

# FETCHAM & DISTRICT



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

No. 6

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2004

**Volunteers Wanted** – You can see from the notice of the AGM that we need some new blood on the committee. We are trying to spread the load and a new group will be running social events, a group is looking into setting up a website and we could do with a Newsletter Editor who would enjoy the role without needing to be involved with the committee meetings. Remember a burden shared is good fun. Have a word with any of the committee.

**Social Events** – The committee has agreed on a programme of social events for the coming year, including the Christmas Party on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December in St. Mary's Hall, a Quiz Night on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March in Fetcham Village Hall, a Garden Party in May and a Barn Dance in Bookham Old Barn Hall in September. It seems a very good time to expand the team of people organising such events, before those of the committee involved are completely rushed off their feet. Patricia has agreed to run a **Social Events Team** and I hope all those who can spare the time and have the energy will contact her at the monthly meeting or by. The idea is to involve enough people so that the active participants will change between events to share the load.

**Barn Dance Debrief** – Everyone that joined in the Barn Dance on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August had a great time. The caller was really good with a lovely sense of humour, the food turned up on the dot and Brenda's sweet recipe was given full marks and an extra helping of cream. The organisation ran like clockwork and the outfits of some of the dancers had notable style. It was good to see a table of Leatherhead U3A attending. Next time, and we've already booked the hall, there is bound to be a rush for tickets. See you there.

**Thanks to Group Leaders** – The strength of the U3A is down to the energy and commitment of the group leaders to a considerable degree. We all owe a big thank you to the group leaders and as all the group leaders are members of groups we can all recognise this without a blush. At the group leaders meeting in August the committee had a very good opportunity to gather ideas for the future. We also had a written report from each of the group leaders so we have a good feel for how things are going. At the moment we have twenty five active groups – the Monday Walking Group and the Local History Group are "resting". A brief summary of the returns shows that on average members belong to 1.3 groups with some being heavily involved in several groups and others not having joined a group yet. We hope we are providing groups on topics that interest you and that you may be interested in joining groups with vacancies. Do let us have any of your new ideas. In any case contact Enid, our Groups Co-ordinator or speak to the group leaders at the monthly meeting.

**New Members Meeting** – Jo who helps with welcoming new members has offered to arrange a meeting for new members so that we can say hello and find out more about your interests. For this first meeting we have decided to invite members who have joined in 2004. We will see how it goes; perhaps Jo will arrange meetings for future new members shortly after they join. If you know friends or acquaintances who might enjoy being part of Fetcham U3A do bring them along as visitors to the monthly meeting or give them a copy of our list of meetings.

**Monthly Meeting Format** – With effect from the September meeting we will run the meeting continuously from business through to speaker and questions, and finish with tea at the end of the meeting. The change was prompted by some comments by members. The committee will be pleased to have comments on the change and we will ask the meeting in November whether the change is welcome. The meetings will start as usual at 2.30pm.

**Membership Renewal Forms** are being circulated with the newsletter. The subscription remains at £10 and renewal is due in October.

**Annual Conference** – The Theme of this years' Third Age Trust Annual Conference was "Widening the Net – Growth, Participation and Involvement". The keynote speaker was Eric Midwinter, one of the founders of the movement, who gave an inspiring speech on the theme of expanding the membership to many more people who would enjoy the stimulation and friendship of U3As. Eric recalled that he had estimated the growth in numbers of U3As very accurately in a prediction from the mid 1990s; the founders' aim had been to make U3As available within thirty minutes travel for most people in the country. However, the number of members had not expanded as fast as he had predicted and the challenge was to increase the participation level of people in the third age from 1 in 85 at present to nearer 1 in 10 that is achieved in some areas. Surrey was highlighted as being a very active U3A county and he urged everyone to go out recruiting to our splendid organisation. As part of the twenty-first birthday celebrations of the movement Eric was commissioned to write a history of the U3A movement and the Third Age Press has recently published "**500 Beacons: The U3A Story**". Copies can be obtained from National Office.

**U3A Founders** - The founders of the U3A movement in 1982, Michael Young, Peter Laslett and Eric Midwinter, had been involved in the instigation of the Open University in the late 1960s. That institution was remarkably successful but the three men felt that the need to compete with "normal" universities and the focus on educational qualifications meant that the OU was slow to provide broad-based continuing education programmes. They ascribed this to dependence on government funding and in setting up the U3A ideals they sought to create an independent movement. Peter Laslett drafted the first Aims and Guiding Principles for the U3As and these remain as the core values; they were reviewed and reissued last year for the twenty-first anniversary. Michael Young, 1915-2002, was a social entrepreneur of the highest order, he founded amongst other institutions, the Advisory Centre for Education (1960), the National Consumer Council (1975), U3A (1982) and the Open College of the Arts (1987). In addition to being party to the founding of the OU he had earlier drafted the 1945 Labour Party manifesto "Let Us Face The Future" but then moved away from political activity to be a social entrepreneur. He wrote the social satire "The Rise of the Meritocracy". Peter Laslett 1915-2002 was a demographer and founded the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure. Eric Midwinter, a social historian, was born a generation later in 1932 and still illuminates the U3A scene.

**Equipment News** – Thanks are due to Graham for putting all the various pieces of the sound system in a silver carrying case for speed of erection in the hall. The laptop PC and data projector is coming into use at monthly meetings and has been very effective so far. Some training will be organised so that any group leader who would like to learn how to use the equipment can get a proper introduction. The invitation is open actually to anyone who would like to use the equipment in group meetings. Contact Ian or Mike to learn of the arrangements for training that we are planning. Keith has already used it at a couple of French and Family History group meetings.

**Website** – A small group is considering the option of launching a Fetcham U3A website. Mick has volunteered to be our first webmaster. We will continue to publish the newsletter in paper format but we think the website will provide an extra dimension to our activities, just as email is providing a very helpful link between many members already.

**New Kids on the Block** – The latest groups to start up over the summer are the Parchment Craft groups, the Third Age Investment Club and the Book Club. Best wishes for your future endeavours. Also Keith is looking for anyone interested in helping to get the Local History Group off the ground.

**Third Age Investment Club** - This new group held its inaugural meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July. We have opened accounts with The Share Centre and HSBC Bank. We decided to make an initial payment of £100 each and a monthly standing order of £25. The emphasis of our monthly meeting is on having a bit of fun but learning about the stock market and monitoring the shares purchased at our members' suggestions. We have room for three or four more members.

**Local History Group** – Although many members expressed an interest last year, insufficient support was forthcoming to start the group. It has proved impossible to find a leader who would give regular talks to the members. If the group is to exist it must go back to the original principal of the U3A – "The teachers shall learn and the learners shall teach". This means that members must be willing to give a short introduction to a local history topic and then open the meeting to a general discussion of the issue. If you are interested please contact Keith at the monthly meeting.

## Outings and Theatre Visits – Sheila

Our short break to Barcelona this year was a great success; it really is a “don’t miss” city. What a choice of attractions and interesting areas to explore! If you are planning a visit do contact us for recommendations. Soon we will be taking a look at the scenery and traditions of South-West Ireland, and comparing impressions over “champ”, “colcannon” and Guinness (perhaps?) to round off the daily sight-seeing. I’m currently busy investigating some of the main attractions to be included in a visit to medieval **Crakow** and surroundings following enthusiastic comments heard from our local LEDFAS members on their recent return. Hopefully suitable accommodation and flights can be arranged for my requested dates of May 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> (Six days). Providing sufficient people decide to come, the cost can be kept below £600, with a guide and numerous excursions included. Contact me as soon as possible for more details. The next planned theatre visits are listed below, but you need to be quick because there aren’t many vacancies! On our November day out a stop for lunch or browsing in Lewes is included before we are conducted around Glyndebourne’s beautifully designed opera house and back stage areas. Tea and biscuits will be provided: more suitable than a picnic on the lawns!

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Northern Ballet Theatre with **SWAN LAKE** – Woking matinee £19  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – **JOURNEY’S END** – R C Sherriff’s classic play of World War I from its “powerful and smartly acted” London run – Woking matinee £15  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Penelope Keith in Coward’s **BLITHE SPIRIT** – Woking matinee £16  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Afternoon tour of **GLYNDEBOURNE OPERA HOUSE** – Coach from Bookham at 11am with lunchtime stop at Lewes £17  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Drury Lane’s new musical **THE PRODUCERS** (Waiting list)  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Alan Bennett’s **THE LADY IN THE VAN** – Woking matinee £15  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December- **CHRISTMAS MUSIC & CAROLS at the Barbican £25**  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March – **ON THE TOWN** at the London Coliseum with a cast including Willard White in this Leonard Bernstein show – Evening trip by coach with Upper Circle at £34.50 or £43

Contact Sheila for further information or to reserve a place; cheques should be made payable to Bookham U3A.

## Computing Group – Michael

**Digital Imaging Course: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September to Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** - This will be held at the Howard of Effingham School, Lower Road on Tuesdays 28<sup>th</sup> September to 19<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November to 23<sup>rd</sup> November (With half term on 26<sup>th</sup> October) between 6pm and 8pm. The course will be given by Peter Bolton from the school staff and will use the Adobe Photoshop Elements 2 software. The cost will be £20 for eight weeks. For further information and to enquire whether there are vacancies please contact Michael.

**Festive Computer Users Meeting on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November** - This will be held in the Harrison Room, Old Barn Hall, Bookham between 7pm and 10pm to round off the Computing Group year. There will be no charge for this first meeting at which brief presentations will be given on **safe internet practices** - anti-virus software, firewalls, anti-spy ware, software, danger of pop-ups, passwords etc. and **internet shopping** - finding internet shops, best prices, secure connections, auctions, on-line consumer rights, etc. This will be followed by general discussion during the sampling of seasonal refreshments, and the evening will be rounded off with a **question and answer session** during which a panel of Computing Group “experts” will attempt to share their knowledge. The aim is to foster the sharing of member’s experiences of using computers. For the evening to be a success both new and experienced computer user are encouraged to attend. Please let Michael know if you wish to attend so that adequate refreshments may be provided.

**Industrial Heritage Group** – Our next meeting is at Ian's house on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October when we will discuss the history of jet engines and aircraft. Ian has a video showing the flight of the Frank Whittle prototype aeroplane and Ruth has another on cancelled TSR2 project. On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November [Note change of day] Mike will be organising a visit to Kew Bridge Steam Museum when plant will be in steam. On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January Ken will talk about and demonstrate early wireless equipment. On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February Ian will speak on the history of electricity supply.

**French Conversation (1) & (2)** – The highlight and culmination of the year's activities was a joint celebration of Fete Nationale. Keith provided "Kir Republicain" and we all contributed to a French feast accompanied by suitable Gallic music and challenges to make up silly stories using French expressions. Good wine, good company - thanks Keith.

**Music Appreciation** – The group continues to flourish with members offering their own choices and selections of music. Programmes range from musicals such as Porgy and Bess to Glenn Miller and the Inkspots, from silver bands to pan pipes and from American composers to English classical composers – where we all joined in Land of Hope and Glory and Jerusalem. In the near future we are putting on our own version of Desert Island Discs and we look forward to preparing a programme for the Christmas Party.

**Art Appreciation Group** – The next meetings are on 27<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm when Alice Smith gives a talk on Contemporary/Modern Art at 14a Groveside, on 24<sup>th</sup> November with a trip to Tate Britain to see the Augustus John exhibition, meeting at Cobham Station at 9.45am, on 8th December when a table has been booked at the Blubeckers Restaurant, Gomshall for a Xmas Lunch, let Jenny know if you can come on 458629, and on 14<sup>th</sup> January a trip to the National Gallery to see the Raphael exhibition, meeting at Cobham Station at 9.45am with enquiries to Bryan.

**Exploring London Group** - We continue to travel to London on the first Monday each month to walk around a part of the metropolis which one of our members takes it in turn to lead. We have recently visited Greenwich, Hampstead and the South Bank of the Thames on very sunny days!

**Wine Appreciation Group (1)** - During our very sociable monthly meetings in each other's homes recently we have tasted wines from France, Italy, Spain, New Zealand and Portugal. In July, we had a trip to Vinopolis, located on Bankside, alongside Borough Market and Shakespeare's Globe in London. We went by minibus and enjoyed a lunch in their Wine Wharf restaurant prior to the tour. In September, we visited Denbies vineyard, with a tour round the winery, a trip in the trailer round the vineyard followed by tea in the conservatory restaurant. We have a speaker booked for our December meeting, who has recently retired from running his own vineyard and winery in Sussex.

**Sunday Lunch Group** - The group continues to prosper, with good attendance at all our meetings. There is a provisional programme to cover the next five months but we test each venue shortly before our intended visit to see whether it is up to standard. If it isn't, we take our custom elsewhere!

**Thursday Morning Walking Group** - We have enjoyed seven walks so far. Our 'Summer Special' in August was particularly enjoyable and on the way we met walkers from Reigate U3A. We followed a circular route from Brockham via Betchworth and the sun shone. After the walk we all sat outside the pub on Brockham Green agreeing that this was a great way to spend a summer's day! Future walks planned on October 28<sup>th</sup> 3.5 miles, Clandon Park Estate meeting at 10.30am in the car park opposite The Horse and Groom pub in Merrow, November 25<sup>th</sup> 3.5 miles, Polesden Lacey Estate meeting at 10.30am at the far end of the main car park at Polesden Lacey, January 27<sup>th</sup> 3 miles, Shere meeting at 10.30am in the car park behind the village hall by the recreation ground. A sheet with additional details about these walks is available at the meetings. Do join us – it is an enjoyable way of having some healthy exercise in a friendly group and seeing the wonderful local countryside.

**Monday Afternoon Walking Group** – There have been several very enjoyable walks with many flowers and birds identified. As the next six months of going to be hectic Margaret has decided to have a break. If members would like to share the leading or to continue over the winter please give Margaret a ring.

**Scrabble for Fun** – The group meets on a Wednesday evening in each other's homes and takes a glass of wine to help the thought processes.

**Needlework Group** – Through the year we have covered several different projects, more recently doing some smocking under the guidance of Peggy who has recently joined the group. She was present at the talk on the Grange Centre and several members encouraged her to give us a demonstration of smocking at which she is expert. She has spent much of her working life producing exquisite items at The Grange. From September we are aiming to work together to produce a wall hanging or quilt which will be raffled, auctioned for charity or given to a deserving organisation. We have decided to provide quilts for an orphanage in Kisumu, Kenya for the Rianna Davenport Fund, in memory of the little girl killed in West Ashted school by a falling tree. Val will give further information at the September monthly meeting.

**Gardening Group** – The group activities have included presentations by members on the genus Clematis and on Spring bulbs, visits to Painshill Park, the rhododendron garden at Ramster and the Wisley Flower Show, tours around the greenhouse plant production at Lower Road Nursery in Spring and before Christmas and a visit to learn about the work of a volunteer at the RHS garden at Wisley. The last meeting was held at the home of a volunteer at the Royal Horticultural Gardens at Wisley. First she showed us around her garden which included a recently constructed pergola with climbing clematis and flowering oleanders in pots, framing a view to the North Downs. Then we saw her two-year-old bog garden, which flourished in spite of our recent dry weather. Buried water pipes gave a clue as to the reason. After seeing the garden we heard about the laboratory work. How plant specimens are collected and pressed between layers of blotting paper. After several changes of blotting paper when the material is sufficiently dry the samples are transferred to a freezer for several days to free them of residual pests. They are then catalogued and stored as reference materials. The afternoon finished with cucumber sandwiches and home-made cakes in the conservatory surrounded by flowering orchids.

**Bookham & Leatherhead** - If you would like to join groups run by our neighbouring U3As, 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.

**U3A Websites** – The National Office website [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) and the U3A Internetwork website [www.worldu3a.org](http://www.worldu3a.org) are worth visiting. Harrow U3A website [www.harrowu3a.co.uk](http://www.harrowu3a.co.uk) has links to U3A websites in eighteen countries.

### Central Surrey Region 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. The house is set in extensive 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.

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> October   | <b>The Ecology, History and Literary Associations of Box Hill</b><br>Peter Creasey, National Trust Head Warden & Lalage Grundy, Surrey University |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> November | <b>Portraits through the Ages</b><br>Katey Brown, Freelance Art Historian   |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> February  | <b>Current Conflicts in the Middle East</b><br>Brian Beeley, Consultant for Open University World-wide  |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> March    | <b>Literary Victorians</b><br>Julia Courtney, Open University   |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> May      | <b>Practical Applications of Astronomy</b><br>Kevin Attree, Surrey University   |
| Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> July   | <b>Romanticism into Impressionism: Chopin &amp; Delacroix, Debussy &amp; Monet</b><br>Janet Canetty-Clarke, Freelance Lecturer                    |

Enquiries to Jennifer, Kingston U3A for October and November. Booking forms for February and March will be available at November monthly meeting.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 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 Editor    | Ian              |

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.

### MONTHLY MEETINGS - GUESTS ARE VERY WELCOME

|                            |  |                 |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 28 <sup>th</sup> September | A Tour of Afghanistan  | Roger           |
| 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             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> December   | Christmas Party – Food, Entertainment & Mulled Wine [Friday] |                 |
| 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.

### GROUP LEADERS

|                           |                  |  |
|---------------------------|------------------|--|
| Art – Mixed Media (1)     | Margaret         | Alternate Thursdays 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                 | Penny & Elaine   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 14.00                   |
| Bridge (with Lhd/Bkm)     | 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                 | Beryl            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday at 14.30                      |
| Industrial Heritage       | Ian              | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday at 10.00                      |
| Investment Club           | Tony & John      | 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday evening                     |
| Local History             | Keith            | Resting until autumn                                 |
| London History            | Linda            | 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday at 9.30                       |
| Music Appreciation        | Bryan & Penny    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 19.45                   |
| Needlework                | Mary             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Fridays at 10.00   |
| Outings & Theatre Visits  | Sheila           | Various times and dates                              |
| Parchment Craft (1) & (2) | Genie            | Alt. Thursdays 10.00 & 13.00                         |
| 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 Resting             |
| 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                   |