

Newsletter

**THE NOTICE BOARD CAN BE FOUND
OVERLEAF FOR THIS ISSUE ONLY**



CHAT FROM THE CHAIR

Hello again,

The compliments of the season to you all. I hope you all have a peaceful and enjoyable time over the Christmas break. Thank you to all our volunteers for another successful term of U3A activities, enjoy your rest and then come back ready for more in January!

Many people have told me that they read my annual report on the website and several have been very complimentary about the work the committee and I do on your behalf. It's always good to be appreciated.

You will all be pleased to know that we have had several volunteers stepping forward since the AGM. We have an accounts examiner ready for next year and two new committee members, Jenny Teagle and Sandy Redman. An excellent result, thank you to them all.

Having new members gave the committee the chance to have a small 'reshuffle'. Wolfgang Hamann has stepped down as Monthly Meetings Secretary and John Gawthorpe has moved into that role. Jenny will become Outreach Secretary in his stead. Fiona Godfrey has taken on the Programme Secretary role in addition to remaining as Membership Secretary. Fiona has passed on the Newsletter Editor role to Sandy. Every job is now filled. However, there is always room for more volunteers, don't be shy!

Jenny is a new member of Fleet U3A and writes as follows, "Being new to the area I was looking for a way to meet new people with a similar mind-set to me. As a wheelchair user my priorities may be different from others. I look for accessible parking close to building entrances, accessible level entry to venues, accessible WC facilities and informed, welcoming people who endeavour to find solutions and are proactive, thereby enabling everyone to participate.

Searching Fleet U3A website I saw that venues were listed with wheelchair access identified. This immediately encouraged me to investigate further. I rang Enquiries and found them very helpful and easy to talk to, so I joined Fleet U3A. I am committed to supporting Fleet U3A to continue to expand inclusion for all."

Sandy has written the following as an introduction, "Having been a member of Fleet U3A for many years I thought I would volunteer some of my time to help with the task of making it all work. Little did I realise that showing some knowledge of a desktop publishing package would result in being "volunteered" to take over the role of Newsletter editor. I trust that all members will support me by supplying notes of their own experiences of U3A events that they have attended, anecdotes or other information they wish to share. I hope that I will be able to meet Fiona's high standards."

I look forward to seeing many of you at the next Monthly Meeting and talk on January 16th 2019. By popular demand, we will have a returning speaker. Prof. John Rees talked about the Ebola Crisis last year, this time he will tell us about his experiences with the King's Partnership in Somaliland. I know it will be fascinating.

Happy Christmas,

Paddy



You may be pleased to hear that I am passing my nagging hat on, but before I do I would like to thank you all for your contributions to the newsletter over the last couple of years.

I am handing the baton (nagging hat) on to Sandy Redman who has recently joined the Committee and I am sure you will welcome her and inundate her with articles.

Drop Sandy a note at news@fleetu3a.org.uk and have your say.

Fiona

Newsletter deadline : 5 p.m.
Friday 25th January 2019
Next issue date : Friday 8th February 2019

Please try and restrict your articles to fewer than 350 words

!!! IMPORTANT FOR GROUP LEADERS !!!

Please ensure that all members of your group(s) have an opportunity to read the Newsletter. If possible, take a printed copy to your meetings and email it to those members who have the required facilities. Tell your members that it can be found on our website (www.fleetu3a.org.uk).

GROUP LEADERS' MEETINGS

2019
 27th March 2019 : Programme Checking (URC)
 5th July 2019 : Group Leaders' Lunch (VHHW)
 21st August 2019 : 2019/20 Groups' Enrolment (CHE)

EVENTS

2019
 17th April : Open Morning 11:00 (HAR)
 11th June : Performing Arts Evening (HAR)
 21st August : Group Enrolment for 2019-20 11:00 (CHE)

VISITS



2 night stay in Norwich with a matinee performance to the Thursford Christmas spectacular November 27th 2019 very few places left.

2019 20th January : Sonning Mill lunch & show (Guys & Dolls)
 9th February : Welford Park snowdrops & Newbury Market
 21st March : Haynes Motor Museum
 2nd April : D-Day & Mary Rose Museums
 May : TBC
 June : Athelhampton Manor
 July : TBC

GRUPY OLD MEN

A visit to Lasham Gliding Society Ltd
 by Grumpy Old Men (GOM) and others.

Fleet U3A GOM received an invitation from Lasham Gliding Society (LGS) to attend briefings on Air Traffic Management (ATM) covering North East Hampshire, plus the impact of the third runway at Heathrow to ATM. A further briefing on Gliders, followed by a visit to Lasham's Gliding Heritage Centre on Lasham Airfield was affected by Howard Torode of LGS. All attendees were given a Health and Safety briefing and also signed an attendance list.

Following introductions, Mr Mark Davenport gave the ATM briefing. He commenced with an historical outline of ATM, culminating in the National Air Traffic Service (NATS) Centre at Swanwick. Various videos taken from the Internet, were presented showing the current situation and the point was made that ATM is growing all of the time. How General and Military Aviation is managed was also addressed. Aircraft separation was vitally important but modern aircraft have a collision avoidance system to provide collision risk mitigation.

The impact of the third runway at London Heathrow to our area. The current proposal is for a shorter runway over existing by 300 metres to save on acquisition costs. Those aircraft using it will most probably fly North, West or East, but not South. The impact to our area was put as minimal and Gliding would not be seriously affected. The attendees thanked Mark for a well presented and informed talk.

Finally, we visited the heritage centre under the direction of Howard Torode of LGS. He gave an informed talk on the gliders in both hangers, including his own. A vote of thanks was given to Howard. After this visit we returned to the Lasham Restaurant for luncheon.



A picture of those attending beside Howard's Glider is shown above.

**Robin Cork
 Photography**

U3A National Newsletter

Sign up to receive the new **national** newsletter at
<https://u3a.org.uk/email>
 for U3A stories, events, advice, opportunities and more.

!!! FIND US ON FACEBOOK NOW !!!

We have now created our own Fleet & District U3A Facebook page, which will be developed over time with your help and use.

So please 'LIKE' and 'FOLLOW' our page. Our page in Facebook can be found by putting 'Fleet U3A' in the search

FLOWER ARRANGING



On Thursday 15 November Penny Webster from Fleet Flower Club came to give us a demonstration using plant material from the garden, and then adding bits and pieces so the arrangement could be used for Christmas and other seasons.

We had a very good attendance and everyone enjoyed the demo taking away a lot of tips. I am sure it is an arrangement we will be using in one of classes in the future.



We now have two more sessions left when we are holding our own workshop to do leaf manipulation and sharing tips that have been picked up from other demonstrations. We finish this term on 13 December when we are doing Christmas arrangements, followed by Christmas lunch.

Barbara Jones

SINGING FOR PLEASURE



"You'd better watch out
You'd better not cry
Better not pout
I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town"....

As you can see from the above, at Singing for Pleasure, we are singing some seasonal melodies. One great delight is a new Christmas Carol called "Christmas Bells", which was composed by a friend of one of our members – a great privilege.

Of course, we are also singing many of our favourite Christmas carols and songs, which have been singing since we were at school (a long time ago!)

We are delighted to welcome all our new members and hope they are having fun too.

June Grace



CALIGRAPHY



One of our first projects this year has been commemoration pieces for WW1.

The above, which speak for themselves, have been done by the group this session and include pieces by new members. Contributions by Gwen Easter, Julie Johnson, Maureen Norris, Victoria Berry and Lindsey Brewerton.

Lynda Gibbons

TALKING POETRY

Have you ever thought you'd like to really understand the poem you've just read or heard?

Would you like to know the difference between a sonnet and a quatrain?

Have you ever experienced the pleasure of reading a poem as a group?

Now's your chance.

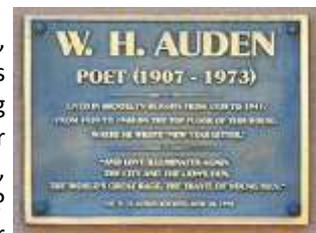
The new Talking Poetry group is fortunate to be led by Ann Bauer, who has taught speech and drama to licentiate level and is now an international adjudicator for the British Federation of Festivals. Her previous students have won prizes at festivals so why not us? We will start by performing at our U3A Arts Evening in June 2019 and perhaps enter the local Woodley Festival.

So far, we have studied poems by Dylan Thomas, W. H. Auden, Gerald Manley Hopkins, Gerard Benson plus an Elizabethan poet who was new to me: Samuel Daniel. In the process, I've learnt about Petrarchan sonnets, the rhythm scheme of the octet and sestet that comprise a Petrarchan sonnet and to delight in imagery:

"I'll love you, dear, I'll love you
Till China and Africa meet
And the river jumps over the mountain
And the salmon sing in the street."

A quatrain from the lyrical ballad "As I Walked Out One Evening" by W.H. Auden

After analysing the week's poem, we take part in group exercises to develop our skills in speaking together. Which words or phrases should be emphasised, speeded up or slowed down? Does it sound better ensemble or with alternating voices? It's all fascinating and great fun.



We meet in the church hall of Holy Trinity Church, Church Crookham at 10am on the first and third Tuesday of the month. New members are welcome. Contact Ann for more information: 01252 623642

Mike Mellor

THE GERMANS ARE ON THE MOVE !



My wonderfully supportive and hardworking "German Intermediate" group have been braving some changes this term.

After a long spell of enjoying the comfort and hospitality of Karin Parkinson's home, she felt, and we all totally agreed, the need to retire. Naturally, "all good things somehow have to come to an end". We had to move!



With the instant help from the 'U3A powers' we moved to a small side hall at the Catholic Church of our Lady. It is a fact of life that most of us rely on our cars out of necessity, as well as speed and comfort. However, after a few weeks we discovered that unfortunately there was not enough parking space for our cars at the time of our meetings.

Therefore we were looking once more for a suitable venue and were offered the Guides' Hall in Church Crookham with plenty of parking guaranteed just down a woodland path – excellent for a short morning workout walk to the hall with its pleasant light room next to the kitchen – perfect. Except that the week we started there, more than half the car parking spaces were occupied by the cabin of a contractor who is building a new playground. To last 2 weeks, they said. However, we are already in week 3! "C'est la vie" as the French say – or should we say "Murphy's law"?

But we are not moving again. We like it and are planning to have our little Christmas "do" there.

"Frohe Weihnachten" und "Gutes Neues Jahr".

Karin Robinshaw

VISITS UPDATE

Booking now for Welford park to see the snowdrops, and then IKEA for lunch, with a chance to try Swedish meatballs on 9th February.



Booking in January for Sherborne and Haynes Motor Museum 21st March.

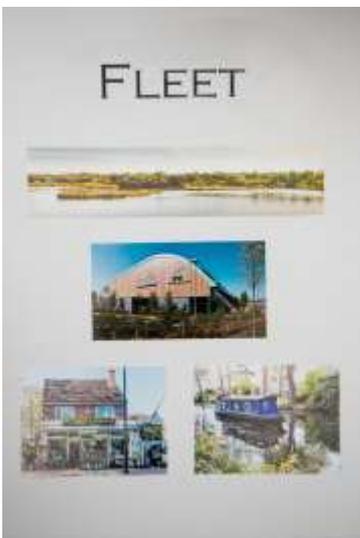
All members are welcome to come on the visits - if you haven't been on one come and give us a try. Please do look at our new look web page where all current visits updates are available.

The visits team wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and New Year with thanks to all the members who constantly support us.

Carole Matthews

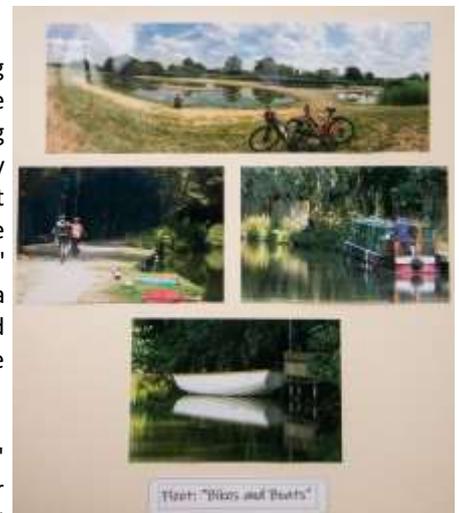


PHOTOGRAPHY



Summer seems a long time ago but at our October meeting we reviewed 9 summer challenge entries. The challenge was to take several images of Fleet and district including one with a panoramic format. We were set this challenge by Rod Marshall, the U3A webmaster, with the view that selected images would be used as background on the website. Following a members vote Ian Garrod - "Fleet" won with Julie Wing - "Fleet - Bikes and Boats" coming a clear. It was interesting to see how members presented Fleet; the Harlington centre, Canal, Bakers Hardware store and the Sport centre were common images.

October's monthly photographic theme was "Beatles songs" when members had to depict a Beatles song with their image. 27 members participated which included several yellow submarines, long and winding roads with the most humorous being "a hard days night".



This month's theme is "in my room" which will require a little imagination.

MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP

Recent presentations to the group have broadened the range of music heard, much to the approval of the membership.

Don Watson's 'Brown Paper Packages' proved to contain some real treasures. Beethoven's 7th Symphony and Prokofiev's Lieutenant Kije suite sat comfortably alongside the overture from The Marriage of Figaro to keep lovers of classical music content.



'I am what I am' from La Cage aux Folles and the soliloquy from 'Carousel' were pieces we had not heard before, and Lee Holdridge's 'Love until the End of Time' was superbly performed by Placido Domingo and Maureen McGovern. Don's enthusiasm for his choices was infectious, and his audience responded enthusiastically.

On 11th November 2018 Alan Grace invited us to reflect on the theme 'The Guns Fell Silent, but the Music Carried On'. Starting with a short history lesson from AJP Taylor on the origins of the First World War, Alan wove a fascinating tale of insights and anecdotes, including pieces as diverse as 'This Is the Army Mr Jones' and Vaughan Williams' Pastoral Symphony.

We heard the origins of the phrase 'Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition', and heard the perspective of a wounded Vietnam veteran: though many of us could hum 'Ruby Don't Take Your Love to Town', most were unprepared for the stark reality of the line '*... it's hard to love a man whose legs are bent and paralysed*'.

Dimitri Shostakovich's Gadfly Suite was revealed as the true origin of the theme from Reilly, Ace of Spies and John Williams' Hymn for the Fallen, from 'Saving Private Ryan, brought a fitting finale to a memorable and moving presentation.

'Voices' on November 22nd continued the practice of broadening the range of music played. We experienced 'Sull' aria' alongside the characters in The Shawshank Redemption, and heard the stirring introductions to Handel's 'Zadok The Priest', Monteverdi's Vespers and Vivaldi's Gloria.

Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah' had its place, alongside 'Who Knows Where the Time Goes?' by Sandy Denny and a chorus from Les Miserables.

We closed with the powerful and compelling performance of Mahler's 'Abschied' sung by Kathleen Ferrier.

John Gawthorpe



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Calling all those looking for a healthier later life!!



While we can't promise you the Elixir of Life, we can provide you with some sensible and practical advice around health issues in later life. Our Health and Wellbeing Group was set up some four years ago now with the aim of raising awareness of health issues post retirement and how best to try to avoid them.

Specifically, we try to encourage people to take responsibility for their own health in later life and offer some general advice on a wide variety of topics, courtesy of our invited speakers. We meet monthly on a Wednesday afternoon at the Church on Elvetham Heath between 2 and 4pm with a mid-session tea break. We typically get between 40-60 people coming along certainly enough to stimulate some lively discussion after the speaker.

But we are always looking for new members, especially anyone with a past healthcare background who might even be prepared to give a short talk! So do please come and join us if you wish. There's no obligation to come every month – just dip-in/dip-out as and whenever a topic interests you.

To give you a flavour of the topics we have covered over the two or three years, these have ranged from "podiatry, mobility and balance", through to "usefulness of supplements in our diet", as well as "dealing with arthritis" and "trouble sleeping". The formal presentations are always followed by questions and some general discussions. Finally, we review controversial health articles which have appeared in the press or on TV over the previous couple of week.

Recently we had a very interesting presentation from Tracy Harris, Clinical Director of TalkPlus, a free NHS counselling service offering psychological therapy for adults living in our area. This service has looked at the effect of long-term physical conditions and the often-consequential issues of insomnia, worry/stress and pain and the impact these can have on mental health. It offers direct access with no need for a GP referral with a minimal waiting time. For anyone interested they can be contacted on 01252 533355 or see <https://www.talkplus.org.uk/>

So if you might be inclined to come along to one of our meetings and have a taste of what these have to offer then please feel free to do so. Just let us know ahead of time. For more information just contact either of the individuals below.

Richard Franklin Group Leader

richard.franklin@btinterent.com

Stuart Williams, Secretary

stuart.williams27556@ntlworld.com

ART 7 Taking Risks

Taking Risks Art Group was the name given to the class many years ago, hence we endeavour to challenge ourselves to one or two new painting techniques each term.

Suggestion for September - December were to revisit pastels, both blending in, and short light stroke methods. Sharing our pastels enabled everyone to have a good choice of colour range as they can be expensive to buy.

Second challenge : abstract painting in black and white / dark and light. Sounds simple, not such the easy task we thought. The class is called Taking Risks, so no challenge is unattainable.

The subject for each term is the choice of the group members ,who also help me with the projects.

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bowenhurst Road, where we meet, is a modern building with good light and has ample room for those who prefer their own challenges, or to complete any on-going work.

We have places available from January 2019. Contact number if you need any further information Maureen 01252 851888.



JAZZ APPRECIATION

In November, the JAG had three sessions.

On the 1st, Mike Brown gave one of his eclectic, entertaining surveys, this time of Movie Jazz - and most of it was jazz!

On the 15th, two members each gave a half session; Marian Shattock took us through an original day-in-the-life, from sunrise to sunset, with meals along the way; Mike Weaver highlighted the live gigs of pianist Dave Newton, featured in several venues and with a number of fellow musicians.



On the 29th, we had another twofer. Malcolm Hitchcock was supremely entertaining about his youthful adventures in jazz, with some surprising non-jazz towards the end; and Colin Thomas featured some of the great jazz singers. Both Malcolm and Colin were presenting for the first time; I hope it won't be their last.

Our party is on December 13th - John Gawthorpe offers 'Crikey, did you hear that?' and a quiz will puzzle a few members.

May I wish a jazzy Christmas and New Year to all members, present and future.

Mike Rance

PETANQUE

On Monday 26th November we held our Christmas melee. Forty members attended and we were very lucky with the weather as the sun shone until we started the third game when it clouded over and became quite chilly.

Every member put £1 in the kitty which was then distributed as prizes, and after the three games we sorted out the winners. the 'friendliest' player was Anne Morley with no wins and a score of minus 25!

The 6 top scorers all with 3 wins were:-

- 6th place was Janet Watson with a score of plus 13
- 5th place was David Lawrence with a score of plus 14
- 4th place was Eddie Jackman with a score of plus 15
- 3rd place was Jenny Kyte with a score of plus 17
- 2nd place was Derek East with a score of plus 19
- The overall winner was Fran McVeigh with a score of plus 21



Another enjoyable session was had by all and we look forward to the final session on December 10th which will be followed by our Christmas lunch at the Wyvern public house.

Wishing all U3A'rs all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Derek & Liz Barden
Petanque Group Leaders

CREATIVE WRITING

Christmas Visitors

Now that I look back on that Christmas Eve, I understand I had done nothing to deserve it. I was a lonely, embittered old fool with a savage and sarcastic tongue that fended off anyone trying to get close to me. I had driven my own son away with my refusal to see that his talent and his free spirit were not only worthwhile, but wonderful. No, I didn't deserve that Christmas Eve at all.

I was outside collecting some logs for my wood burner when I heard the noise. That was the beginning, I suppose, that pitiful whimpering coming from an unfamiliar cardboard box next to my dustbin. I pulled back the lid and peered inside. 'Good grief' I muttered.



Two black and white faces looked up at me. Tiny puppies with big floppy ears and eyes that were barely open. My first reaction was a surge of rage at the callous nature, that had abandoned these helpless creatures and then irritation, that I would have the bother of doing something about it. I'm cantankerous, but I'm not a savage, so I brought the box indoors.

I wrapped the shivering little bodies in old towels and put them next to the stove with a dish of bread and milk. 'It looks as though you're stuck with me till after the Christmas holidays' I told them, 'so I'm going to give you names. How about Pudding and Cracker?' Pudding yawned mightily and dozed off whilst Cracker wagged his tail in a self-deprecating way. I stroked him gently and then suddenly jumped as my doorbell shrilled. 'What now?' I grumbled. Heaving myself up, I went to the door wearing my most forbidding scowl, anticipating a hurried line of Good King Wenceslas and a grubby hand outstretched for money. However, it was my vaguely familiar next door neighbours, a young couple and a lad of about thirteen in Scouts uniform. The young lady looked at me rather anxiously.

'I do hope we aren't being a nuisance' she said, 'but Colin's Scout troop were making mince pies and he insisted we should bring you some'

'Because we should think about our neighbours at Christmas' interrupted the lad calmly 'so here we are,'

'I brought you a bottle of my home brew as well' said the young man hurriedly. 'it's quite safe, I promise!'

'Well...' I hesitated, feeling a confusion of embarrassment and anxiety. I could hear the puppies squeaking and suddenly found myself saying to the boy 'Would you like to come in and see Pudding and Cracker?' His eyes lit up and for the first time ever my dingy sitting room hosted my next door neighbours, exclaiming rapturously over my unexpected animal visitors. No sooner had I pulled myself together, the doorbell shrilled again. In a whirl, I hurried to open it.

'Hello, Dad' said a tall bearded young man. I took a deep breath. 'My boy,' I said, 'my boy!' 'And your daughter in law and your grandson' he said, and with a proud and loving smile he stepped back and gently presented a nervous young woman carrying a tiny child wrapped in a hand knitted shawl. 'Come in, Come in!' I said weakly. 'I can't believe this is happening!'

My next door neighbours suddenly appeared in the hall, Colin carrying a wriggling bundle that was Cracker. 'My neighbours' I said 'these are my neighbours the.. um...' I faltered. 'We're the Kings' said the young man, holding out his hand. My son grinned as they shook. 'Ah, the three Kings! How appropriate! I'm Joe Carpenter and I would love to say this is my wife Mary but it would be just too comical.'

'My name's Daisy' said my daughter-in-law, shyly. 'And we've called our son James. It seemed hardly fair to call him Noel!'



So that's the Christmas Eve that changed everything - the unconditional love of animals, families and neighbours that broke down my grumpy isolation. Slightly comical, but wonderful.

©RBracewell



MONTHLY MEETINGS

2019

16th January	Learning from King's Partnership in Somaliland <i>Speaker</i> : Prof. John Rees
20th February	Management of Terrorism <i>Speaker</i> : Prof. Jim Ryan
20th March	History of the Watercress Line <i>Speaker</i> : Dr Becky Peacock
17th April	Fleet U3A Open Morning Groups provide information about what they do
15th May	Universities 50 Years Ago <i>Speaker</i> : Prof. Mark Cross
19th June	Contingency Planning at London Transport and Transport for London 1969—2012 <i>Speaker</i> : Nick Agnew



Wolfgang Hamann
Don't forget to come along from 9:45 am for a coffee and a chat in the function room next to the main hall of the Harlington.

COMMITTEE EMAILS



Chair	Paddy Powell	chairman@fleetu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Alan Jones	secretary@fleetu3a.org.uk
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CODY FLYER & FAST MUSEUM

On the 3rd Wednesday of November David Wilson gave an outstanding presentation about the Cody Flyer at The Fast Museum and about selected milestones from the history of the RAE. The History of the RAE goes back to the middle of the 19th century when Col Templer and his balloon reconnaissance group were relocated from Chatham to Aldershot where its former location is still acknowledged in the street name—Balloon Square.

David Wilson also illuminated a few of the mysteries about Cody, who advertised himself as a stunt man incorrectly as the son of Buffalo Bill. This advertising gimmick came to a stop when Buffalo Bill sued him for misrepresentation.

The speaker was the main initiator of the Cody Tent at the FAST Museum in Farnborough which is well worth a visit.

He started as an apprentice at the RAE and worked during most of his career at the MOD. Among many other important programmes he was in charge of the Eurofighter project.

Talks of a technical nature are sometimes trying for the non- expert. This presentation was quite different. David Wilson was able to distil complicated technology to its essentials and present it with a twinkle in his eye. This monthly meeting was a truly successful morning.

Wolfgang Hamann



Have a truly magical Christmas and New Year