



## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE FETCHAM & DISTRICT

No. 5

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2004

### MEETINGS IN 2004 & 2005 - GUESTS ARE VERY WELCOME

25 <sup>th</sup> May	The Do's and Taboos of Public Speaking	Neil Riley
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Chasing the Sun	Peter Losson
27 <sup>th</sup> July	In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson	Bob Walker
28 <sup>th</sup> September	A Word on Plays – Life as a TV Writer	Roy Russell
26 <sup>th</sup> October	The Magistracy – 700 Years	Margaret Notley
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	2 <sup>nd</sup> AGM – Travelling Around New Zealand	Ian
7 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>CHRISTMAS PARTY – Food, Entertainment &amp; Mulled Wine</b>	
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Petticoat Pilot	Ann Chance
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Crete from Minoan to Modern Times	John Kelly
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	The NHS under Stress	Dr Mike Smith

Meetings are held in St. Mary's Church Hall off The Ridgeway at 2.30pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.

### Outings and Theatre Visits – Sheila:

It is encouraging to see an increasing number of members joining in the programme that is run jointly for Fetcham and Bookham. The programme of theatre visits heads most frequently for Woking, but special productions draw us to other venues. Recently we enjoyed a stunning performance of Mozart's "The marriage of Figaro" at The Hawth, Crawley. Interestingly, this English Touring Opera production was set in an 18<sup>th</sup> century Spanish colony rather than Seville, so providing a fitting opportunity for some excellent young black singers to play major roles. We look forward to ETO's future visits to our area. A variety of musical dates ahead include Gershwin nostalgia in Crazy for You, a concert by Willard White at the Festival Hall, two performances by Northern Ballet Theatre and Drury Lane's next big autumn show. For those who prefer more serious drama, Harold Pinter's Betrayal should provide an intriguing and thought-provoking matinee. Outdoor visits include Chichester in May – with a guided tour of the cathedral and a walk around to look at some of the city's historic buildings. In August we shall hear about William Morris and Philip Webb on a visit to the Red House at Bexley as well as enjoying some lovely gardens and Tudor buildings at nearby Hall Place. If time permits I hope to fit a further expedition into the summer programme. All costs include coach transport from Bookham. Theatre reservations are only available for limited periods – contact Sheila a.s.a.p. to avoid missing out! We look forward to your company.....

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May **PLAY WITHOUT WORDS** by Matthew Bourne - Woking matinee - £15.50

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May Visit to **CHICHESTER** [History Group priority booking] - £15

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May **MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** – Northern Ballet Theatre - Woking matinee – £17.50

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June **WILLARD WHITE** – evening performance at Royal Festival Hall – £15.50

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June **CRAZY FOR YOU** – Gershwin musical – Woking matinee - £16

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June **BETRAYAL** by Harold Pinter – Peter Hall's London production – Woking matinee - £14

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August Visit to **HALL PLACE** [Tudor] & **RED HOUSE** [William Morris] [Art Appreciation & History Groups priority booking] – National Trust members £13.50

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October to Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October **SEVEN DAY TOUR OF SOUTH-WEST IRELAND** –Travel by air, half board at hotels [Two three-night stays], exploring the history, scenery and heritage of Cork, Kerry and Limerick, including daily coach tours and visits with local guide. Double or twin £550 – Limited number of singles at £110 supplement. £75 deposit due on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

Contact Sheila for info. or to reserve a place.

## WALKS PROGRAMMES

### Walking (1) Thursday am Jo & Ernie

By the time this newsletter is published, we will have enjoyed two walks, followed by refreshments at local hostelrys. Walks take place monthly, on the fourth Thursday morning. They are between approximately 3 and 4 miles long, some local and some a little further afield. Future walks planned are:

**27<sup>th</sup> May** 3.5 miles Esher - West End Meet at **10am** for this interesting walk (hopefully some of the carpet of bluebells will still be in bloom). From Cobham, 2 miles north on A307 towards Esher. Turn left, opposite Claremont Gardens, down West End Lane. Left into Winterdown Road beside the green, fork left at the end (leaving Garsons Farm on your right) under a height restriction barrier to a parking area. Refreshments at either Garsons Farm or The Prince of Wales pub.

**24<sup>th</sup> June** 4+ miles Norbury Park Meet at **10am** in the car park of Bocketts Farm (park at far end, away from the farm). Refreshments in the tea room afterwards.

**22<sup>nd</sup> July** 4 miles Denbies and Ranmore Common Meet at **10am** in Denbies car park for this circular walk. Refreshments at Denbies Vineyard after the walk.

All are welcome on these healthy, friendly walks!

### Walking (2) Monday pm Margaret Lawson

#### The first walk

Despite heavy showers in the morning, a group of 8 U3A walkers met on 5th April for the first Monday afternoon walk. We were very lucky with the weather; apart from literally a few spots of

rain, it was fine throughout and the sun even shone for some of the time. We saw a lovely range of spring flowers including violets, celandines, primroses and even a few early bluebells. Wildlife included ducks and geese, lapwings, as well as many llamas. The walk was muddy in places but nobody lost a boot or fell over. Although a helicopter circled overhead for the last stage of the walk, Margaret considers it won't be necessary to organise that for next time, as all walkers appeared in fine fettle at the end!

#### Further Walks

These will usually be on the 2nd Monday of the month, but see dates below. The length and nature of the proposed walks will vary but they will be between 3 and 6 miles, and if hills are involved climbs will be taken slowly. Wherever possible walks will be organised so there is opportunity for refreshment at the end, if wanted. A summary of the next three walks is given below but do ring if you want more details of them. If you are uncertain as to whether the walk will take place because of the weather or conditions, ring Margaret on 454101 on the morning of the walk. She plans to be in between 12.00 and 1.00pm on those mornings.

**10<sup>th</sup> May:** (2nd Monday) Walk starting from Bocketts Farm: 4.5 miles, undulating with some stiles. The walk includes views of the Mole Valley and towards Ranmore, passes Norbury House and the sawmill, and goes through woodland which should have spring flowers/bluebells. Some parts are often muddy! Refreshments are available at Bocketts Farm. *Meet at 1.45pm outside Bocketts Farm, access being from the top of Young Street, Fetcham. If the car park by the farm is full there should be*

*room in the car park nearer the top of Young Street.*

**14<sup>th</sup> June:** (2nd Monday) Walk starting from Ripley: 4.5 miles, flat with very few stiles. The walk goes past Ockham mill to the River Wey navigation. It passes a house once belonging to John Donne, has views of Newark Priory ruins and goes past Walsham, Newark and Papercourt locks. The walk then goes through farmland to Papercourt Farm and skirts the lake before returning to Ripley village and possible refreshments...*Meet at 1.45pm at the car park behind The Half Moon pub (which does serve food). Coming from the Wisley direction on the main road through Ripley, go past the pub on the RHS and take a RH turn a few yards beyond the pub. If that park is full there are 2 others visible from the car park, facing the green.*

**5<sup>th</sup> July (1st Monday** not 12th July):\_Walk starting from Shere: 4.5 miles, undulating gently with a few stiles. The walk goes through Shere village, and follows paths above the Tillingbourne valley, goes through Albury Park and returns to Shere by a ford (bridge also available) and past the old prison (now a private house). Shere has teashops...*Meet at 1.45pm at the car park in Shere village behind the village hall and by the recreation ground. The entrance is from Upper Street (North side) beside East Lodge.*

#### NO AUGUST WALK

If there is interest, further walks will be planned for 13th September, 11th October, 8th November and **6th** (not 13<sup>th</sup>) December. Details will be given in subsequent newsletters or phone Margaret nearer the time.

NB All walks are taken at the person's own risk.

**Group Leaders - Note for your diary - Group Leaders' Lunch**  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August at The Bear, Oxshott - noon until 3pm**  
**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**

**SOURCES - AN EDUCATIONAL BULLETIN** is produced by the Third Age Trust to help, encourage and inspire anyone who would like to lead a group in their own area of interest. Anyone who would like to receive free copies in future can contact National Office on 0208 466 6139 for a subscription form.

**JUST A THOUGHT** – your group leader would like to hear from you if you cannot make it to a meeting, particularly if there are changes in circumstances that you would like them to be aware of.

There is a list of exciting Study Tours arranged by the U3A Travel Network for all U3A Members on the Noticeboard.

### **NEEDLEWORK**

The needlework group continues to enjoy their fortnightly meetings. In the New Year Genie Hancock spent two sessions showing us the basics of parchment craft, using embossing techniques to produce cards and bookmarks. We were all impressed with the final results, some of them finished in colour, so many of us will be sending hand made cards to friends and family in the future! At present we are taking a few weeks to spend time consolidating our various handcrafts already commenced, in order to complete them before moving on to our next project which we plan to start in May. *MARY*

### **!! New Group !!**

#### **INTRODUCTION TO PARCHMENT CRAFT**

This group is for anyone with patience and a feeling for fine handwork to produce individual handmade cards and more. Techniques include copying patterns (tracing), colouring, perforating, embossing and cutting. This handwork can quickly produce beautiful results which will give participants great satisfaction. An introduction to this craft will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004 at 10.30am. All materials for this session will be provided at a cost of 50 pence. Those of you who are interested in trying this craft please contact *GENIE*.

### **COMPUTING GROUP**

Informal classes building on last year's beginners course have been held at the Howard of Effingham school. The Group will now be "resting" until the autumn.

### **COMPUTER USERS' MEETINGS**

It is intended that these occasional gatherings will provide a forum where topics of general interest, such as virus protection, protecting valuable data, etc. can be discussed in an environment which will encourage the sharing of member's experiences of using computers. If you wish to register an interest in these meetings which will commence in the autumn, please put your details on the Computing Group form which will be available at the U3A monthly meetings or contact Michael.

**SHARED LEARNING  
PROJECT based at  
SOMERSET HOUSE**  
Researching 17th Century  
Ice Fairs. Info on  
Noticeboard.

**SHARED LEARNING  
PROJECT based at V&A.**  
Info on Noticeboard.

## DIGITAL IMAGING COURSE

This will be held at the Howard of Effingham School and be given by one of the members of staff. The course will include a brief introduction to digital cameras and scanners, but will concentrate on the manipulation of image files to adjust brightness, contrast, sharpness, correct exposure problems and remove blemishes, etc., as well as the creation of composite images. The 8 week course will probably be held on a Tuesday evening from 6 to 8pm during the autumn term and will cost £20-£25. If you wish to reserve a place, please send an SAE to Michael, and you will be notified when the school is able to advise the dates later in the summer.

MICHAEL

### INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May the nearby Westcott Static Engine Collection is being opened especially for the Group from 11:00am. This will be an opportunity to view a private collection of restored single cylinder gas and oil engines dating from 1899. A number of the engines will be run, some demonstrating their original use for generating electricity in private houses. We are invited to bring a picnic to have in the grounds, with the prospect of continuing the visit after lunch. If you wish to attend, please contact the organiser: MICHAEL. We recently had an interesting talk by Geoff on the history of industry in non-metropolitan Surrey. He started with flint working, plenty of that about, moved through tile making, with Geoff having a sample he

discovered on the Ashtead villa site in the fifties, and finished with the development of transport, railways in particular, in the late nineteenth century. We have trips to "All Electricity" at Amberley on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June – contact Tony and the British Engineerium at Hove on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July – contact Tony.

### FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

We continue to meet on the second Thursday afternoon each month. Our stock of books, CD ROMs and magazines on genealogy is growing slowly but surely. We recently visited Sutton Central Library and were given a private introduction to the specialist resources they hold. Several members have made fascinating discoveries about their forebears and in one instance has

been re-united with her lost relatives. We are fortunate that three members of our group are very experienced in the subject and are very willing to pass their knowledge to the new comers.  
JOHN

### LONDON HISTORY GROUP

A better title might be "Discover London Group"!! We make a monthly walking tour of a different part of London which one of our members leads in turn. Recent visits have taken us to Clerkenwell, Spitalfields, Haymarket & St. James's; future trips will include Greenwich, Hampstead, Kensington and the South Bank of the Thames.  
LINDA



### AN INVESTMENT CLUB?

A popular way of investing in the stock market with a group of like-minded members of the Fetcham U3A?? We are intending to establish such a club if there is sufficient interest. We will arrange a mutually convenient meeting to discuss the idea-so please contact Tony or John to register your interest. An investment of £20- £50 a month is envisaged.

## WHO SAID THAT?

You can take a horse to water,  
but a pencil must be lead.

The trouble with resisting temptation....  
is that it may never come your way again!



## PLAY READING

The Play Reading Group eventually got off the ground at the beginning of the year with a very amusing afternoon spent reading sketches from a book compiled by Frank Muir. With the ladies taking men's parts the ice was soon broken for those who had not experienced reading aloud before.

We are now progressing to more serious plays and, this month, read Emyln Williams' 'Night Must Fall' - a murder mystery. Betty and Geoff played the victim and murderer with such conviction that Betty said she made the hairs stand up on the back of her own neck!

Next month we are tackling 'The Importance of Being Ernest' and then..... who knows? As with most Am Dram societies, we have a singular lack of men - those we have are doing a sterling job but they would like support from others, if only to save their vocal chords. If there are any men who hanker a secret desire to be either a Richard Burton or Les Dawson, please let me know ..... just come along and enjoy the fun. We laugh a lot, which may not strictly be in the stage directions, but we enjoy ourselves and that is what it is about. WINNIE

### YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP!

*The Department of Trade and Industry conducts a yearly survey to identify the most common causes of accidents leading to treatment. Some of the results are surprising .....*

<b>749</b> injuries followed close encounters with an armchair	<b>37</b> accidents involved a candle or candelabra
<b>628</b> incidents involved the toilet	<b>28</b> mishaps with pedal bins kept hospital staff busy
<b>611</b> accidents were caused by sewing or knitting equipment	<b>22</b> reported accidents involved birdbaths
<b>494</b> people hurt themselves while talking on the telephone	<b>4</b> incidents were caused by chopsticks
<b>49</b> accidents with Christmas trees ruined the festive period	<b>3</b> injuries involved tablecloths
<b>37</b> injuries were caused by contact with washing-up liquid	<b>2</b> accidents resulted from using shoe polish.



### SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP - Margaret and Geoff

The group has continued to meet each month and, as we all get to know each other better, the buzz of conversation grows. Recent venues have included The White Horse Hotel, Dorking; Bluebeckers Restaurant at Gomshall Mill and the Seven Stars pub at Ripley. For variety, we are considering for the future a mid-week curry evening and a barbecue. Sadly we have to set a limit on our numbers and there is a small waiting list to join. We try, however, to invite as guests those who are waiting should space permit in the venue of choice. Please speak to one of us if you would like more information about becoming a member. Perhaps you might like to organise a rival group - we wouldn't mind! And it doesn't have to be on a Sunday. Some people might prefer a week-day. Our next venue is the Drummond Arms at Albury on 16th May. Here, weather permitting, we will enjoy a spit-roast under an awning in the gardens whilst we watch the ducks dabbling on the Tillingbourne river. (If wet - in pub!)

### WINE APPRECIATION 1 - Jo

Four wines from the Chateau de la Jaubertie in the Dordogne were tasted at our March meeting. We heard the fascinating story of the Ryman family (of stationery shops fame) and their move to a French chateau with vineyard. The financial and work stresses took their toll and eventually the family broke up. However, the chateau still produces wines which we sampled with great enjoyment. The group continues to meet monthly, usually with four wines from a particular country, grape or other theme. Recent meetings have focussed on Italian, French and Spanish wines. Future plans include visits to Vinopolis in London and Denbies Vineyard locally. Our last speaker, Jim Monks, was an amateur wine collector turned specialist importer of unusual Spanish wines. We enjoyed tasting three whites and five reds with the widest range of tastes from light white to liquorish white and from heavy tannin red to nine-year-old fully matured Gran Colegiata Reserva from the Bodegas Farina.

## Visit to Hidden Springs Vineyard by Winos2

On Saturday 3rd April we had a well-attended visit to this vineyard which is situated in Horam, East Sussex. We were greeted by the Owner and with the opening talk we were given their prestige wine, made by the Champagne method. A brief tour of the actual vines followed but as the going was heavy their full extent was not closely examined. There appeared to be about four or five acres under cultivation, mainly using the Single Guyot method. We then received a tutored tasting of seven wines. The first two were apple wines and these, although very cheap were not to everyone's taste. The remainder, four white and one red were excellent although rated differently by the members. The background sound level during the interesting talk seemed to rise to something verging on a hubbub and reached a crescendo when a member fell off their chair, fortunately with no lasting damage. An excellent home cooked lunch followed and then a remarkably quiet journey back home. It was agreed that the day was a real winner. The wines were good and reasonably priced, the venue was ideal, and hospitality and informative presentation, beyond reproach.

GEOFF



**GARDENING** - The group is for people interested in horticulture in all its many aspects. New members are very welcome  
Contact Margaret.

**BRIDGE** sessions are shared with Leatherhead and Bookham U3As at St. Mary's Church Hall usually on the second and fourth Thursday mornings from 10am to 12.30pm. The dates for the first half of the year 2004 are: May 13th and 27th, June 24th (only one meeting), and July 8th and 22nd. There are no meetings in August. Rubber is played on the second Thursday and Chicago on the fourth Thursday. We play together to keep the running costs of the hall down and the subscription, including coffee/tea and a biscuit is £7 in advance for six second sessions and £7 in advance for six fourth Thursday sessions OR £1.50 per meeting paid on the day. Cheques should be made payable to Frank or pay in cash. Frank of Leatherhead U3A runs the. Please contact him directly if you wish to attend or when you arrive. Please sign the book and make yourself known. We look forward to meeting you there.

JOHN and PAM

## U3A SUMMER SCHOOLS

As a new U3A, we haven't yet had people go to the annual summer schools at Cheltenham on the University of Gloucester's Park Campus, but these are very well regarded. This year the dates are 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July. Enid has the details of the very wide-ranging programmes and will bring them to monthly meetings.

## COMMITTEE

Chairman	Ian
Vice-Chairman	Patricia
Treasurer	Peter
Secretary	Brenda
Membership Secretary	Marilyn
Groups Co-ordinator	Enid
Speaker Secretary	Margaret
Publicity Officer	Winnie
Member	Garth
Welfare of Members	Yvonne [with Jo]
Newsletter Editors	Ian & Winnie

The committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month shortly before the Monthly Meeting. If you have any items you would like discussed please contact Brenda in time to get the item on the agenda.

## NEWS FOR ISOLATED U3A MEMBERS

A small working group has been set up by the National Executive's Standing Committee for Education, to explore the possibility of developing a Virtual U3A as a means of helping existing U3A members who are isolated, for

whatever reason, but who wish to continue to participate in U3A activities including membership of Study Groups. It will offer to isolated learners as many of the benefits of full membership of a conventional U3A as is practicable by

making use of computer technology and the Internet. If you are or know of any current member who has become isolated and want further information, please see the Noticeboard

<b>GROUP LEADERS</b>	***** Proposed group just starting	* Group full at present
Art – Mixed Media (1) *	Margaret	Every other Thursday at 10.30
Art – Mixed Media (2)	Janet	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 14.30
Art Appreciation *	Jenny	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 14.00
Book Club *****	Brenda	Starting in September
Bridge (with Leatherhead)	Pam & John	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 10.00
Computing	Michael	Tuesdays at 18.00
Family History	John	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 14.30
French Conversation (1) *	Anna	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 14.15
French Conversation (2)	Lesley	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 14.30
Gardening	Margaret	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday at 14.30
Industrial Heritage	Ian	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday at 10.00
Investment Club *****	Tony & John	To be arranged
Local History	Keith	Resting until autumn
London History	Linda	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday at 9.30
Music Appreciation *	Rosemary	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 19.45
Needlework *	Mary	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Fridays at 10.00
Outings & Theatre Visits	Sheila	Various
Parchment Craft *****	Genie	To be arranged
Play Reading	Winnie	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday at 14.30
Scrabble	Janet	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 19.30
Sunday Lunch Club *	Margaret & Geoff	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday at 12.00
Walking (1)	Jo & Ernie	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday morning
Walking (2)	Margaret	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday afternoon
Western Philosophy	Roger	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 16.00
Wine Appreciation (1) *	Jo & Ernie	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 14.30
Wine Appreciation (2) *	Geoff	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 14.30

If you would like to join groups run by Bookham U3A or Leatherhead U3A, speak to Enid at the Monthly Meeting because she keeps in touch with the other Group Co-ordinators and knows where they may have vacancies. At present Bookham are looking for members to join a chess group. If you are interested in a group that is full or in other topics speak to Enid and she will see whether there is support to start a new group.

### ***Getting the Best New Equipment and Getting the Best out of It***

Since January Michael, Peter and Ian have been taking action on purchasing new sound and audio-visual equipment for our meetings. With the aid of a grant from Mole Valley District Council, which covered one third of the cost, we have purchased a sound system that will be in action at the April meeting. The system includes two radio mikes and up to four loudspeakers, although we will only be using two at first. In addition we have an induction loop that should enable people with hearing aids to follow the speakers with greater ease – the loop will be operating for the front five rows of seats and we look forward to testing it in operation and getting feedback on how it is operating. We have written to MVDC to thank them for their support and have also written to Leatherhead U3A as they have been kind enough to lend us their sound system for our monthly meetings over the last eighteen months.

The audio-visual equipment is a laptop PC and data projector that is being delivered imminently. As well as high-resolution high-brightness images, the system will be able to play DVDs and to interface with the sound system. Over the next few months we will be introducing the group leaders to the advantages of such display methods and providing training in the operation of the equipment. At the AGM there will be a slide show of travels in New Zealand and by then we should have all the “bells and whistles” [as the saying goes] operating. We will be giving short demonstrations as soon as we can get everything running.

### **South East Area U3A Forum on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May on Co-operative Learning**

Several delegates from Bookham and Fetcham U3As are attending this meeting. It has been advertised at the monthly meeting; if anyone would like to attend, a late application is possible and Ian has seats in his car. The Needlework, Computing and Industrial Heritage Groups are all sending display boards on their work to the meeting. The day starts with registration at 10am and finishes at 4pm. The main speakers are Professor David James from Surrey University and Rosemary McCulloch, Vice-Chair of Age Third Age Trust NEC. It is a good opportunity to learn what other groups are doing. The organisers are very sorry that it coincides with a Bank Holiday weekend, it arose from poor availability of the venue; so apologies and next year they will have a better date, but do come if you would enjoy such a day out in East Grinstead.

### ***Surrey 50+ --- Engaging People over Fifty in Decision Making***

The aim of Surrey 50+ is to offer people over fifty the opportunity to be engaged in planning, delivering and monitoring current and future services to the community. Topics include finance, transport, health care, employment opportunities, social care, environment etc. Surrey 50+ is made up of individuals representing their personal views and not those of any organisation, agency or political party. The Network is part of the Better Government for Older People programme and acknowledges the experience of people over fifty and the contribution they can make. You can be involved in a variety of ways including e-mail, postal surveys, telephone interviews or if you prefer, attending meetings and discussion groups. If you would like to be part of the Network, please get in touch by writing to Surrey 50+ Freepost NAT 14840, Chertsey KT16 0BR, or by e-mail on [Surrey50+@suretcc.gov.uk](mailto:Surrey50+@suretcc.gov.uk) or by calling 1208 541 8593.

### **Third Age Trust Conference and AGM - 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August at the University of Leicester**

See noticeboard and U3A News for details. At the conference on Monday [9am to 6pm] one of the founders, Eric Midwinter will talk on “Widening the Net” while Vice Chairman, Rosemary McCulloch will talk on “Communication”. The AGM is from 9am to 5pm on the Tuesday. If anyone would like to attend please get in touch with me at the Monthly Meeting or by phone. Ian

### **Advertisement - Piano Needs a Good Home**

If you know of anyone who would like an upright piano and stool, we have one in good order that can go to a new home for the cost of the transport. Dimensions are pretty standard but it may help to know it is 1.35m wide, 1.25m high and 0.60m deep. Contact Ian or Gill.



## Central Surrey Regional Meeting Hosted by Fetcham

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April we had the privilege of hosting the regional meeting at St. Mary's Church Hall. Our turn arrived early in our life but we were happy to organise the meeting and Patricia, Winnie, Yvonne and Joan made sure that our guests were very well looked after. The principle business of the meeting was to review activities in the U3As and to hear of developments from the Third Age Trust via Edna Wright, NEC member for South East Area, and Arthur Browne, Regional Representative for Central Surrey. At the end we were thanked for providing such effective arrangements and I would like to thank Patricia for organising the venue and the catering and Winnie for being secretary for the meeting and handling the paperwork both before and after the meeting.

One of Edna's roles is as a member of the Learning Support Network and she has been very encouraging in the work of setting up a study day programme for Central Surrey, of which more below. Arthur reported on one of the Regional Development meetings, which I also attended as rotating regional chairman, at which the future policy on development was discussed in the light of two narrowly defeated motions at last year's Third Age Trust AGM. Arthur also proposed a small capitation fee across the region to support the minor expenses of his role, to support further U3A developments in the region and to provide some support for the future funding of activities such as the study days. The proposal was for an initial fee of 5p/head. After a thoughtful debate it was agreed unanimously that we should seek a one-off voluntary contribution of 5p/head from each U3A which would be considered by their committees. Our committee met the next day and made the decision to contribute in this way. We had already offered Peter's services to hold the funds until a more formal arrangement is put in place. The decision was made to go ahead with an initial programme of study days and the provisional arrangements are given below. This is an exciting development and we hope that many members from Fetcham will feel interested in attending. The speakers can all be highly recommended.

### Initial Programme of Study Days - Dates for Your Diary

The study days will be held at the Royal School of Church Music in West Humble which has beautiful views of Box Hill and has been recently renovated as a conference venue for around eighty people. The building goes back to 1770 and before the RSCM was owned by Sir James Jeans, The Astronomer Royal and later his widow for seventy five years until 1993. It has been renovated with a lottery grant and has a very pleasant series of rooms with two full size organs that we may utilise in the future programme. The house is set in beautiful grounds which are very convenient to the nearby rail station and there is plenty of parking. The study days will run from registration at 9.30am to departure at 4pm and will cost £9. The initial programme comprises:-

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October      **The Ecology, History and Literary Associations of Box Hill**

Peter Creasey, National Trust Head Warden & Lalage Grundy, Surrey University

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November      **Portraits through the Ages**      Katey Brown

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February      **Historical Introduction to the Current Conflicts in the Middle East**

Brian Beeley, Consultant for Open University World-wide



A little knowledge can be a dangerous thing. We are not sure that Mike really knew what was going on at the back of the class.

**The Mayonnaise Jar** - When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar.....and the coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes". The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents

your life. The golf balls are the important things - your God, family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favourite passions - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car. The sand is everything else - the small stuff. "If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal unit." Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend. We hope you are smiling at the moment!!!