

24th January 2006

www.fetchamu3a.org.uk

Fetcham U3A Newsletter

AGM The meeting commenced at 2.30 PM on Tuesday the 29th November. The AGM had been preceded by an enormous amount of discussion in Committee which at times had become more than somewhat heated.

1. Ian opened the meeting at 2.30 pm and welcomed all those present, especially our new members; and pointed out the fire exits to be used in any emergency. Winnie then made various announcements concerning the Christmas Party, a request for restaurant recommendations to be returned, and advance information about the Quiz Night next March. Enid then gave information about new groups, that will be starting soon: Card Craft, Refresher Ballroom Dancing and Spanish Conversation. There is also a third Gentle Movement group on a Friday morning at 11.00 am. Group Leaders are needed for new Family History, Music Appreciation and Wine Appreciation Groups. There is also a possibility of organising a joint Creative Writing group between Fetcham, Bookham and Leatherhead U3A's. Sheila gave out information about forthcoming visits and outings. Penny mentioned that there is one spare space in the Book Group. Ian mentioned that to ease the congestion at tea time – there would be two serving hatches operating, and would members please be kind enough to collect their tea and biscuits, and then move away from the serving area, to prevent blocking those parts of the hall. Ian also gave special thanks to Mavis and her team of helpers and asked for volunteers to add their names to the tea rota.

2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting

Members had been given a copy of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and Ian asked for any questions or comments. There were none so these Minutes were duly adopted and signed by Ian, Chairman.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report had been circulated to all those members present, and will be attached to these Minutes. Ian wanted to say a big thank-you to the retiring Committee Members – Margaret, the Speaker Secretary; Enid, Groups Co-ordinator and Marilyn, the Membership Secretary - who had been members of the original 'Gang of Four' who played such a leading role in getting Fetcham U3A started. Ian thanked Tony – his Vice Chairman who

also organises all the Computer Classes, Winnie – Publicity – who keeps us 'in the news', and Bryan, Treasurer for Fetcham U3A and the Central Surrey Region. Thanks were also extended to Brenda, Secretary – who also retires at this meeting and Yvonne – who will be standing down from her Welfare Role but continuing on the committee; and Peter and Patricia – whose Newsletters just keep getting better. Peter and Patricia were the other members of the original 'Gang of Four'. Ian's thanks were also given to Sheila - for organising all the outings and holidays on our behalf, and to Mick – who is our 'webmaster'.

4. Secretary's Report

Brenda announced that our Membership numbers have risen steadily and at the end of our year – the membership stood at 343. We have since had 28 new members, and following our decision to close the membership on a temporary basis, there are 8 on the waiting list. Members present who wished to renew their subscriptions were invited to see Marilyn, the Membership Secretary.

Brenda then introduced the details of the feedback from the meeting at the Yehudi Menuhin School Concert Hall in October – which were included in the paperwork given to every member present at the meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Bryan, our Treasurer, introduced the accounts for a third very successful year. Questions were invited from members but there were none, therefore the accounts were accepted without question or comment. Bryan thanked Lionel who had examined the accounts, on behalf of Fetcham U3A. Unfortunately no-one proposed that the accounts be adopted so this item was held over to the 2006 AGM.

6. Election of Officers

Ian announced that by the closing date for nominations on the 8th November 2005, only two nominations had been received.

Inside this issue:

2005 AGM	1	These were for Enid as a Committee Member and Brenda as Secretary. These two members were duly elected. Two vacancies remained, and as our constitution allows for the invitation of volunteers to the committee, if two-thirds of those present are in favour – Ian requested a show of hands. The meeting was unanimously in favour of this course of action. The request was duly made to the meeting, and Diana and Tony volunteered to join the committee and were duly elected.
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7. Appointment of Accounts Examiner

Lionel had examined our accounts for last year and is happy to continue for another year. This was unanimously accepted.

8. Any Other Business

Ian read out the motion for discussion, as laid down on the agenda. He then went on to explain why we had moved the meeting to the Yehudi Menuhin School Concert Hall for the talk by Black Rod; and that the committee had decided to use this hall for special occasions when we expect high attendances. The AGM next year will be held at the Yehudi Menuhin Hall.

Comments were invited from the floor – and members voiced concerns about the cost implications, catering facilities, and the difficulty non-drivers would have in getting to the hall. We are aware that we might lose some members if we move to the Yehudi Menuhin Hall, and that we do have to close the membership list. John mentioned that the average membership is 268 and we currently have 343. He would prefer to stay at St Mary's Hall in Fetcham with a capped membership. Other venues had been investigated but there are none in the immediate area which will take more than 150. The dangers of the road exit from the Yehudi Menuhin Hall and that our subscriptions would have to increase if we made a

permanent move were raised by members.

Winnie reminded the members that the committee had spent a great deal of time trying to find the best venue for our monthly meetings, but possibly a second Fetcham U3A could be formed to accommodate all those who want to join.

Ian reminded the meeting that the motion was not a binding decision but guidance for the committee. The motion was read again to the meeting, and a vote was taken. The results were as follows:

Those in favour of the motion	32
<i>(to move to Yehudi Menuhin Hall)</i>	
Those against the motion	89
Abstentions	- 5

The advice for the committee was overwhelmingly against the motion.

Neville mentioned that if another exit could be formed out of the side room – it might mean that the seated numbers legally allowed at meetings might be increased. Peter suggested that members should only belong to one branch of U3A at a time.

On behalf of the members, Michael thanked the Chairman and committee for all their hard work. 144 members had attended the meeting, which closed at 3.20 pm.

The afternoon was completed with a most amusing talk by Ron Fowler—our local fishmonger who had generously brought some samples

Picture page 12.

28TH February 2006

Black Rod will be keeping the appointment with us that he had to postpone last October.

This time it will be at our regular venue St. Mary's Hall starting at 2.30pm.

The meeting will be ticketed, members only, no guests. Tickets will be available at the January meeting.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

9th December 2005

Our third Christmas Party was held on Friday, 9th December, at St. Mary's Church Hall, Fetcham, and was an enormous success. It was attended by 120 members, all of whom had an extremely enjoyable afternoon. There was entertainment, delicious mulled wine, wonderfully festive food, a mental challenge, lots of laughter and excellent company, and a present to take home and put under the tree when it was time to leave.



The Social Events Committee had designed the seating of members at tables of ten so that everyone had a good view of the stage and plenty of people to talk to. The mental challenge was waiting on the tables as members arrived – “Name that Drink” – which delighted all the wine group members but did not necessarily help them with the answers! Favourite clues ran on the lines of “Pretend to be in agony” – answer Champagne – and “Mother bopper” – answer Martini – and “Browned off” – answer Tango!! Tables 1 and 12 tied with the most correct answers, and Table 12 won the prize after successfully answering the tie breaker. An excellent table quiz much enjoyed by everybody.

The mulled wine continues to be a popular feature of our Christmas Party. This year it was made by Geoff, who assured me the recipe was based on an old French recipe for vin chaud. This was drunk by him in his youth and was designed to warm up cold and exhausted skiers at the end of the day and help them pick their way safely down the mountain at dusk! It definitely

still works.

Entertainment was provided by “The Golden Girls”, with Singer Daphne Fairbrass and monologue specialist Geraldine Horn accompanied by their pianist. They were wonderfully entertaining and gave us two sets of songs and recitations, one before and one after tea. Daphne sang many favourite songs and Geraldine rendered some original and very funny recitations as well as an exceptionally dramatic version of The Twelve Days of Christmas. They were joined in the second half by two aspiring performers, festively dressed – that is Graham looking jaunty in a red Fez, and Bryan looking very dashing in bauble style antlers – in a lively performance of “Jingle Bells”. The entertainment was very well received by everybody.

The Christmas Party Tea was excellent. It had been beautifully set out in the side room and people helped themselves, table by table, and were delighted by the choice of savoury sandwiches and cakes and mince pies and delicious Christmas treats. The Social Events Committee would like to thank all members, both male and female, who contributed so much effort to the preparation of such an excellent tea.



At the end of the Party everybody was given a present to take home with them wrapped in festive Christmas paper and ribbon. The lovely table decorations, designed and made by Anne, were awarded by lucky ticket numbers drawn out of a hat.

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I am sure all members who attended the Christmas Party will join me in thanking Winnie and Yvonne and the members of the Social Events Committee for all their effort in devising and organising the Christmas Party and for their hard work on the day itself to make it such an extremely happy and festive afternoon for the members of Fetcham U3A who were fortunate enough to be there.

Patricia



2006 EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

24th January	A Word on Plays	Roy
28th February	The Office of Black Rod	Lieut. Gen. Sir Michael Willcocks
11th March	Quiz Night	Fetcham Village Hall
28th March	Biggin on the Bump	Bob Ogley
25th April	Surrey Trading Standards	T. B. A.
28th April	Group Leaders Lunch	Fetcham Reading Room
23rd May	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England	Colin Langley
T. B. A.	Mid Summer Event	Social Committee
27th June	A Fist Full of Feathers	Pauline Murphy
25th July	The History & Magic of Playing Cards	Ray Hampton
22nd August	Travels in Kashmir	Gail
16th September	War Time Dance	The Barn Hall Bookham
26th September	Mouth & Foot Painting	Tom Yendel
24th October	The Role of the Third Age Trust	Lin Jonas
28th November	AGM + The Story of Concord	Peter Ling
12th December	Christmas Party	Fetcham Village Hall

Social events are printed in Bold

ACTIVE & PROPOSED GROUPS AND THEIR LEADERS

Alpine Gardening	Alan	3 rd Monday at 14.30	V
Antiques & Collectables	Marilyn	Contact Marilyn for details	P
Art – Mixed Media (1)	Margaret	Alternate Thursdays at 10.30	F
Art – Mixed Media (2)	Janet	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays at 14.30	V
Art Appreciation	Jenny	4 th Wednesday at 14.00	V
Aviation & Technology	Lawrence	Contact Lawrence for details	F
Ballroom Dancing	Enid	Contact Enid for details	P
Book Club	Penny & Elaine	1 st Wednesday at 14.00	F
Bridge for Improvers	-	- Group leader needed	P
Bridge	Pam & John (with Lhd/Bkm)	2 nd & 4 th Thursdays at 10.00	V
Card Craft	Jan	Contact Jan for details	P
Computing	Tony	As advertised	V
Cookery	Diana	2 nd Tuesday at 12.00	V
Creative Writing	Reg (with Bookham)	Contact Reg for details	P
Current & Social Affairs	Alfred	2 nd Tuesday at 14.30	V
European History	Roger & Gail	2 nd Tuesday at 16.00	V
Explore London Walking (1)	Linda	1 st Monday at 9.45	F
Explore London Walking (2)	Tony & Joan	4 th Monday at 9.45	V
Family History (1)	John	4 th Thursday at 14.30	F
Family History (2)	Neville	Contact Neville for details	P
French Conversation (1)	Anna	1 st & 3 rd Mondays at 14.15	F
French Conversation (2)	Lesley	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays at 14.30	F
Gardening	Beryl & Joan	1 st Tuesday at 14.30	V
Gentle Movement (1)	Enid	Fridays at 9.30	F
Gentle Movement (2)	Enid	Mondays at 11.00	F
Gentle Movement (3)	Enid	Fridays at 11.00	F
Industrial Heritage	Ian	3 rd Monday at 10.00	V
Investment Club	Tony & Ian	4 th Thursday evening	F
Local History	Keith	1 st Tuesday at 10.00	V
Mah Jong	Margaret	2 nd & 4 th Thursdays at 14.30	V
Music Appreciation (1)	Bryan & Penny	2 nd Wednesday at 19.45	F
Music Appreciation (2)	-	- Group leader needed	P
Needlework (1)	Mary	2 nd & 4 th Fridays at 10.00	F
Needlework (2)	-	- Group leader needed	P
Outings & Theatre Visits	Sheila	Various times and dates	A
Parchment Craft	Genie	Alternate Thursdays at 10.00	V
Play Reading	Winnie & Geoff	1 st Thursday at 14.30	V
Renaissance Art 1300-1500	Leslie - Bryan , Admin.	Wednesdays at 14.30	F
Scrabble For Fun	Janet	3 rd Wednesday at 19.30	V
Singles Dining	Genie	Contact Genie for details	V
Spanish Conversation	Anna (with Bookham)	Alternate Mondays at 14.15	V
Sunday Lunch Club (1)	Geoff	1 st Sunday at 12.00	F
Sunday Lunch Club (2)	Fred	3 rd Sunday at 12.00	V
Walking (1)	Jo & Ernie	4 th Thursday morning	V
Walking (2)	Margaret	3 rd Monday morning at 9.30	V
Wine Appreciation (1)	Jo & Ernie	3 rd Tuesday at 14.30	F
Wine Appreciation (2)	Geoff	3 rd Tuesday at 14.30	F
Wine Appreciation (3)	Chris & Rosemary	2 nd Tuesday at 19.45	F
Wine Appreciation (4)	-	- Group leader needed	P

1. To join a group please contact the group leader to check on vacancies and programme.
2. To join a proposed group speak to Enid , Groups Co-ordinator at the Monthly Meeting or contact the group leader.
3. To suggest new ideas for groups speak to Enid at the Monthly Meeting.
4. Would group leaders please keep Enid informed of any changes to the information given above.
5. Abbreviations A Places generally available F Full P Proposed V Vacancies

Art Mixed Media (1) - Margaret

When the weather was fine we took the opportunity to paint scenes in the garden. When it rained we were moved to take inspiration from the talk on Velasquez and attempt self portraits. A display board is being assembled for exhibition at a Monthly Meeting, showing a range of paintings of plants, animals and scenery.

Art Mixed Media (2) Janet

2005 has been a year of steady progress but we would still welcome additional members. We still meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. — contact Janet for details.

Art Appreciation Group—Jenny

During the summer the group has enjoyed visits to Somerset House and the Watts Gallery and Mausoleum, preceded by lunch at Jenny's house. We have also been to the Stubbs and Pictures in Britain Exhibitions in London.

The events in July prevented us from going up to the V&A in London. In September we had a wonderful visit to Charleston Farmhouse, home of Vanessa Bell and the Bloomsbury Set during the 30's and the war. We were totally amazed by the paintings and the objects that had been painted as we were taken around on our conducted tour. We followed the visit by having lunch at the Cricketers pub Berwick before looking around Berwick church which contains commissioned paintings by Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant done during the last years of the war. Charleston is near to Polegate and Eastbourne. We finished the year by having a Xmas lunch at Blubeckers in Gomshall, this was shared with the Music Appreciation Group. We are currently enjoying the Renaissance lectures being given by Leslie Pitcher and as none of us wants to miss any of these lectures we are waiting until they finish before we resume our visits.

Aviation & Technology Group—Lawrence

With the advent of the Winter months the group has retreated to the comfort of members homes with viewings of aviation videos and a taxing quiz relating to events dating from the Wright Brothers until the present day, which was won by Graham. A visit to the RAE Farnborough Airfield Museum in conjunction with the Industrial Heritage Group is scheduled for the 16th January and also a visit to the RAF Museum Hendon is planned for March. Amongst future events mooted are a gliding experience day and a visit to Duxford Airfield for one of their excellent displays and viewing of the magnificent aviation heritage there.

Ballroom Dancing—Enid

Although we have quite a few members showing interest in Ballroom Dancing we have yet to find a member who is willing to spend time teaching a group, thus my appeal for assistance is becoming daily more urgent.

Book Club - Penny and Elaine

The Book group started off this month with members' choice of poetry readings. These ranged from the hilarious story telling of 'Old father William' to the sombre story of the 'Highwayman'. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and it is nice that the choices were so varied and entertaining. One of our members read out a verse written by her aunt, so was different to those poems written by established authors.

Our book reading starts this year with 'The Book Reading Group' by Elizabeth Noble which follows the trials and tribulations of a group of women who meet regularly to discuss books. Over the course of the year these women become entwined both in the books they read and

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within each others lives. (Sounds familiar) Other books listed so far are: 'The Winner' by David Baldacci, 'Winston's War' by Michael Dobbs and 'The Secret life of Bees' by Sue Monk-Kidd.

There is space for 1 or 2 new members if anyone is interested in joining us.

Bridge (With L/hd & Bookham) - Pam & John

Herewith dates etc. for U3A Bridge.

Subscriptions were due on or before 5 January 2006 and include coffee/tea and biscuit as usual. Because there are now more members the subs have gone down and are now £12 for the whole year or £1 per meeting. Cheques should be paid to F. Sinnock who has a separate account for U3A Bridge.

Please continue to sign the attendance book and newcomers are asked to leave their name, address and telephone number plus U3A name so that contact can be made if necessary.

Dates for 2006: (usually second and fourth Thursday mornings from 10.00am to 12.30pm) Rubber on the second Thursday and Chicago on the fourth Thursday.

5 and 26 January, 9 and 23 February, 9 and 23 March, 13 and 27 April, 11 and 25 May, 8 and 22 June, 13 and 27 July no meetings in August 14 and 28 September, 12 October, (no meeting on 26 October), 2, 9 and 23 November, 14 December.

Frank is very appreciative of your help in clearing away after the meetings and for your help in running the Club.

Computer Users—Tony

The number of Silver Surfers continues to grow in Fetcham. The short course Graham arranged using Bookham library's computers for accessing the internet and e-mails was well received. Using these excellent facilities is a good way for members to gain access to a computer at no cost and with assured security.

For our more experienced members the course at Howard School in the autumn provided something for most tastes. Thanks must go to Graham, Hugh, Michael and Tony who covered a diverse range of topics from the basics of file handling, formatting and templates, to the complexities of Excel, PowerPoint and mailmerge, all with the latest edition of XP which, as we discovered, differs substantially from earlier versions

At the Group's December meeting at the Barn Hall, Colin showed in a most creative way how to use Excel as a database and he was followed by a lively interactive session (after the wine) with the "expert" panel giving their best solutions to our latest computer glitches. The next meeting will be in March/April when we hope to persuade Michael to give away his scanning secrets.

By the time this is published the Digital Photography course at the Howard School should be under way with Peter Bolton giving the talks. More than 25 people have registered so all seats are occupied. We should see some excellent photos in 2006.

Cookery Group – Diana

The Cookery Group has gained a number of new members during the year. We have had some very enjoyable lunchtime meetings exploring various recipes for pates, cold starters, etc. On a lovely summer's day we picnicked at Polesden Lacey and in November our topic was "Stuffings" for Christmas turkeys. This turned into an early Christmas-type lunch with roast chicken, vegetables, bread sauce, as well as a selection of stuffings. In December we had tickets to see a recording of "Ready Steady Cook". Sixteen people piled into a minibus complete with packed lunch and we had a lovely day. We all expected the actual recording to be quite different to what one actually sees on TV, but they really do cook everything in twenty minutes. However, what appears to be a seamless broadcast does have breaks for "chefs' thinking time" for recipe ideas and also for the voting. We now have to make plans for next year.

Central Surrey Region Study Days in 2005/2006

From October to May the study days will be held at the Yehudi Menuhin School, Stoke d'Abernon in their new concert hall and the July study day will be held in Banstead Community Centre. The programme for each study day will normally start at 9.30am with registration and will run from 10am to 4pm with breaks for coffee, lunch and tea. The cost including coffee/tea and biscuits will be £9, with attendees bringing a packed lunch. For latest information see www.fetchamu3a.org.uk/studydays.htm

2006

- Friday 10th February 2006 **Jane Austen**
Jill Anderton & Marion Dell, Open University
To be held at the Yehudi Menuhin School, Stoke d'Abernon
- Friday 10th March 2006 **Industrial Archeology**
Alan Crocker & Paul Sowan, Surrey Archaeological Society
To be held at the Yehudi Menuhin School, Stoke d'Abernon
- Friday 12th May 2006 **Views on a Changing World – Iraq, Afghanistan & China**
Gail & Roger Partridge, Phyllis May & Jean Thompson. All U3A Speakers
To be held at the Yehudi Menuhin School, Stoke d'Abernon
- Saturday 15th July 2006 **Mozart: Salzburg & Vienna – A Celebration**
Janet Canetty-Clarke, University Lecturer, Conductor & Pianist
To be held at the Banstead Community Centre

Booking is necessary and booking forms will be available at Monthly Meetings. Jennifer Anning acts as bookings secretary.

Alison, Banstead, Arthur, Horley, Bryan, Fetcham [Treasurer], Ian, Fetcham [Chairman], Jennifer, Kingston & Sheila, Bookham – Study Day Committee.

Explore London Group (1) - Linda

January saw a day at the Victoria and Albert Museum owing to the heavy rain, followed by a walk along the Westbourne River (now largely underground) and Chelsea in March with an unexpected tour of the Royal Chelsea Hospital. We also visited Richmond, the Lea Valley Canals and theatreland.

Despite the anxieties following the July bombings, we continued our monthly walks although we did visit Arundel, Eton and Windsor, Runnymede and Carshalton using our cars rather than the train!

Our December event took the form of a walk around Shere and ended with a lunch in the Lucky Duck.

To start the new year we are visiting the Cabinet War Rooms and walking around the Mayfair and Piccadilly area.

Family History Group—John

During 2005 we held our usual monthly afternoon meetings and also visited the Surrey History Centre in Woking, the Family Records Centre in Islington and the Latter day Saints Research Centre in Crawley. Members continued to make progress with their individual family history researches and several unexpected new contacts occurred not only from within the UK but also from Australia and Canada.

At the end of the year we started our planning for our programme in 2006 which will include visits to the Public Records Office at Kew and the Society of Genealogists Library.

One of our founder members, Neville has kindly offered to help start a second group as we now have a waiting list – please check the list at the monthly U3A meetings for details. Would somebody be prepared to act as co-ordinator?

French Conversation Groups—Anna & Lesley

Both groups have continued to meet approximately twice a month to discuss a broad spectrum of topics ranging from French current affairs and personalities to members' personal experiences in China, Croatia, Singapore, Uganda, Russia and Sheila's daring sponsored climb of the mast of the Jubilee Sailing Trust's tall ship.

Highlights of the year were our joint celebration of Bastille Day on July 14th followed by Keith's splendid day trip to France. There we enjoyed a magnificent seven course déjeuner gastronomique in Wissant, followed by a walk on the beach in glorious sunshine and a very successful trip to the hypermarket.

Bonne année à tous!

Photo page 15.

Industrial Heritage—Ian

We have had an excellent winter programme so far. The talks by members on maritime museums, Surrey railways and a Bookham factory were enjoyed by good audiences, who appreciated the effort that had gone into the preparation. Our day trips to Chatham and Portsmouth Dockyards, to the Black Country Museum and to the Chilworth gunpowder mills were all well supported. The most recent outing to the Farnborough Air Sciences Museum attracted thirty members including the Aviation group. Thanks are due to all who have organised the events. The future programme includes talks on railway safety and signalling, Brooklands aviation and motoring history and the water industry. We have members from Bookham and Leatherhead U3as and always welcome new members. There is strong support for a two-night trip to Ironbridge in early May and anyone interested should contact Lew.

Investment Club—John

With the Footsie touching 5700 the Investment Group is all smiles, valuations are looking good and rising. Should we take profits and find more undervalued shares? The perennial problem facing all investors. Prospects look good but the pessimists still forecast a market correction during the year, so something to keep us on our toes at our monthly meetings. There is room for an extra member round the table.

Music Appreciation Group—Bryan & Penny

This past year has seen a vast array of differing musical choices by all of our members. Jazz and Swing, Ivor Novello, Gilbert & Sullivan, Opera, Musicals and Cliff Richard to mention just a few.

We have had one type of Choral music and are looking forward to a differing style at a future meeting. There is even an evening of African music (with a difference) promised.

We also have had visits to the Leatherhead Theatre, Epsom Playhouse and the Dorking Halls for concerts where we can get to listen to the Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra and other performers. It makes for a varied and enjoyable program.

We are still setting our program for this coming year but even more variety is promised.

Needlework (1) - Mary

The Needlework Group has been working hard through the autumn to produce crafts to sell at a Christmas Coffee Morning held at the Church Hall in Ashted to raise funds for Rianna's Fund. This is the charity, set up in memory of Rianna, which has built an orphanage in Kenya, and for which the group produced quilts and teddy bears for each child last year. The coffee morning was a great success, and raised £2,500!

The craft stall displayed a wide range of goods, including jewellery and beadwork, knitted goods, cards, small Christmas gifts and decorations, and another beautiful quilt and pillow. The total raised by the stall was £330! Several of the group, led by Val, worked hard to set up and run the stall on the day.

Meanwhile the orphanage in Kenya is now up and running and we have received photos of the children's beds, each covered with one of the quilts

Local History—Keith

The Local History Group has started a major project based on the 1791 Tithe Map of Fetcham, a large document some 10 ft by 8 ft. The first stage involved laying a grid on the original map at the Surrey History Centre, followed by digital photographing, producing over 100 high quality images. This gives us accessible data for further work. This information is being matched to the Terrier of the same date (a Terrier is a detailed list of the land-owners, their holdings, and details of size, value, usage etc.). It is then hoped to do a similar exercise on a later map of Fetcham, linking in with Census and Parish record data, and so study the development of Fetcham. Photo see page 13.

Parchment Craft—Genie

Parchment Craft Meeting on alternate Thursday mornings at 15 Richmond Way at 10 am. Next few dates are January 12th, 26th, February 2nd, 16th etc. Due to some people dropping out we do have a few vacancies and anyone interested should call Genie on 01372 457879.

Play Reading Group - Geoff

We meet in a member's house on the first Thursday of the month to talk about, and then read, a published play. We don't take it too seriously - the more mistakes there are in the "sight-reading" of the script the more fun there is. We need a few more "gentlemen actors" but, sadly, we cannot accommodate more ladies at present.

Singles Dining - Genie

We meet occasionally (about once a month) in each others homes and mine hostess cooks a delicious meal for us all and then we share the costs. At the moment we have only four members (who get on very well together) and would welcome several more who think they would like to join in. Please contact Genie if you are interested.

Sunday Lunch Club(s) - Geoff and Fred

Meeting at lunch-time on Sundays for a good meal which someone else has prepared continues to be popular, to the extent that there are now two groups in existence. We have explored many interesting venues where we have enjoyed good fellowship and good conversation on matters of current interest. Visitors are welcome when accommodation permits. Geoff can give you more information about both groups.

Thursday Morning Walking Group – Jo & Ernie

Since the last newsletter, we have walked over Epsom Downs, where we saw two young horses being trained in the use of starting stalls, Bookham Commons and Banstead Heath. We have been very lucky with the weather, in fact we sat outside a pub having lunch in bright sunshine after both the September and October walks.

Future walks planned area:

January 26th 2006 3.5 miles **Holmwood Common.** Meet at 10.30am in the car park of The Plough at Blackbrook. A fairly flat walk with some gentle inclines and no stiles, though possibly muddy in places.

Refreshments at The Plough afterwards, if required.

February 23rd 2006 3.75 miles **The Mole Gap.** Meet at 10.30am in Swanworth Lane, by The Running Horses in Mickleham. The walk has some inclines, though none too strenuous, and one stile. Possibly muddy in parts.

Refreshments in The Running Horses afterwards, if required.

March 23rd 2006 4 miles **Brockham** Meet at 10.30am on Brockham Village Green, by the pump (near Old School Lane). The walk is totally flat, with a number of stiles. Most of the route follows paths through fields, parts of which could be muddy.

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Refreshments at The Royal Oak on Brockham Green afterwards, if required.

Sheets with additional details are available at the monthly meetings, or from Jo & Ernie.

Please note that walkers take part entirely at their own risk. .

The Monday Walking Group—Margaret

The group meets at 9.30 a.m. on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Lower Shott car park, Guildford Road in Bookham. We then drive to the start of the walk in the minimum number of cars. Each walk is between 4 and 5 miles and any hills are taken at a gentle pace! Some of us like to round off the morning with a drink or a bite to eat.

New members of the group are very welcome. If you would like further information ring Margaret.

The next walks are on September 19th, October 17th, November 21st and December 19th. Put the dates in your diary!

Theatre Visits—Sheila

We can forget modernity, relax and enjoy classic wit and humour at Woking Matinees on February 1st Richard Sheridan's **THE RIVALS**, and on March 1st Noel Coward's **PRIVATE LIVES** (star casts indicate good productions)

Spectacular costumes have made headlines in the Sadlers Wells performances of Matthew Bourne's latest dance-drama **EDWARD SCISSORHANDS**. Join us at Woking on the 29th March to see how this ballet meets the challenge of dancing with the fairy-tale boy who has scissors (no hands) at the ends of his arms.

We offer opportunities for opera lovers to come to three different venues:

Strong passion in Puccini's **TOSCA** when English Touring Opera visit the Hawth at Crawley on Monday 27th March. More lighthearted music (although no can-can) in English National's production of Offenbach's **LA BELLE HELENE** in London on 13th April and 4th May. Returning to Woking the acclaimed company from Chisnau with their Ukrainian orchestra perform a great favourite—**LA BOHEME** (Matinee on 14th June).

For details of prices, transport arrangements contact Sheila

Wine Appreciation Group (1) Jo & Ernie

Recently our monthly tastings have focused on rosé wines, (ending with a Cava) and then Christmas wines with two from the Pinot Noir grape and three dessert wines accompanied by mince pies and cake! In between we enjoyed the joint meeting of all the U3A wine groups in the Fetcham Reading Room, organised very successfully by Chris and Rosemary, leaders of Wine Group 3. The evening included supper and a most interesting and informative tasting of seven wines provided by the manager of Wine Rack in Cobham. In January we are going to La Meridiana Restaurant in East Horsley for a post Christmas lunch. We have recorded the six recent Richard and Judy's Wine Club programmes so that in February we can watch them together and join in tasting the selected New World wines

RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS

It would be good to be able to put a list of recommended restaurants on our website. I have received some but it is by no means a comprehensive list and I am sure we have members who visit both local restaurants and those further afield and would like to share their experiences with others.

I would appreciate some input to make the exercise worthwhile. Please contact me by 'phone or e-mail—I look forward to hearing from you soon.

WINNIE

Coming Events

A Weekly Art History Course of Twenty Sessions which started on Wednesday 28th September

The Course will be given in Fetcham Village Hall, John Rumble Room at 2.30pm

Renaissance Art from 1300 to 1500

by Leslie

- Sessions 11 to 14 – The Renaissance in Florence
- Sessions 15 to 16 – Early Flemish Painting
- Sessions 17 to 18 – Piero della Francesca and the Palace at Urbino
- Sessions 19 to 20 – The Cult of Classical Antiquity

The first eleven lectures by Leslie (B.A. Cambs.) on Renaissance Art, covering the early 14th Century through the International Gothic period have been completed.

There are fifty people sitting enthralled by Leslie's brilliant presentation. Whilst he requests his audience to ask more questions he covers the subject so completely there is not too much one can ask.

Most of the members of the Fetcham U3A Art Appreciation Group attend and Leslie completes the gaps in our knowledge and helps us to understand the art we see in various houses and galleries.

We are looking forward to the second half of these lectures.

Bryan

Area Conference on Saturday 1st April 2006 "Shared Opportunities for Learning"

The main speakers are Keith Richards, national chairman, and Professor John Cook, NEC member for East Midlands. The conference is to be held in the Meridian Hall, East Grinstead from 10am to 4pm. Cost is £6 with teas and coffees provided. Bring a picnic lunch. Application forms available at monthly meetings. We will be exhibiting the work of some of our groups to members from U3As across Kent, Surrey and Sussex. It promises to be an interesting day.



Some of the "Old Guard" at the AGM



Ron Fowler Spinning a "tail"



Ian Chairman's Report

Very best wishes for the New Year. Just before Christmas the new committee was very pleased to hear that BlackRod was able to give his talk at the February meeting. With short notice there were no options for alternative venues, so we

will be making best use of the space in St. Mary's Hall as we did for the Annual General Meeting. We will be making the occasion an all-ticket affair without guests or visitors. Winnie will be issuing tickets at the January meeting and will take bookings over the telephone. The tickets are free but we need to be sure that the hall does not become overcrowded. We have also decided to continue with free tea or coffee and biscuits at the monthly meetings as this should reduce crowding during the meeting and make it an even more pleasant occasion. We will be serving tea and coffee using both hatches from the kitchen. Please pick up your cups and move away as smoothly as possible.

The committee has decided to replace the waiting list for membership, which was intro-

duced in October, with associate membership. Associate members will pay a lower subscription but will not be able to attend the normal monthly meetings. This will enable us to continue to offer opportunities for people to join our interest groups which are the heart of the U3A, and to attend social and all other events. They will receive the newsletter and U3A News. Associate members will be offered the opportunity of moving to full membership as space becomes available and the Membership Secretary will keep them informed. We hope that the continued entry of members will enable us to recruit new group leaders and committee members to the benefit of all members.

I hope to see many of you at the Quiz Night on Saturday 11th March, at the study days at the Menuhin Hall or at the Area Conference on Saturday 1st April in East Grinstead. Keith Richards the national chairman is speaking and the theme is "Shared Opportunities for Learning". Details will be found opposite in the newsletter. After a splendid Christmas Party that was very well received by those attending and much remarked on later, I am looking forward to our future social events and an equally exciting series of monthly meeting speakers. Best wishes again.

Members of the Local History Group at work.



The Terrier explained in the Local History Group



Hugh photographing 1791 map Fetcham



Art Appreciation Group at Charleston



Art Appreciation lunch at Bluebeckers



Wine Group 1 Christmas 2005



Wine Group 1 Christmas 2005

CALLING ALL GROUP LEADERS :
DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Group Leaders' Lunch
Friday, 28th March, 2006
Fetcham Reading Rooms
12.30 to 4 pm.

Come along and join in the discussion about
how our Groups are run! Your ideas are
valuable to us!

The influence of China in this modern world continues to grow daily. For those students who have a natural bent for languages we enclose an aide memoir which may help you to study one of the oldest languages..

- | | | |
|------|--|------------------|
| 1. | That is not right | Sum Ting Wong |
| 2. | Are you harbouring a fugitive | Hu Yu Hai Ding |
| 3. | See me ASAP | Kum Hia Nao |
| 4. | Small Horse | Tai Ni Po Ni |
| 5. | Have you been to the beach | Wai Yu So Tan |
| 6. | I think you need a face lift | Chin Tu Fat |
| 7. | It is very dark in here | Wao So Dim |
| 8. | I thought you were on a diet | Wai Yu Mun Ching |
| 9. | This is a tow away zone | No Pah King |
| 10.. | Our meeting is scheduled for next week | Wai Yu Kum Nao |
| 11. | He is cleaning his car | Wa Shing Ka |
| 12 | You smell a bit | Yu Stin Ki Pu |

Bastille day outing to Admiral Benbo Wissant France



Groups Co-ordinator Comments

Patricia



Enid has had great success with the Friday morning Gentle Movement Exercise Class, which she organised for members at the Fetcham Reading Room.. In fact there are now three classes at 9.30am and 11.00am on Friday mornings with a third class at 11.00am on Mondays. The classes are ably led by Kim Skinner whose responsible attitude to guiding people “not in the first flush of youth” through an hour’s gentle exercise has proved very popular.



It seems fair to say that the classes prove second in popularity only to the Wine Appreciation Groups. Obviously there can be no greater praise.

Although it has yet to get started Enid has received a lot of requests for a Ballroom Dancing Group. Any assistance in this regard would be very welcome.

Reg. of Bookham U3A is keen to start a Creative Writing class. If you are interested contact Enid for details.. To encourage members to have a go the Newsletter Editors will print a three part story in three successive publications. The idea is that each issue could have a part of the story submitted by a different author. Might be interesting to see how the story develops.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Ian
Vice-Chairman	Tony
Treasurer	Bryan
Secretary	Diana
Membership Secretary	Brenda
Groups Co-ordinator	Enid
Speaker Secretary	Tony
Publicity Officer	Winnie
Member	Graham
Welfare of Members	Yvonne
Welfare	Jo
Newsletter Editor	Patricia & Peter

The committee meets on the 2nd Monday of the month before the Monthly Meeting. If you have any items you would like discussed please contact Diana in time to get the item on the agenda.