover his humble beginnings as a butcher's lad, through the various highs, lows, dire straits and downright desperation of the last 28 years in the butchery game, to the giddy heights of owning his own business..... Sounds like the stuff of which novels are made and I think will be a most entertaining talk to follow the business of the Annual General Meeting!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT [To be presented at the Annual General Meeting.]

With the completion of our first period of operation I can say that I believe our launch to have been a complete success. The Steering Committee, which met after the first exploratory general meeting, tackled the initial challenge with enthusiasm and shared the various roles necessary to start and run a successful U3A. When I arrived on the scene to take the offered position as Chairman most of the preliminaries had been completed. I must also pay tribute to Bookham and Leatherhead U3As together with the Regional organiser of the Third Age Trust for their help and guidance.

The year has seen us produce our Constitution as a charity, be admitted into membership of the Third Age Trust and register with the Charities Commission. The Officers and Committee members are the Trustees of the charity. Although at the time of writing this report the accounts for the period ending 30th September 2003 are not yet complete we have at present a sufficient balance in hand to cover all foreseeable expenditure and provide an adequate reserve until the next year's membership subscriptions are collected. Our Treasurer keeps a tight control over expenditure.

A sign of our success is the number of subject Groups that are now available to members and I have to thank the Group Leaders who organise their activities. Several more Groups are in the process of being formed. Members who have not yet found a Group to interest them should speak to a member of the Committee. The programme of interesting speakers at the monthly meetings has been largely responsible for the good attendance even in these very hot summer holiday months. My final thanks, made on behalf of all members, are to the other Officers and Committee members who have worked so hard and spent so much of their time on the affairs of our U3A.

Outings and Theatre Visits – Sheila: Some members have already enjoyed group visits to Woking's New Victoria Theatre and have tickets reserved for the dates below. If you have not already booked you may have to join a waiting list for possible cancellations. Some of you may prefer to travel independently and tickets are sometimes available without including the coach fare. If you are happy to meet at the station or make your own way to London we can make

group bookings at the National Theatre (South Bank) – please let me know if you welcome this idea for the future. We are compiling a list of those interested in theatre/opera/concerts etc, so please let me have your details so we can plan the right kind of programme.

Thursday 2 nd October Woking matinee	Northern Ballet Theatre – ROMEO & JULIET	£17
Monday 6 th October Woking evening	National Theatre – VINCENT IN BRIXTON	Phone Sheila
Wednesday 15 th October matinee	Terence Rattigan – THE DEEP BLUE SEA	£17
Wednesday 12 th November Woking matinee	CATS the musical	£23.50

Monday 20th October – our visit to **Station X at Bletchley Park** (Wartime home of the Enigma coding machine) will include two guided tours, coffee/tea and a soup + roll lunch – £24 (£21 if you prefer to bring your own lunch).

Thursday 27th November – We shall dip into London's theatre history at the **Theatre Museum** (Covent Garden) in the morning and have a **Backstage Tour at Drury Lane** in the afternoon – £20 (Plenty of lunch options in the area).

Thursday 29th January – we have an allocation of timed tickets for the **Royal Fabergé Collection** at the Queen's Gallery (afternoon) following a morning look at the display of the "**Queen's hats & handbags**" at Kensington Palace – £24.

Contact for info. or to reserve a place.

Group Leaders' Meeting: This meeting was held as a working lunch at The Bear in Oxshott to say thank you to the leaders for their work in our start-up year and to seek ideas for the future. Thanks were also due to Winnie for organising such a good event with a very full agenda and attracting a near full turnout. Janet's idea below seemed one requiring some publicity, and several ideas for new group were also suggested. **Rosie is looking for other instrumental players** and would be happy to hear from people at any part of the ability spectrum. Do give her a call or join her Music Appreciation group to get to meet other like-minded people. Enid our Groups Co-ordinator had suggestions for groups on Debating and Current Affairs in the spring, the groups were advertised at the monthly meetings but did not get off the ground. Not everything is immediately successful but we hope that as more people join we can extend the range of activities covered. It is worth mentioning that we have agreements with Bookham and Leatherhead U3As that, where there are opportunities, we can share in group activities across the patch. This is certainly happening in Bridge, Spanish Conversation, Family History, Science in Society and Industrial History. If you have any interests we are not covering then have a word with Enid who knows the programmes of the other groups. We will certainly endeavour to create more groups when two or three people identify a common interest.

Shakespeare on your doorstep - Janet: If anyone is interested I am willing to organise a visit to the Fetcham Players production of **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** being held at 8pm on Saturday 15th November at Fetcham Village Hall. Tickets cost £7. I am happy to buy tickets, on receipt of a cheque made out to Fetcham Players, and a stamped addressed envelope. Let me know if you need or can offer a lift. I hope to be at the September and October monthly meetings, or you can contact me by post.

Local Publicity – Winnie: As well as having a regular monthly slot in the Valley Voice section of Leatherhead Advertiser with write-ups about our speakers, we also managed to get some air-time during a couple of Ed Douglas's programmes on Southern Counties Radio during June. It looks as though we are getting known in the area! Information and copies of the last newsletter have also been put in Denbies Vineyard (although last time I visited there they had disappeared – hopefully all the newsletters that have been taken are being read avidly by prospective members), all the local libraries, MVDC office at Pippbrook and the local medical centres. We will have articles in The Rush, a local free paper, the Bookham Bulletin in the next few months. We should certainly be better known in the area.

From the Membership Secretary - Marilyn: Hopefully you will have enjoyed being a member of our U3A group and will eagerly be waiting to rejoin. Our Membership Year will commence on 1st November and the annual fee remains at £10. You can either renew your subscription at one of our monthly meetings or by posting the renewal form and cheque (made payable to "Fetcham & District U3A") to me. Please renew promptly as after three months it will be assumed that you wish your membership to lapse.

Now who was it who said.....

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway,
the good fortune to run into the ones I do,
and the eyesight to tell the difference!

When I am finally holding all the cards,
why does everyone decide to play chess?

The old believe everything,
the middle-aged suspect everything,
and the young know everything.

These days I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter
I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm here after!

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES:-

U3A Annual Lecture by Professor Colin Blakemore hosted by University of Surrey and Guildford U3A

Monday 5th January 2004 at 2.30pm – University of Surrey Griffith Theatre

A recent press release gave some details of Professor Blakemore's career:-

Distinguished neuroscientist named as new head of UK's Medical Research Council - Colin Blakemore, a neuroscientist who currently heads the MRC Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience at Oxford University, has been named as the new chief executive of the Medical Research Council. Blakemore studied medical sciences at Cambridge University and completed his PhD at the University of California, Berkeley. He holds Doctor of Science degrees from both Oxford and Cambridge. His research has mainly focused on vision and the early development of the brain, but he has also won acclaim for his work in raising the profile of science. Now chairman, formerly president, of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, he also won the Michael Faraday Award 1989 for his work to further public engagement with science.

The U3A has an excellent website at www.u3a.org.uk. There is a password-protected section where members can see copies of recent national mailings to groups. The password is xxxxxx and we have been asked by National Office to spread the word to members.

Helpers for new No Fears Computing Group: We are looking for four or five people who would be willing to help Michael with the new group which will be using the Howard of Effingham facilities. The room has thirty PCs and if we have a group of fifteen or twenty beginners it will be so helpful to have some volunteers walking around answering questions as soon as any difficulty arises. You do not need to have any great depth of knowledge - as long as you can sit at a keyboard and type a Word document and attach it to an email you will be very capable of helping the group members over initial hurdles. Please get in touch with Michael, Ian or Enid by phone or at the monthly meetings. The first course will start after half-term at 18.30 on Tuesdays for two hours.

Events in Sussex U3A Region: You may be interested to hear of the range of study day opportunities being offered by an adjacent region. Contact Ian at monthly meeting for further details. They include 4th November with Open University, Workshop for Leaders of History/Local History Groups £3 and with Brighton University, 20th September A History of American Art, 11th October The Agricultural Scene in Sussex – Past and Present, 25th October Manufacturing News – Should we Trust the Media, 8th November Britain, Europe and the Euro, 15th November Directions in Contemporary Music, 22nd November Jane Austen and 17th January Update – Middle East. **Stop Press – 17th September 11.00-15.00 - Free workshop at Greenwich on “Reading Between the Lines” by Daphne Knott**, Manuscript Curator at National Maritime Museum, looking at Explorers, in particular Cook, using sources such as letters, diaries, charts etc to find out more about exploration and the archives here. Contact Ian for more info.

National Conference at York 1st to 3rd September – Ian: I represented Fetcham & District U3A at the conference and came back full of enthusiasm at the way the organisation is moving forward and celebrating its maturity in reaching the grand old age of twenty one. The conference was opened by Brian Cantor, Vice-Chancellor who welcomed us to his university most warmly. There were discussion groups on the objects and principles of the U3A movement and on specific areas such as the Museum Link Projects including the one I led with the National Maritime Museum. The highlight was a marvellously humorous lecture by Professor David James from the University of Surrey on Learning and Helping Others to Learn. There were over four hundred delegates and it was a good opportunity to pick up ideas over coffee. It was interesting to learn that U3As range in size from 2000 down to eight people. This was a very worthwhile event for any member to attend. Next year the conference will be held in Leicester on 23/24 August.

REPORTS FROM GROUPS

Art - Mixed Media (1) – Margaret: The eleven members usually meet at the Group Leader's house in Bookham where we have the use of a large conservatory. The group is aimed at beginners and improvers and since its inception has been experimenting with various techniques, sometimes with the aid of art videos. During the summer months the group has concentrated on pencil drawing, following an American method of perceiving the negative spaces around an object rather than the object itself. Even copying pictures that have been turned upside down, and this has proved to be a surprising and interesting exercise. Some aspects of portrait drawing have been covered and will be expanded upon as time progresses. Over the next few weeks we shall be looking at the watercolour palette and creating colour mixing charts as well as encouraging the group members to design and paint their own pictures.

Art – Mixed Media (2) – Janet: We had our first meeting on 1st July. We agreed to meet at 2.30pm on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, going to each others houses/gardens. We may also meet in other outdoor locations. To give ourselves some focus, we agreed to each try to draw/paint the same object and then compare our different approaches. At the moment we are a small select gathering – more members are welcome. To find the location of the next meeting phone me or Catherine.

Art Appreciation – Jenny: We meet to appreciate and learn about art. At our initial meeting in November we decided to start with the early Italian painters. Trying to assimilate several artists a month did not give us the depth that was needed to learn anything, so we decided then to study just one artist a month. Now that I have got a password for the main U3A office I shall be able, hopefully, to borrow some slides or videos to illustrate our discussions. After two meetings in January and February when we talked about the early Italian painters and the early Dutch artists, we started learning about Titian and followed that up by watching a video about the Titian Exhibition in March. Then in April we had a trip to the National Gallery to see the exhibition. In May we discussed Bellini, Titian's tutor, (the internet was marvellous for that). In June we discussed the Holbeins, elder and the younger. Then for a change in July we went to the Victoria and Albert museum to see the Art Deco Exhibition which was very worthwhile. In August we visited the Winthrop Exhibition at the National Gallery. In September we are meeting to discuss Constable.

Books – Brenda (New Group): It is hoped that a Book Group could be formed which would meet once a month, choose a book which everyone would read, and then at the next meeting the book would be discussed, and another suggestion for reading the next month would be put forward. The meetings could rotate in members' homes.

Bridge - Pam & John: As you know, there were no bridge meetings during August. As yet I have been unable to find out the dates of the subsequent meetings through to December. Normally we meet at St. Mary's Church Hall on the second and fourth Thursday mornings from 10am to 12.30pm. If you wish to confirm these times and future dates, may I suggest you contact Frank. Frank is the Leatherhead Bridge Group leader and runs the joint meetings at St. Mary's Church Hall.

Family History - John: We meet to exchange information and help each other to research our family histories. We have purchased a CD Rom of the 1881 Census and a book on Genealogy which members can borrow. We have visited the Family Records Office in Islington and the Public Records Office at Kew as a group. We are getting too large to meet in a members lounge so a second group is likely to be formed this autumn. Our next meeting is on 18th September.

French Conversation (1) – Anna: We are a keen but relaxed group of ten Francophiles who meet on alternate Monday afternoons, discussing a variety of topics with a French flavour. Members have proved very willing to lead us into discussions based on their knowledge and experience of various regions of France, and the impressions we have, rightly or wrongly, of our respective national characteristics. We made some attempts to analyse Franco-British relationships when they were somewhat strained earlier in the summer, but on the whole avoid politics. On the literary side we have discussed some short stories by twentieth century writers (published in Parallel text) and are pleased to find that the Leatherhead Theatre is showing a number of French films. Needless to say, the subjects of food and drink have often crept in! We began the year in January with a French celebration of Epiphany and held our final meeting of the summer with a belated feast to mark the Fête Nationale, to which everyone contributed French delicacies, some of them having even been brought from across the water. On that enjoyable evening it hardly seemed possible that most of us had met as strangers for the first time in January.

French Conversation (2) - Catherine: The aim of our group is to encourage and improve French conversation and widen our vocabulary. Topics for discussion are put forward by members of the group. So far we have covered education, leisure, art galleries, and at our next meeting we will talk about the role of Britain in Europe. Some members prefer to do some preparation for the meeting, which helps them during the conversation. We meet at each others' houses. New members are welcome.

Gardening – Margaret: The Gardening Group, for which twelve people signed up, is interested in visiting gardens and learning about such things as plant

propagation, soil improvement and choosing garden plants which will flourish without taking over. Since our last report we have visited Vann, a large, old garden maintained with minimal assistance and The Grange Centre where we received a demonstration of composting methods. On the next occasion two enthusiastic horticulturists showed members how to grow fuchsias fit for the show bench from shoot cuttings as well as sharing information on training bonsai plants. Our last meeting, scheduled for a behind the scenes tour of Lower Road Nursery, had to be postponed until November because of the heat, but we spent a pleasant afternoon at a members house chatting over tea and looking round her garden and glasshouse which bulged with tomatoes. We have decided to take it in turns to organise monthly activities, thus sharing the load and ensuring that the interests of all the members are catered for.

Industrial History - Ian: We meet to explore common interests in all forms of Industrial History. Different people are compiling lists of personal holdings of reference books and looking at opportunities of attending lectures at Surrey Industrial History Group (SIHG) at Surrey University and the local WEA courses. Over the summer we have arranged five outings to Cobham Mill, an exhibition on The Wey and Arun Navigation, The Rural Life Centre at Tilford, An Evening with Fred Dibnah at the Dorking Halls and the Watercress Line. The next meeting of the group will be at 10.30 on Thursday 18th September. The first SIHG lecture will be at 19.30 on Tuesday 30th September by Dr Gerry Moss on Rockets, Rains and Roman Candles: a History of Fireworks. New members are very welcome.

International Cuisine - Catherine (New Group): We would meet at each others' houses once a month. Every member/couple would cook a local dish of a country or area for three to six people. These would include starters, main course and dessert, for everyone to sample. Most food will be finger buffet type, not requiring formal seating. Numbers will be restricted, as not everyone has a lot of space. I suggest that our first meeting be an informal cheese and wine event to explore options and future venues.

Local History - Keith: The group made a very hesitant start in 2003 with most of the members wishing to have a leader giving regular talks. Unfortunately, we do not have such a person, so an early task this term will be to review our plans and see if we would be able to operate as a self-help group and also arrange some visits.

Local History Research - Keith (New Group): This small group intends to examine the Victorian history of Fetcham, Bookham, and Effingham through study of the census returns, parish records, monumental inscriptions etc. Much of the work will be computer based and it is hoped to link up with similar activities in other North

Downs villages. For further information please contact the above.

London History – Linda: We are a small group of walkers taking it in turns to research and then lead a full day walk around a particular part of London. We enjoyed our first outing (despite the very high temperatures) visiting The Strand and Inns of Court. Our second trip on 8th September took in parts of The City, Guildhall and The Museum of London.

Music Appreciation - Rosie: The group now has fourteen members, with a 'core' of around eight who regularly meet together. Our aim is to listen to a variety of different types of music, and discuss our feelings / reactions to what we've heard. We have a "theme" for the evening, and then we either bring along our personal favourites, or one member of the group plans the musical items and presents their programme for us. Looking back over our meetings a number stand out as being especially enjoyable, including Fantasia [and film], A Spanish Evening, Music from the Films, [Can you remember which film?]. Our October meeting will be female singers chosen by a gentleman and male singers chosen by a lady. Future meetings are planned to include American Music and a Christmas Evening. Do come and give us a whirl - we're very friendly.

Needlework - Mary: The group is progressing through its projects at a steady rate with two already completed and the third one well on the way. This one is the space dyeing of threads in cold water dye and then, having designed our own pictures, using the threads in various embroidery stitches to complete the finished article. Brenda Dunbar is our tutor on this project, and we hope in the future to draw on other members' expertise in different areas to go forward to produce more heirlooms! We are now organised to meet on a more regular basis, and move round the various members' houses. The group is full at the moment but should any members drop out we would welcome new members to our happy and chatty group!

No Fears Computing! – Michael (New Group): We are planning to run a Basic Computing course aimed at beginners in November and December. The course will be held on Tuesdays between 18.30 and 20.30 using the excellent facilities at the Howard of Effingham school. The total cost for the six-week course will be £15 to cover the hire of facilities. It is planned to include the following topics: Introduction to computers and Windows; Word; Excel; poster design; internet and email; question and answer session, but the contents may be tailored to the wishes of participants. It is hoped that there will be a number of helpers available to provide hands-on assistance. The course will assume no prior knowledge of computing and will be suitable for those who have a computer but have yet to master it, or are contemplating obtaining one. If you are interested in attending the course or would like to help with running it, please contact Michael, Ian or Enid.

Play Reading - Winnie (New Group): At a recent Group Leaders' meeting the idea of a Play Reading Group was 'floated' and this was met with an enthusiastic response as being something different to the norm. It would be a light-hearted approach to reading mostly one-act plays, or something comparable, and our selections should provide both humour and - hopefully - a certain amount of educational discovery with no learning of parts involved! If you are interested in exploring this avenue, why not clear your throat, come along and try it out. You may find you are 'hiding your light under a bushel' and are, indeed, a slumbering thespian! At least it should be fun! We will probably decide on an exploratory meeting date at the next Monthly Meeting but I would appreciate a call if you are interested, just so that I have an idea of the extent of interest in this project.

Scrabble – Janet: The Scrabble Club had an enjoyable first meeting in June. We decided to meet in members' houses at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the summer. We may decide to increase this to twice a month as the evenings draw in. New members are welcome. To get details of our next meetings phone me or Genie.

Sunday Lunch Club – Geoff: We meet to enjoy good conversation on matters of local and general interest in good company over a Sunday Lunch which we have had neither to prepare or clear away afterwards, We intend to meet in both pubs and restaurants as agreed by our members. So far, the group has decided to keep the cost within the range £12 to £18 for two courses and not to venture further than a twenty-minute car drive. Lifts can normally be arranged. Those intending to come are asked to tell one of the group leaders beforehand. Our next gathering will be at the Marquis of Granby Carvery in Esher on 5th October. There is space for a few more members.

Walking – Jenny: Numbers turning out for the monthly Sunday walks have averaged four or five over the eight walks, a disappointing start considering 50 people had signed the list. The July and August walks were cancelled due to hot weather and lack of interest. The loyal few who came regularly enjoyed circular walks in familiar and not so familiar areas of Surrey. It is to be hoped that a new leader for next year will attract a larger and more enthusiastic following.

Western Philosophy – Roger: We are continuing to study the history of Western philosophy from Greek times to the present. Study mainly follows the book "The Passion of the Western Mind", by Richard Tarnas. The group currently has six members, who meet at

each others' houses on a monthly basis for discussions on points raised by this book and other sources. More participants would be very welcome. Study has now reached the Renaissance, the Reformation and the beginning of the Scientific Era.

Wine Appreciation (1) - Jo and Ernie: Our latest venture was a trip to Lamberhurst Vineyard on a glorious day in July. We had a very interesting private tour, followed by tasting of seven of their wines as we sat in the sun! This was followed by an excellent buffet lunch at The Swan at the Vineyard. Most of us then went on to Sissinghurst to see the gardens and have tea. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day. Our monthly meetings take place in group members' homes and have usually consisted of tasting four wines, two reds and two whites. Wines from Burgundy, Chile and South Africa were the themes of three meetings. At one we were asked to compare wines from the same grapes from Old and New World countries, while others focused on wines from single grapes or some of the host's favourites. Finally, four very different white wines from the Muscat grape were tasted at the June meeting. We are learning through practical experience, and having fun both in researching to host a meeting and in participating of course!

Wine Appreciation (2) – Geoff: We had the inaugural meeting at the home of June and John. They had worked hard to set up a format that worked well and which we will continue. Twelve imbibers is a comfortable maximum in most private houses and we already have this number. We were provided with four wines to sample together with water and a selection of dry biscuits. Tabulated sheets of paper were provided on which we attempted to rate and identify the characteristics of the wines. As we have no great body of knowledge on the subject it is left to the host for the day to make an informative contribution on their selection of wines. There was no meeting in August as it was thought that members would be indulging in private studies, which could be the subject of future discussion. We hope to extend our activities to include outside visits and will discuss suggestions at our next meeting.

Writing for Pleasure - Catherine (New Group): We meet at each others' houses once a month. Six or seven members write about a given subject and read it out during the next meeting. The range of topics is very wide and members can propose a subject if they so wish. The richness of people's experience is just wonderful: just write it down for the enjoyment of fellow members and perhaps members of your family. We need new members. Catherine previously ran this group for Leatherhead U3A.

GROUP LEADERS

Art – Mixed Media (1)	Margaret	Every other Thursday at 10.30
Art – Mixed Media (2)	Janet	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays at 14.30
Art Appreciation	Jenny	4 th Wednesday at 14.00
Book Club *	Brenda	To be arranged
Bridge	Pam & John	2 nd & 4 th Thursday at 10.00
Family History	John	2 nd Thursday at 14.30
French Conversation (1)	Anna	1 st & 3 rd Mondays at 14.15
French Conversation (2)	Catherine	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays at 10.00
Gardening	Margaret	2 nd Friday at 14.30
Industrial History	Ian	3 rd Thursday at 14.30
International Cuisine *	Catherine	To be arranged
Local History	Keith	4 th Tuesday 10.00
Local History Research *	Keith	To be arranged
London History	Linda	1 st Monday at 9.30
Music Appreciation	Rosemary	3 rd Wednesday 19.45
Needlework	Mary	2 nd & 4 th Fridays at 10.00
No Fears Computing *	Michael	Tuesdays at 18.30
Outings & Theatre Visits	Sheila	Various
Play Reading *	Winnie	To be arranged
Scrabble	Janet	3 rd Wednesday at 19.30
Sunday Lunch Club **	Geoff	1 st Sunday at 12.00
Sunday Lunch Club **	Margaret	1 st Sunday at 12.00
Walking **	Jenny	3 rd Sunday at 10.30
Walking **	Tony & Bobby	3 rd Sunday at 10.30
Western Philosophy	Roger	2 nd Tuesday at 16.00
Wine Appreciation (1)	Jo & Ernie	3 rd Tuesday at 14.30
Wine Appreciation (2)	Geoff	2 nd Wednesday at 14.30
Writing for Pleasure *	Catherine	To be arranged

* New Groups ** Joint Leaders

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Neville
Vice-Chairman	Patricia
Treasurer	Peter
Secretary	Brenda
Membership Secretary	Marilyn
Groups Co-ordinator	Enid
Speaker Secretary	Margaret
Newsletter Editor	Ian
Publicity Officer	Winnie

REGION & AREA

Fetcham & District is one of thirteen U3As in Central Surrey Region with Arthur Browne, Horley & District U3A as the contact person. Edna Wright, Shoreham & Southwick U3A represents South East Area, covering four regions in Surrey, Kent and Sussex on the Third Age Trust National Executive Committee.