



### Notice Board

**Newsletter deadline :** 5 p.m. on  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020  
**Next issue date :** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Please try to restrict your articles to fewer than  
350 words

### !!! IMPORTANT FOR GROUP LEADERS !!! GROUP LEADERS' MEETINGS

25<sup>th</sup> March : Programme Checking  
3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 : Group Leaders Lunch at VHHW

### VISITS 2020

28<sup>th</sup> March : Greenwich Painted Chapel  
3<sup>rd</sup> April : Torquay  
23<sup>rd</sup> April : Hatfield House  
19<sup>th</sup> May : Bowood House & Garden  
6<sup>th</sup> August : Edinburgh Tattoo

See page 8 for the Monthly  
Meetings Programme

### Chat from the Chair

Hello,

I do hope 2020 is treating you well and that you have enjoyed returning to your U3A groups after the Christmas and New Year break. It has already been a busy month for Fleet U3A. We hosted a New Members' Coffee Morning recently and two new members immediately volunteered to set up an additional walking group! Discussions are underway so watch out for more information soon. We also had a record attendance at the Monthly Meeting where Alan Grace did a magnificent job, sharing his vast knowledge of Berlin.

After my last article suggesting ideas for new groups, I have had some interest in setting up a Geo-caching group. (Google says, Geo-caching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices.) Please consider that there is no need to have an 'expert' to set up a new group. It is much more fun to find what to do as a group and learn together. All we need is one or two people prepared to act as Group Leaders (GLs), to be a point of contact and do the admin. We have funds for start-up costs and lots of help and advice on offer. Please contact any committee member if you have an idea for a new group and want to find out more.

Still on the subject of groups, it appears that there are a couple of longstanding groups where the GL wants to step down and no one is offering to take on the role. This is so sad as it may mean groups have to close down with the loss of that activity for everyone. We are an organisation based on volunteering, we need everyone to 'chip in' or we all lose out. The role of GL can be shared, divided up, rotated or whatever suits your group. It is not an onerous task, please consider helping your fellow members in this way. We give a lie to the phrase, 'no such thing as a free lunch' in that all GLs are invited to a thank you lunch in July!

As I announced at the monthly meeting, we have a new Enquiries Secretary. Many thanks to Jan Glasscock who has volunteered to take on this vital role to be the point of contact and 'first impression' for our U3A. We do have other spaces on the committee and several roles that will become vacant over the next year so please consider joining us now and finding out what goes on over coffee and cake on the first Wednesday of the month. Just let me know if you are interested.

**Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020** will be the very first national U3A day – celebrating the learning, activity and fun that happens every day in U3As across the country. Fleet U3A will be joining in so you are invited to mark the day by showcasing what we do through displays, parades, flashmobs or performances, just let us know! The day will show all the learning, activities and fun that make our U3A so amazing. As ever, it's always more fun in a gang so volunteers please to join the planning team.

Looking forward to hearing from you very soon,

**Paddy**

## **Guidance on Photography and Data Protection (GDPR)**

Photographs may in certain circumstances be classified as personal data under GDPR. To err on the safe side it is recommended that for photographs of U3A members, where the photographs are not for purely personal use but may be more widely displayed, that verbal consent be obtained from members before their photographs are taken. For group photographs, members who do not wish to have their photograph taken should step away from the group while the photographs are taken. Members should be advised at the time of taking that the photograph could be used for Fleet & District U3A information purposes such as in the Newsletter, Website, Facebook page, or slide background to monthly meetings.

If a member subsequently wishes to revoke their consent and to have their photograph removed from display, then they should contact the photographer and/or Fleet and District U3A as appropriate to advise that they no longer wish to have their photograph displayed. When used online, e.g. Website or Facebook, photographs should be accompanied by the phrase "All images remain the copyright of their originators, re-use is not permitted".

**Alan Jones, Secretary Fleet U3A**

### **New Walking Group**

A new walking group is being set up by Penny Skelton and Anne Morley with the support and help of Jack Tyler and Eoin Stephenson. The new group will be called Walking Group C. Our walks will take place on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 13.00 we will aim to walk for about 4 to 5 miles.

The first walk will be on Wednesday 8th April 2020 starting from the Barley Mow Canal Car Park Grid Reference, SU 778 541, prompt at 13.00 and lasting about 2 hours.

If you have any queries or questions please contact Anne Morley by e mail

"[annemorley63@gmail.com](mailto:annemorley63@gmail.com)" or Penny Skelton  
"[penny.skelton@gmail.com](mailto:penny.skelton@gmail.com)"

### **Photography group requires a new leader(s)**

The U3A Photography group is looking for a new leader(s) to start in September 2020 as the present team are finishing at the end of this academic year. This is an active group with 40+ regular attendees who meet on a monthly basis for presentations and image critiques. If you are interested please contact Mike Carrington ([micheal\\_carrington@sky.com](mailto:micheal_carrington@sky.com)) before mid February.

**Mike Carrington**

***Stressed***  
*Why not Try*  
***Desserts***

### **Strollers**

Numbers continue to increase. Happy New Year and welcome to our new strollers. Yes, sixteen intrepid strollers set off for the first stroll of 2020. We almost need labels to remember names, high viz jackets for traffic control and my old playground whistle to maintain order!!

We are now recognised in Morrisons, and have the large table reserved for our coffee. Unfortunately, the lift was out of order so we couldn't get up!!!! Morrisons' loss and the coffee shop at the Church's gain.

Our stroll was a muddy one. In fact, a breakaway group emerged, trekking off into the wetlands beyond. Finally getting back to find everyone had disappeared!!!! Oops.

The photographer didn't manage a group photo shoot this time. That will be rectified on our next stroll. However, Jane did take a photo of this gorgeous winter flowering shrub. I do know it's scientific name, do you? Answers next time.

We are not just coffee drinkers... Bye for now.

**Jenny Teagle**



## **Rollers went to Winchester.**

The December day arrived cold but thankfully dry.

Twenty-six keen retail therapists awaited the “luxury” coach, booked to take us in style and comfort to the Christmas Market.

It arrived, fashionably early. **We ignored it.**

I ring the coach company as it was 9, our retailers were getting cold.

The driver stood looking at us, **we ignored him.**

One brave retailer took the plunge and approached the driver.

Desperate to depart, the driver got in first, “Winchester” he said.

Total disbelief, “**no**” says I “the booking was an accessible, 70 seater, luxury coach”.

The transport for the day was **a double decker bus !!!!**

How do I explain, what do I say? Will people refuse to get on the bus?

At this point, I need to thank each and every one for your understanding, tolerance and support.

There is a slightly amusing side, but not on the day.

We rolled, doing a quick turn round to pick up a retailer who almost missed the bus.

Despite seats being uncomfortable and too close, the heater not penetrating, the windows being filthy and me having to travel backwards good humour prevailed...just this once.

Retail was a success, shopping til dropping, good lunches, coffee by the bucket load and grandkids stockings overflowing.

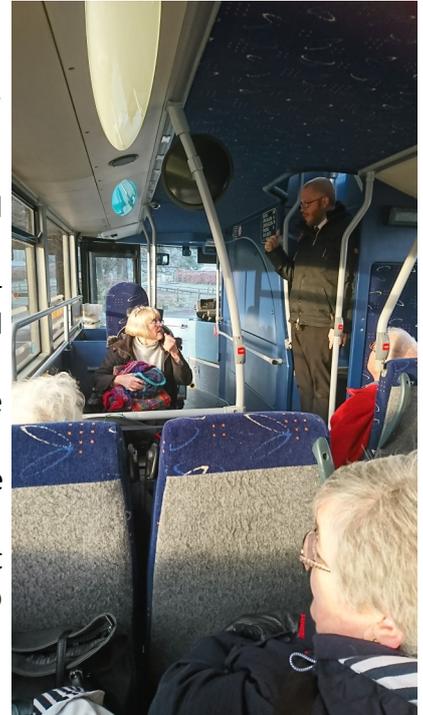
I actually went on the ice rink, but without photos I guess you won't believe it!!

The driver was a star. He couldn't do anything to alter the situation, but went beyond in kindness, help and going upstairs, to check on those who had scaled the North Face.

I am in negotiation with the company...

It was a good day, eventful and for me a baptism by fire.

We will dare to have another adventure, proper luxury next time.



**Jenny Teagle**

## **Monthly Meetings**

Berlin 1931- 1989—A talk by Alan Grace

A capacity audience of 299 gathered to hear Alan speak at January's Monthly Meeting. News of his prowess as a speaker had clearly spread, and his captivated audience was not disappointed. As a retired broadcaster, Alan cheerfully acknowledged his ability to speak for hours, but then displayed a professional control over his material, and the time allotted to share it.

Interspersed with compelling pieces of radio archive material, Alan's illustrated talk explored aspects of Berlin life that were as fascinating as they were unfamiliar.

Explaining the time frame in his title, Alan took us from the time the Olympics were awarded to Berlin, to the fall of the Berlin Wall. The latter event was movingly evoked by a contemporaneous recording of the members of the Bundestag in Bonn spontaneously singing their national anthem.

I wonder how many dinner parties in Fleet have since been regaled with the origins of the Olympic flame, the impact of spy George Blake or the details of the raising of the Soviet flag above the Reichstag?

Squadron Leader C. Michelmores enthusiasm for food, *'Uncle Waggle Wings'* and the resourcefulness of Mrs June Grace at a time of international tension all got a well-deserved reference.

Alan had brought with him a selection from what I imagine must be a vast archive of documents and artefacts, not the least of which were examples of the medals – The Cross of Honour of the German Mother - presented on Mother's Day to mothers of 4 or 5 (Bronze), 6 or 7 (Silver) or 8 plus (Gold) infants, a *'visible sign of gratitude of the German nation'*.

Alan worked for the British Forces Broadcasting Service, and its predecessor The British Forces Network for 36 years: a future talk will explore the origins and history of both.

**John Gawthorpe**

## Visits

Wow, Wow, Wow! That was the response from the 48 members who saw the Thursford Christmas Spectacular. The compare ventriloquist with his 'old man' puppet and Vulture ----- 'I am glad I am not a Turkey' he said, kept the audience in fits of laughter. 'The Cast' came from all over the world, to perform in what was a top-class West End show. Our raised seating area assured us of not missing any of the acts including the working Carousel, which was a sight to behold. Nutcracker soldiers marched with precision, along with complicated routines which involved the auditorium being used for the choir walking with candles in a very moving Christmas chant. Rock and Roll, classical tunes, the amazing Wurlitzer Organ played by the organist for the last 39 years whose feet flew over the pedals in a Christmas song medley, and two past cast members from Cirque du Soleil, performed on hoops, in the air and on the stage. The amazing Orchestra along with brass and strings, featured for many of the musical acts and Irish dancing on a par with 'Riverdance' The costumes were fantastic and the decorations throughout the building along with the traction engines, were truly jaw dropping. The illuminations in the grounds were magical and rounded off our visit. Before we made our way to the George Hotel in Norwich, which, again was superb.



The next day was free for everyone to explore Norwich and to do their own thing. In the 1600s coffee houses were very fashionable, (nothing new there then) by 1783 there were 3 in Norwich. The market has been on the same site since the 11<sup>th</sup> century over 900 years, the same as the Medieval Cathedral. 'Strangers' bought skills along with canaries, which is now Norwich football club nickname from the low Countries, to revitalise Norwich's textile industry. Printing, leather goods and pottery to name a few of 'The Strangers' skills.

One inmate of the 'Bridewell', formerly a place of correction and now a museum, was eventually hanged after being tried for theft nine times. Her crime? stealing to provide food for her child. Wandering down 'The lanes' of Norwich was fascinating, there is so much history. Did you know 1959 saw the trial of the post code? In 1974 it was rolled out around the country.

On the way home there was a surprise visit to Ipswich to see the Tudor 'Christchurch House', set in acres of parkland. Constable and Gainsborough pictures were on display and a one-off display of Ed Shearing paintings, a local of Suffolk. Many of the rooms both Tudor and Victorian had Christmas trees in them. The two night stay has truly been another U3A Visits success. Good visit, good venue, good company, good fun and laughter and most important, good well behaved people!

Selling Greenwich Painted Chapel 28th March

April 3-6 Torquay Twin & doubles ONLY left

August 6th. Edinburgh Tattoo 5 night stay singles ONLY left.

Waiting lists are available.

Don't forget to read the newsletter, or the web **visits page** for up to date news.

**Carole Matthews**

## Calligraphy

The Calligraphy group took part in the Christmas tree festival held at St Philips and St James church in the Kings Road on the weekend of the 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019. All the group were involved in producing decorations using different scripts, different shapes, some with illuminated letters and Christmas figures. A dress rehearsal was held at the Baptist Church where we meet [1. group photo with tree] and the tree with its final decorations was put in place on the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> December. It was a great effort by all the group.

**Lynda Gibbons**



## Jazz and Music Appreciation Groups

The new decade began with a joint session between the Jazz and the Music Appreciation Groups on 9 January. It was yet another presentation on the Great American Songbook which is all about popular songs written between the 1920s and the 1950s that have become what are known as Standards. As it was a joint JAG/MAG session, the 11 songs were treated to two versions each; one was 'not jazz' and the other was jazz! There was nothing difficult or challenging about the music; most of the jazz was pretty light and the 'not jazz' versions were varied. The featured composers were Harold Arlen, Cole Porter, Hoagy Carmichael, Vincent Youmans, Vernon Duke, Richard Rodgers and George Gershwin. Ten of the eleven songs were composed in the 20 years before I was born!

On 23 January, the JAG played host to one of the top British keyboard players, Ross Stanley. Ross is particularly known for his playing on the Hammond organ; he brought this cumbersome instrument with him, which he does to many of the gigs he plays in. It makes a fabulous sound in a church, much more impressive he says than the sound he gets in many small jazz clubs. Ross turns out to have been a young music prodigy from the age of four. At the age of 13 he won a 95% scholarship to Marlborough College where he excelled. So much so that after his A-levels he was



offered a scholarship to the world renowned Berklee College of Music in Boston. But he couldn't face going to America on his own, so accepted a place at the Guildhall School of Music in London. He was soon deeply into jazz (as well as classical music) and it wasn't long before he was gigging around town. And the rest is history. He plays with all the best musicians in the country and has established a unique place in Britain as a star of the Hammond Organ. He demonstrated the enormous variety of sounds that can be got out of his 1961-vintage instrument, and thoroughly entertained the enthusiastic audience. In February the JAG has sessions by Alan Mowat (on Art Tatum and Jazz Flautists) on the 6th, and two half sessions on the 20th by myself on the Very Best Ellington Band, and on Latin Jazz by Paul Deeley. In March we have Marian Shattock illustrating 'Flower Power' in jazz and Mike Brown offering a contrast between Jazz of the 50s and Jazz of the 21st Century.

All U3A members are welcome to the St Philip & St James church on alternate Thursday mornings from 10.30.

**Mike Rance**

## Images for our Website

We will soon be introducing a Gallery to the Website, to provide a space for images of members enjoying their activities and where appropriate to show examples of their work. Where the photos show identifiable people, it is of course necessary to make sure we comply with our U3A's data protection and privacy policies as published in the Member's section of the website and described elsewhere in this Newsletter. Just to set the ground rules, we will welcome receiving images up to 3000 x 3000 Pixels from Group Leaders, accompanied by confirmation that all persons included were informed of the intended use and that those who did not agree moved out of shot. An image may also be accompanied by a brief caption or description (but not embedded in the image) which may be displayed if possible. No attribution of images will be given as publication of members' names is a problem, however owners' names may be given for items of work or competition winning images but publication cannot be guaranteed. It may be necessary to amend the above as the Gallery is developed. Please send your photos to Webmaster ([webmaster@fleetu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@fleetu3a.org.uk)).

**Chris Porter, Webmaster**

## Visits 2019

### Group trip to Bournemouth in December

After several last-minute cancellations due to illness etc., a very select party of just 23 members travelled to Bournemouth on 11th December. We arrived after a smooth journey and found that although it was cold, the sun was actually shining. A short walk along the cliff top brought us to the Russell-Cotes museum and gallery, an extensive once family home overlooking the sea and home to an eclectic mix of paintings, sculptures and other artefacts collected during the family's extensive travels around the world. All displayed in rooms designed and decorated in Victorian and Edwardian splendour. However, for some of us perhaps the high spot was sitting in the sun in the large bay window overlooking the pier and beach, where only intrepid surfers were braving the cold water. After a cuppa in the excellent cafe we moved on to the town centre for the shops and Christmas stalls in and around the Square. As dusk approached the Christmas tree festival in the Gardens came to life with illuminations and numerous brightly coloured artificial trees. There was also an ice rink, although there were no skaters in our group! We started for home at 5 o' clock and Scott, our regular driver worked his usual magic and brought us back to Cody in record time.

**Chris Porter**

## **!!! 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.

## Golden Girls

In September, some of our ladies enjoyed a lovely Cream Tea at the White Lion Antiques Centre along the A30 outside Hartley Wintney. Always worth a visit.

In October, we had a short presentation from Jenny Phillips on Cards for Good Causes, an organisation that sells charity cards at the Harlington Centre every Christmas. Afterwards, Kim Phillips painted a beautiful landscape, which was raffled at the end of the meeting and won by Julie Johnson.



In November, we displayed the photos of some of our ladies at their wedding or at another wedding, and we had to decide whose photo belonged to whom. In respect of being able to recognise each other, it was not as successful as we hoped, but, as an opportunity to interact, it was. Grateful thanks to Marian Shattock, who spent a great deal of time preparing a wonderful display for us.

In December, Alan Grace, who spent many years in radio broadcasting, came along and ran a fantastic quiz for us, covering topics from radio, TV and film. Great fun and well organised, with help from June Grace.

**Sue Hawkins**

*(Photo: Marian and Sue)*

## Creative Writing

### Quid Pro Quo by Richard Fuller

Mick “the Lock” walked into the Dukes Head and found “Fingers Finnigan” nursing a pint. He bought him a chaser. ‘Need your help mate. Got a big problem.’

He told Fingers about his run of bad luck with the horses, and how he’d got into debt. ‘Had to borrow money to pay the rent or we’d be out and the missus would give me hell...’ He went on to tell him about getting a sub from Big Ron. ‘But that was when me troubles really started. I owe ‘im a packet now, and can’t seem to pay it off. Anyhow, yesterday he takes me aside, and whispers in me shell like, that what we need is a bit of *quid pro quo* or summat. Didn’t know what that was, so he explained it to me in very painful terms.’ Mick rubbed his arm.

‘So,’ said Fingers, ‘what exactly is it he wants? And why do you need my help?’ Mick told him.

Later that night Mick parked his big old van in a quiet side street and slid out closing the door softly. Fingers was waiting for him at the back. Selecting what they needed, Mick locked up. They slipped from shadow to shadow till they reached a high wall, and hidden by the branches of a tree, unfurled a collapsible ladder, set up a pulley system, and climbed over, lugging the rest of their gear.

‘Do we really need this stuff, it’s a bit weird,’ Fingers said, holding a squidgy smelly parcel. All around them were muffled sounds and rustlings. ‘I don’t like this.’

‘Neither do I,’ Mick said, ‘but the faster we do it the sooner we’ll be out.’

Mick walked along looking at signs. Eventually he stopped. ‘This is it. Come on Fingers, get that parcel open and then pick the lock.’

Fingers took out his skeleton keys and set to work, while Mick fidgeted and looked around. Eventually the door swung open. Inside were more strange noises.

‘I hope this works or we are going to be in big trouble,’ Fingers said.

‘Bloke at the stables assured me it would work.’

‘Oh that’s ok then.’ Fingers shoved Mick inside into the darkness.

They finally got what they came for loaded into the back of the van and shut the doors. Both of them were dripping in sweat. ‘Blimey,’ said Mick, ‘I just ‘ope Big Ron is happy. Hardest bit of work I’ve done for ages.’

Next day they drove to meet Big Ron. His place was a scrap yard by the docks. Mick parked the van round the back and knocked on the door of the Portakabin. Big Ron emerged. All six foot six, twenty stone, shaven head and tattooed arms of him.

‘I’ve got it,’ Mick gulped. ‘It’s round the back.’ Ron marched off towing Fingers and Mick behind.

‘Where is it?’ Big Ron asked, looking puzzled. ‘If you’re ‘aving me on, so help me God, you’ll regret it.’ Big Ron had very expressive eyebrows, and right now they weren’t saying good things.

‘It’s in the van,’ Fingers said.

Ron looked even more puzzled than before. ‘How the heck did you get it in there?’

‘Believe me,’ Mick said. ‘It wasn’t easy, but knowing how important it was to you, and that you wouldn’t want anyone to see it being delivered we managed it.’ Just at that moment the van rocked. The three men stared. ‘Flippin’ heck,’ murmured Big Ron as he stepped forward to open the back doors.

‘This could be interesting,’ said Mick, ‘can’t wait to see ‘is face.’

Big Ron cautiously opened one of the doors. As he did so there was a large crash from within and the van shook, followed by a roar. Big Ron slammed the door shut and strode over to Mick.

‘You utter useless toerag. When I said I wanted a black Jaguar I wanted a motor, not a flaming zoo animal.’

© Richard Fuller

## Rubbish Dumping Information

If you are thinking of dumping any household waste at any **Hampshire County Council** waste recycling centres you will be charged £5 unless you have pre-registered your personal and car (up to three) details on-line or by phone. This was planned to be enforced from January 2020 although there are some rumours that implementation has been put back to 1st April or beyond. The system works on ANPR so presumably defaulters will receive a payment demand through the post. Registration is simple and no charges are involved. To register go to [www.hants.gov.uk/vehicle-registration-hwrc](http://www.hants.gov.uk/vehicle-registration-hwrc) or call 0300 555 1389.

## German Intermediate group.

It has become a tradition of the group to cele-



brate the end of academic year and especially Christmas with a bring and share German buffet with suitable tunes in the background and a lot of face to face chatter in the foreground, covering German and English in equal measure. Always an enjoyable end to a hardworking term or year. The motto can be phrased as “work hard, play hard”, or the other way round?”

*Karin Robinshaw*

Christ Porter (a member of the German group) took the photo.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS PROGRAMME

**2020**

- February 19th **Fleet Pond**  
*Speaker: Colin Gray MBE*
- March 18th **In search of Elgar**  
*Speaker: Richard Wigram*
- April 15th **Fleet U3A Open Morning**  
*Groups provide exhibits / Displays and information regarding their Group*
- May 20th **Al Bowlly, Britain's first pop star**  
*Speaker : Jerry Ward*
- June 17th **The Flying Girls**  
*Speaker: Anita Mays*

*John Gawthorpe*



**The Meetings start at 11.00**  
**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.**

## Beading Group

### New Leader Required

I am giving up running this group after this academic year and I am looking for someone to take it over from me. The beading Group is held once a month, on the 3rd Friday of the month from 2 pm to 4pm at Basingbourne Road Baptist Church Hall.

Members bring their own projects or I have some kits and equipment for sale if anyone needs one. We mostly make necklaces, bracelets, earrings and Christmas decorations.

A new leader may wish to change the format. Please let me know if you are interested in taking the lead for this Group.

**Joan Wood** (Beading Group)

## COMMITTEE EMAILS



Chair	Paddy Powell	chairman@fleetu3a.org.uk
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**PLEASE AVOID TELEPHONING MEMBERS BEFORE**  
**9 a.m. OR AFTER 5 p.m.**