

Newsletter



Newsletter deadline : 5 p.m.
Friday 22nd February 2019

Next issue date : Friday 8th March 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 Group's 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 2019 — also see Article for more information

Visits are taking bookings at the February meeting for the April visit to the D-Day museum & The Mary Rose.

21st March : Haynes Motor Museum
 2nd April : D-Day & Mary Rose Museums
 May : TBC
 June : Athelhampton Manor
 July : TBC

2019 – 2020 PROGRAMME

Our annual programme has traditionally shown photographs of our activities. All groups are invited to submit for consideration to be included on the cover of our next programme, photographs that depict their activities and achievements.

Photographs should be in JPEG format and sent via email as uncompressed attachments. Please include a short description of each photograph in your message and send to

Fiona Godfrey : memsec@fleetu3a.org.uk

by **Monday 30th March.**

Could you also please ensure that the photographs do not have any dates or text on them. Many thanks and I look forward to being 'spoilt for choice'.

Chat From The Chair

Hello again,

Happy New Year to you all! I trust the new term has begun well for you, Group Leaders and ordinary members alike. I have certainly enjoyed getting back into the swing of things after the Christmas break.

It was super to see so many of you at the January Monthly Meeting, thank you to Group Leaders for spreading the word in the absence of a newsletter in January. We all enjoyed an excellent talk about Somalia and I certainly learnt things of which I had no idea previously – a sign of a good speaker as far as I am concerned. The speaker for the February 20th Monthly Meeting is Professor Jim Ryan and his talk is entitled, 'A Tale of Two Cities'.

Jim Ryan is a retired academic surgeon. Following a career in the Royal Army Medical Corps he joined University College Hospital as a professor of trauma and in that capacity was responsible for the hospital's readiness to deal with major incidents, including terrorist attacks. He was in charge of the hospital's response to the multi-site terrorist bombings in London on 7th July 2005. His talk will examine how countries such as the UK and France respond to multi-site urban terrorist attacks.

I know Jim's talk will be fascinating. He is a good friend of mine so please come along to listen.

As well as there being no newsletter in January, your committee also have a well-deserved rest from meetings. As a rule, we meet on the first Wednesday of each month. You might want to note that, if you have any requests for funding or questions you would like us to consider please make sure they reach the appropriate committee member in good time.

To finish, thanks are in order. Volunteering is definitely catching on in our U3A! I mentioned at the last Monthly Meeting that the Group Leader for Visits needed two more people for her team and like magic, they came forward! Excellent response. Thank you.

Paddy



Don't forget to come along to the Monthly meeting, on the 20th February from 9:45am, for a coffee and a chat in the function room next to the main hall of the Harlington.

Performing Arts Evening

This will take place at The Harlington on the Tuesday 11th June. While I have been in touch with the various Dance, Ukulele, Singing, Shakespeare & Poetry groups, I would like to hear from any other group who would like to present a short performance (5-10 min). Events Sec.

Open Morning - Wednesday 17th April. Just a reminder to Groups that it is time to think about what you might display at the Open Morning. This year, it takes place on the Wednesday before Easter. I will be contacting Group Leaders shortly. Mike Brown - Events Sec."





Monday Bridge

On an early Monday morning, before Christmas, an Elf was spotted playing Bridge. What is not clear is did the Elf come to play Bridge or was it just to eat the mince pies?

If he appears again we will have to get Tony De Vos, who runs the group, to ascertain his motives.

Visits

The 5 night stay in Northumberland in September was the 1st visit of the U3A year. 51 people had a wonderful trip which included Banburgh Castle, Alnwick Gardens, Craigside (the first house to have electricity) and a boat trip around the Farne Islands. Due to rough seas the trip to Holy Island was cancelled. The Grace Darling Museum the bagpipe museum and the Angel of the North were all surprise visits. Selfies were taken on the Scottish Border.

We left Fleet in the rain but while we were away the sun shone, we even brought it back to Fleet with us. Our stop on the way home in Durham was far too short, but many visited the cathedral with its amazing replica of the cathedral made out of Lego which took two years to complete.

After all the publicity for the Royal family this year, it was a timely visit to the Tower of London. The Crown Jewels were dazzling in the new display area. Many of us had visited years ago when our children were small so it was a trip down memory lane. There were so many improvements to the displays it really brought the castle's history to life. Another good visit.

Just to get everyone in the Christmas spirit the Waddeson Manor festival in December certainly fitted "the bill". The rain didn't deter the enjoyment of the wonderful lights in the grounds at dusk, along with the market stalls. The decorated rooms were spectacular.

The sell out 1st visit of 2019 to Sonning Mill to see Guys & Dolls didn't disappoint. Keep an eye out for news of January 2000 visit to Sonning as this is a popular venue we will try and book it again.

HOT NEWS! there is planned 5 night stay to the Edinburgh Tattoo 6th August 2020. Tickets have to be reserved early along with hotels as they sell out very quickly. Confirmed details will be released when we have up to date information later in the year, on the web site, in the newsletter and at the monthly meetings. I am running an interest list so please contact visits@fleetu3a.org.uk to add your name.

If you have never been on a visit or overnight stays do give us a try as you don't know what you are missing. We are not a group any member can come on a trip.

My two helpers Bryan Porter & Lesley Hearon have both stepped down, 'The Team' will miss them. There will be two new faces Jenny & Margaret on the team, so come along and meet them on Wednesdays at the Monthly meetings.

Carole Matthews

Singing For Pleasure

"Getting to know you, getting to know all about you
Getting to know you, getting to hope you like me,
Getting to know you, putting it my way precisely
You are precisely my cup of tea..."

This is one of the delightful songs we are singing at Singing for Pleasure. We have some new melodies to sing as well some of our old favourites.

The new songs include some Gilbert and Sullivan, Noel Coward and Gershwin to name but a few.

We are delighted to have been asked to accompany the singing at the Women's Day of Prayer on 1st March at Christ Church, Church Crookham.

As usual, our thanks for musical guidance to Richard and Liril.

Janice Gray

Mah Jong

Every Thursday morning Church Crookham Memorial Hall resounds to the clatter of the tiles as around 40 friendly regulars embark upon 2 hours of fun, playing the ancient Chinese game of Mah Jong. However don't be thinking this is anything like the solitary online app version of Mah Jong; nor is it even close to the crazy fast gambling game you may have seen on YouTube as groups of Asians frantically bet on the outcome. No, the U3A Version of Mah Jong is a friendly game played in groups of 4 sat around card tables. However it's anything but boring and it can become quite addictive.

Some of the regular players have been playing for years and it's not even necessary to have your own Mah Jong set to play with, as most of the regulars have their own. Newcomers are made to feel welcome with or without equipment and our leader Liz, is very good at introducing the game gradually so despite the myriad of options, newcomers can learn at their own pace and have fun. The essentials of the Ordinary

Hand, Little Robert and Three Philosophers are usually initially introduced whilst Big Robert, Windy Chow and Wiggly Snake will come later.

The intricacies of laying out the tiles in walls and playing in an anti-clockwise direction eventually become second nature, however scoring seems to be something that each table does differently and despite Liz's best efforts some players prefer not to score. The entertainment is all about playing the game which means that there's not a lot of competitiveness in the air.

Thursday morning Mah Jong is an entertaining way to keep your brain active whilst meeting new friends, enjoying a coffee and biscuit, and having fun.

Suzanne Godfrey



Jazz Appreciation Group

PROGRAMME FROM FEBRUARY TO JUNE 2019

- Feb 7 **THE GRAHAM HIX QUINTET performs LIVE**
Feb 21 Jerry Ward on Al Bowlly
Mar 7 Barry Appleton on Major Glenn PLUS
David Maddock with Some More Trad
Mar 21 **GUEST MUSICIAN JANETTE MASON piano**
Apr 4 Alan Mowat on The Marsalis Family PLUS
Heath, Humph & Hayes
Apr 18 Mike R on Pop Tunes as Jazz
May 2 Marian Shattock --- 'Triplets'
May 16 **GUEST MUSICIAN DAVE O'HIGGINS tenor sax**
May 30 Glenn Woollaston -- Brass Attitude PLUS
Martyn Bennett on Michel Legrand
Jun 13 Alan Mowat with a Jazz Blu-ray Show
Jun 27 Mike Brown on 'Bloody Jazz'

WE HAVE TWO MORE VISITING GUEST MUSICIANS. AND GRAHAM HIX'S QUINTET GIVING US A FULL 100 MINUTE SHOW.

THE MUSIC SPANS A WIDE RANGE OF STYLES. FIVE MONTHS WORTH OF DATES FOR THE DIARY.

I'M NOW READY TO PLAN FOR SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER -- EIGHT THURSDAYS TO FILL. ANY OFFERS PLEASE!

"The year at the JAG began with a first -- a Joint Session with the Music Appreciation Group (MAG). A planned MAG Session on 3 January could not take place because the church was putting on a panto, so John Gawthorpe and I agreed to share the 10th of January. The joint session was a third stab at the Great American Songbook, in which 11 songs from 11 different composers were played in two versions -- a light, popular, usually early version and a, usually later, version. The comparison between different versions of the same tune were, I hope, interesting and entertaining. The term continued on 24 January with one of our occasional visits by a professional jazz musician. Nat Steele is a young (ish) player of the vibraphone and the drums; it was the vibes that he brought along and demonstrated. We heard about his early experiences in music, one being as a chorister in the New College choir, with which he recorded a 'hit' album. He played all sorts of instruments in his teenage years, was encouraged by his musical parents, even to visit Ronnie Scott's club as a 13 year old, and eventually decided on the vibes and drums. His demonstration of the instrument, including mallet techniques and the sounds that the instrument can produce was fascinating. He talked about musicians who had inspired him, notably the MJQ vibraphonist Milt Jackson, and told us about the people and groups he plays with. He played a couple of pieces for us -- a blues by Charlie Parker, and How High the Moon -- accompanied on the double bass by Marianne Windham. We had a good turnout, we learned something and were entertained -- a perfect U3A occasion.

In February we host the Graham Hix Quintet on the 7th, and Jerry Ward with a session on Al Bowlly on the 21st. It's nothing if not varied at the JAG.

Mike Rance

Music Appreciation Group

2019 started with two equally engaging but very different programmes.

We were delighted to accept an invitation from the Jazz Appreciation Group to join them to hear Mike Rance spend a third session exploring the Great American Songbook. The GASB provides endless sources of interest and inspiration, and in Mike's expert hands we explored new aspects.

On this occasion, he was able to keep both sections of his audience fully engaged: selecting a song to play 'straight', then by way of contrast, the same song in the hands of Jazz musicians. The result was intriguing and was very well received.

Such that a fourth dip into the GASB is pencilled in for January 2020. What better way to banish the January blues?

In our second meeting, Andrew Cole deployed all the AV facilities at St Philip & James to the full, showing text, charts, illustrations and YouTube clips in his attempt to answer the question: 'In the Blood...?' His proposition was to attempt to determine what the likelihood was that a composer would have had a parent or close relative who was involved in music. (You might ask yourself, was the Bach family unique?)

Andrew's research brought him to the position where an attempt could be made to set composers against clerics, lawyers, educators and other identifiable professions, to suggest where the closest family ties might exist.

We also enjoyed trying to identify the key personality characteristics and attributes of composers, and of other groups. To cut a long story short, we took some delight in coming to the conclusion that -- on the evidence presented -- Donald Trump has missed his true vocation: the man would have been a very successful fireman!

The newsletter goes to press as we head for our next two meetings but, in the hope that the publication date allows, in another first, we are celebrating St Valentine's Day with Mike Brown asking 'Folk Songs: Music or Propaganda?'

John Gawthorpe



We hope you will resolve this year to listen to more music in U3A, whether at the JAG or the MAG. Both groups meet at the St Philip & St James church on Kings Road.

!!! 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 box at the top of a Facebook page.

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.

A Difficult Journey

Before their journey had even started in the far away country of Morocco, they spent many weeks in a large brick & frosted glass structure. As the sun rose high in the sky, vents were opened, allowing them some respite from the intense heat.

They were given adequate water and sustenance throughout this holding period and then, at the allotted time, they were gathered together and split into large groups, before being put into sizeable containers ready to be transported to another land. The containers were hoisted onto a lorry and driven to the port of Casablanca, for the onward journey to Spain.

They had been well prepared for this adventure, but overheard their minders in Morocco speaking of the many trials to be endured, before arrival in a special place called the United Kingdom. They discovered that people there would appreciate their many qualities and they would stay in nice houses and places of employment.

It was not a comfortable journey across the Mediterranean to Spain, as the conditions were cramped & airless. There were also inspections from the port officials in Algeiras, before the long drive to the port of Calais, in Northern France.

The vehicle had a few overnight stops en route. Tomasz and his companions became squashed and suffered skin abrasions because they had been packed in so tightly together.

In Calais, they discovered that they had another ferry ride across the English Channel to a place called Dover. The immigration process here was much more stringent and the lorry driver became very anxious when the inside of his lorry underwent a thorough search. However, all the necessary papers were stamped and they were taken to their final destination.

There were several drop offs once the vehicle left Dover, as the cargo was separated and taken to yet more storage units. Tomasz and his comrades began to shiver in the cold they now felt, after the warmth in North Africa. How they wished they hadn't complained so bitterly about the heat!

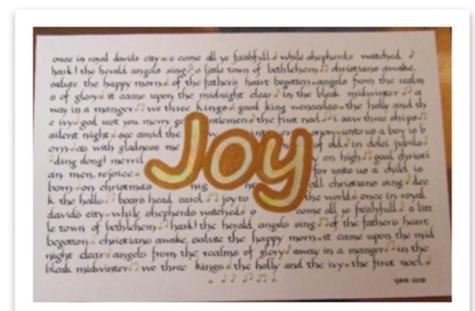
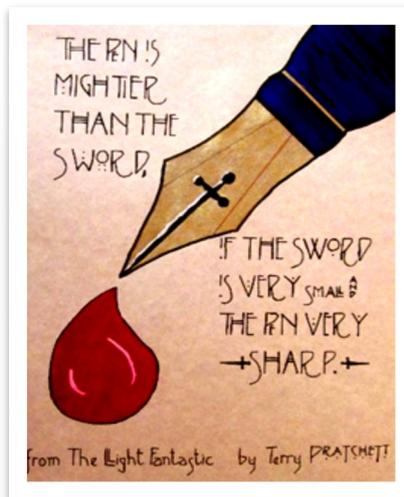
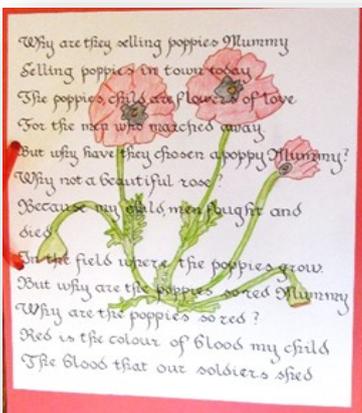
The journey seemed to be reaching its climax, when a selection committee of men and women arrived in the warehouse and scrutinised each of them before deciding which of their number they would take away for further use. Tom hoped he and his friends would be chosen and his prayers were answered when their precious little group were put in a large white van and taken to a place called London.

The next day, having spent a comfortable night in a light & airy room, Tomasz and his mates were put on show and a very nice family came and chose some of them, before taking them home in their car. Their new home seemed like paradise when they took pride of place at the dinner table. Nirvana thought Tom! Then horror of horrors, some murderer stuck a fork into him & gobbled him all up! After that difficult journey, the cruel fate of being a humble tomato!

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Calligraphy

These pictures illustrate the projects undertaken by the group since the beginning of this academic year. They include contributions by Vicky Austin, Gwen Easter and Heather Ryder on the centenary of WWI and Christmas. We have also been working on proverbs and emblems of state. Linda Gibbons



Monthly Meeting:

The work of the King's Partnership in Somaliland

A large and very appreciative audience heard Dr John Rees deliver the January talk: an inspiring and detailed account of the work that the King's Partnership is undertaking. We learned that since 2000, the King's Somaliland Partnership (KSP) has pursued a partnership approach to strengthening the healthcare system in Somaliland by maximising the collaboration between health professionals and institutions in the UK and Somaliland.

Dr Rees revealed the troubled and controversial history of this particular corner of Africa. Few of us were aware that the internationally recognised state in the region is **Somalia**, and that - despite a recent history of stable government and positive strides - 'Somaliland' itself has not achieved such recognition. As can easily be imagined, travelling to such a country - against the advice of our Foreign and Commonwealth Office - requires a particular kind of dedication and courage. Volunteers from the KSP have amply demonstrated both qualities.

Somaliland, and other territories in the Horn of Africa have had, at best, a troubled history, one in which the influence of European powers has rarely been positive, or in the best interests of the local population. For many of us, the recognition that we could and should have done better, was not a comfortable one.

The KSP is striving to improve the education, training and hence availability of doctors and nurses. There is a good take up of places by both men and women, despite the poor level of education reached by many would be medical students.

One of the cruel blows is that, since wages are pitifully low, doctors struggle to make a living. Many have two or three jobs. Tragically, in search of an income, some turn to setting up their own medical schools, in many cases without the resources to ensure that the medical training provided is of an adequate standard.

The KSP is achieving great things in the worst of circumstances.

Future Monthly Meetings 2019

20th February	"A Tale of Two Cities" The Management of Terrorism. Prof. J. 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

John Gawthorpe

Line Dancing why not give this a try



My group numbers are dropping and I now have only 19 members in group A and only 8 in group B so have room for more members to come and enjoy themselves.

Why not come and join us? See what good exercise and fun this is. If you have never line danced before we would advise you to join Group B.

Group A runs from 10:00 to 11:00 and group B runs from 11:15 - 12:15, both on a Monday.

Please contact Diane Cook for details 01252 622425

Why Not Try Zumba Gold

The first Fleet U3A Zumba Gold group started in January last year and is proving to be very popular. It is a form of dance/exercise to a great variety of music and is a low impact version of Zumba. The groups are led by a professional tutor. There are now two groups on Friday mornings with some spaces still available in the group at 11:15 to 12:15.

If you are interested in joining us please contact Jane on 01252 628709

For the wordsmiths:

"Lexophile" describes those who have a love for words, such as

"you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish", or "To write with a broken pencil is pointless."

And an example for the techies:

"I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now."

Committee Emails

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