



NOTICE BOARD

Newsletter deadline : 5 p.m.
Friday 20th September 2019
Next issue date : **Monday 9th October 2019**

Please try to restrict your articles to fewer than 350 words

!!! IMPORTANT FOR GROUP LEADERS !!!

The Newsletter is now distributed directly, to all with an email address, using the Beacon System. If possible, take a printed copy to your meetings for those without emails. Tell your members that it can be found on our website (www.fleetu3a.org.uk).

GROUP LEADERS' MEETINGS 2019

25st September : Group Leaders General Meeting
at BCH 10.00 to 12.00

EVENTS 2019

18th October : Quiz Challenge at VHHW 14.00 to 17.00
20th November : Annual General Meeting
at The Harlington 10.45

VISITS 2019

26th September : 4 Night Derbyshire Stay
December : Bournemouth Christmas Tree Festival &
Russell Cotes Museum

VISITS 2020

26th January : 'Singin' in the Rain at Sonning Mill
February : Greenwich Chapel
March : Hatfield House
April : Bowood House & Garden

Chat From The Chair

Hello again,
Welcome to all new and 'old' members of Fleet and District U3A. If you joined at enrolment morning you will already have realised what a busy, friendly and exciting U3A you have joined. There is always such a positive buzz at enrolment with many people meeting for the first time since June, catching up with holiday stories and family adventures. I am always overwhelmed with the gratitude of our members for the amazing range and quality of the groups on offer. This, of course, is only possible because we have such hard-working and generous Group Leaders. We would be nothing without them!

Thanks for a successful enrolment morning must also go to our dedicated Events Team. They packed the church furniture away, set up tables and chairs for enrolment, made and served tea and coffee all morning and then transformed the venue back into a church before going home for a well-earned rest. No mean feat, I can tell you!

On August 24th Fleet and District U3A officially became 25 years old. A real cause for celebration. You can read all about the early days elsewhere in this newsletter. Our U3A has been popular and well supported from the beginning and we now have approaching 2,000 members. We are one of the largest U3As in the country.

Our Monthly Speaker Meetings begin on September 18th. By popular demand we have military historian, Larry Bohana, returning to speak to us. He spoke last time about women on the home front in WW1. This time his talk is again about WW1 and is entitled, 'The Gallipoli Campaign – the incompetence of command'. Martyn and I had the privilege of being shown around the Gallipoli room, at the National Museum of Australia, by an ex-pupil and currently serving Australian soldier. It was abundantly clear how significant this campaign remains even now in antipodean culture.

I look forward to seeing you on September 18th, at the Harlington, for coffee at 10 o'clock followed by Larry's talk at 11.

Paddy

Pat Welford—Sad News

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Pat Welford, our Enquiries Secretary. Pat was taken into hospital in December last year to have innovative treatment for a rare form of blood cancer. Several times over the last few months we had been expecting her to be discharged but this was not to be and Pat died on September 2nd.

Pat had been a member of Fleet U3A for over 12 years and became our Enquiries Secretary five years ago. She managed the role very ably, having a personal goal to respond to any enquiry within 24 hours. I know many members will remember their first impression of Fleet U3A as a very positive experience, entirely due to Pat being so efficient and welcoming.

Pat was also a very active member of several groups including the Shakespeare, Jazz, History and Wine Appreciation groups. She will be missed in these groups for her willingness to volunteer and her generous and friendly manner to other group members.

I know I will miss Pat's commitment as a trustee and committee member and her personal support and encouragement to me.



Paddy

A Service will be held at Basingstoke Crematorium on Tuesday 17th September 2019 at 12.30. The service will be followed by refreshments at The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Basingstoke. Please ensure that you RSVP to Paula Green by Tuesday 10th September. Email paulastanley@hotmail.com.

Pat requested no flowers but if desired donations in her memory can be made to The Fleet Pond Society using their website www.fleetpond.org.uk

Fleet U3A Silver Anniversary

The Fleet branch of the U3A was launched on 24th August 1994. Leading up to the launch a group of like-minded persons met on the 31st March 1994 with the intention of getting the process underway. With the help and advice of Farnham and Farnborough U3As they set about putting the administration in place, identifying venues, advertising for members and for Group Leaders. The Inaugural Meeting and Launch was held in the Memorial Hall, Church Crookham, and 180 persons attended and 84 people joined on that day.



They were off and running with the first Committee consisting of 5 members, the Chair being Gerard Walton and the Secretary Glenys Payman. The first programme consisted of 7 Groups but this rapidly increased to 19 with an increase of 103 members taking the membership to 187 by the end of September of that year.

The Constitution was adopted in May 1996 and hence Fleet U3A then became an Independent Charity.

Interest and enthusiasm for the Fleet Branch grew and by the time of the 10th Anniversary there were just over 1,000 members. Now, at our 25th Anniversary, we have nearly 2,000 members and 117 Groups with a diverse range of subjects and interests plus Monthly Meetings and visits. All these activities need to take place somewhere all day and at various times of the day and in 21 different locations so I think we are all grateful that we have a very efficient Venues Secretary.

To manage the various activities and ensure that everything runs smoothly the Committee now consists of 12 persons ably led by the indomitable Paddy (Patricia) Powell. If you would care to join us, or to run a Group, then please step forward. Without volunteers there won't be a Fleet U3A.

I wonder what the next 25 years will bring.

Ed.

Quiz Challenge - Friday 18th October

It is that time of year when I and my Events Secretary successor try to persuade you to enter teams for the Quiz Challenge. If you have not entered before, here is some guidance.

Format of the quiz is as follows:-

- There will be up to 12 teams of 6 people
- There will be 10 rounds of ten questions in each round
- Each round will have a theme decided by the Quiz Master
- Past quizzes have had rounds entitled America, Literature, Gardening, Southern England, Nature Trail, Music Musings, What Does It Mean? & Pot Luck.
- Each team will have a joker which when played will double the score of the round for which it is played.
- Jokers are played after you have answered the questions for the "joker round". Previously they were played before the questions were asked
- Questions are aimed at our age group so you are not questioned on 21st century Pop Music or who are the Kardashians. Generally of the 10 questions in the round, most people will be know the answer to 6 or 7. The biggest problem is deciding which of the 3 answers suggested by team members, is the correct answer.
- All teams answer all the questions. There is no knock out element.
- Each correct answer is worth 2 points so the quiz master has some flexibility to award 1 point for a partially correct answer. In the past the winners have scored around 170 and the lowest teams about 130. The max score is 220 (1*10*2*2 [joker round] + 9*10*2).
- The use of smart phones, diaries or other memory enhancing devices are banned.
- The Quiz Master's answer is always correct even if it's wrong.

The quiz starts at 2 pm and we break for a cup of tea and a scone with jam and cream after 5 rounds. The quiz will end at about 5 pm.

An entry form is given below. If you cannot find a full team or want to enter but have no team to join let us know and we'll try to match you up.

Mike Brown & Carol Howlett

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE CATERING TEAM (no cooking skills required)

Firstly I would like to thank members for the warm welcome I have received as I gradually take over the Events Secretary role from Mike Brown. I hope I can do as good a job for you as he has, he will be missed. Although I don't officially take the role until the AGM I have been asked to look for new volunteers for our Catering Team. I had the pleasure of meeting many of them, and eating their lovely food, at the recent Group Leaders' lunch. They are a friendly group of people so if you can help or would like more information, please contact me at the events email address, they will be pleased to welcome you.

Carol Howlett

Advice, from personal experience, for new members of Fleet U3A

Congratulations, you are a brand-new member of Fleet and District U3A, or perhaps you joined in the last couple of months.

However, you may find that you have joined a group where you are aware that the other members know each other very well. You may want to call those other people “cliquey”. You may feel excluded and you may be wondering what on earth persuaded you to join this group. Please remember that the group members didn’t always know each other well but that they have got to know each other over the weeks and months the group has been running. But what can you do to ‘fit in’?

Let me reassure you. Joining Fleet U3A has been the best decision you have made recently. It is now up to you to make as much of it as you can. The whole U3A movement is based on self-help and volunteering so there are always plenty of opportunities to join in and be useful. When I joined (last century!), I quickly realised that one early method of meeting new friends was to smile and talk to them, initiate conversations; people can’t help but respond to a smiley face and a question about themselves! One thing I did was to offer to help make the teas and coffees – people are so grateful that “somebody” has volunteered. Tell them your name and ask theirs. Next time you see them say hello. If there is a register to be taken, volunteer to do it – that is the quickest way of learning the names of others in the group

The best place to meet a lot of new friends is at the regular Monthly Speaker Meetings in the Harlington. Coffee is served from 9.45 and it gives folk an opportunity to sit together at the tables, talk with new friends and go into the main hall for the talk, as a group.

If all else fails, tell the group leader how you feel. Remember, also that our committee is there to help if you need advice or support. But, if you decide that the group you have joined is not for you after all then look around to see which other group/s you could join, there are over a hundred to choose from!

Try not to leave it to other people to get to know you, make the first move however hard that might be. Fleet U3A is full of supportive people and you will come to appreciate that when life is bleak.

Canasta

I have, following Enrolment Day, 20 people who have signed up for this Canasta Group and have capacity for 6 more. We are starting on Thursday 12th September at 2.30 in the Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bowenhurst Road, Church Crookham. Please contact me if you would like to join this group.

Gordon Shefford

Jazz Appreciation

The new 'academic' year has begun for us in the JAG last Thursday, 5th September, at the usual time, 10.30, and in the usual place, St Philip & St James church.

The other reminder is that on Tuesday 17th September in London (at Cecil Sharp House in Camden), U3A presents its National Jazz Study Day. Alan Barnes with his “all start octet” will give us the World Premiere of a new suite, entitled 'New Jazz Portraits'. He will tell us about its composition (pieces featuring each member of his band) and will demonstrate how arrangements are put together and rehearsed. This link tells you more and how to get tickets. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/u3a-jazz-study-day-2019-tickets-61221289525>

Fleet Jazz Club returns after the summer break also on 17 September -- more about this later.

Mike Rance

Notice

PETANQUE – amendment to programme

Please be aware that the venue for the Petanque group has now changed. All future meetings will take place at :-

**Cody Sports & Social Club,
The Fairway,
Old Ively Road,
Farnborough GU14 0FE**

Derek & Liz Barden

Cycling Extra Group

Unfortunately this Group is closing down and the Programme shown on page 14 will now not take place.

Malcolm Hitchcock

NEW CREATIVE WRITING GROUP (CW2)

CW2 will meet same time, same place as CW1, but on the alternate Tuesdays. **The group has vacancies** Creative Writing 2 begins on Tuesday 17th September at 1345 at Church on the Heath.

Please contact : Beverley Carpenter on beverleyacarpenter@icloud.com or 01252 614108

U3A Walking Group 'A' - St Swithun's Way

Saint Swithun's Way, which starts in Farnham and finishes at Winchester, a Long Distance Path of about 34 miles was inaugurated in 2002 by Hampshire Council. It followed a route of pilgrimage in mediaeval times to visit the shrine of Saint Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, who died in 863AD. The original route has now been lost (mostly under the A31) but now sometimes joins other LDP's – Itchen and King's Ways, as it approaches Winchester. It, however, is very scenic, and well worth the effort of walking it, following the footsteps of many who have gone before.

In 2016, three years ago, I was allocated a slot in the U3A walking Group A on the 15th July-the Feast Day of the Blessed Saint. So the obvious plan was to 'Walk The Way'- or some of it. I chose to start at Bentley, as the Farnham stretch had been well covered by previous walks.

We parked in Alton, caught the train to Bentley and started there the 5 ½ miles back to the cars on a beautifully sunny day. After about an hour an Airbus 350, plus the Red Arrows on each wingtip, flew over and then circled us as we stood in the middle of a field. It was Farnborough Week, and they were waiting to be called in. The ancients in olden days were forever looking to the skies for favourable signs, so I saw, not an aeroplane, but Swithun himself calling down "GO FORTH, GOOD PEOPLE, TO MY SHRINE IN WINCHESTER!" And thus over the next three years, it came to pass.



If one is to undertake linear walks one needs public transport for the return. Here we were fortunate to have the wonderful 64 bus, running from Farnham to Winchester every half hour, which we took the next year-having a go at the Marsaillaise on the top deck as it was the Quatorze Juillet, and alighted at a remote stop near Ropley, and walked back to Alton passing through Chawton on the way. This was rather a long leg, so we had a bite to eat at an excellent Garden Centre south of Four Marks.

Our Pilgrimage continued the next year using the same bus, same stops, but this time turning west to Alresford. This was the duller of the four stages as the traffic noise builds up as one nears the centre of the town. The Way avoids it by skirting the southern edge, which ancient pilgrims would never have done. However Alresford is a nice place to finish, with lots of shops, cafes, pubs, etc. and a bus stop to get us back to Alton

This year we covered the last 8+ miles to the Cathedral –too far without a substantial break, which meant a pub lunch in Easton. The first part, close to and recrossing the tranquil Itchen River was a delight. The second part, after the break was not quite so open, and the river, although only some 20 yards away, was obscured by undergrowth and reeds. It was a day of contrasts- standing overlooking the wide crystal clear surface with fish (trout?) breaking it periodically, whilst 20 feet above our heads the mayhem of the M3 traffic roared on, and secondly the wide open spaces of the landscape that we had seen all day is overtaken by the WOW! factor of the great Cathedral interior. A Guide took us to the final resting place of the Blessed Saint (see photo) and our small pilgrimage was complete.

May I offer my sincere thanks to those who accompanied me on each occasion.

Malcolm Hitchcock

Expressive Watercolours Art 8

We have had a successful year with many members showing great improvement and gaining in confidence.

Moving on, this year we would like to push boundaries to encompass a wider range of subjects, still continuing to use watercolour in a loose and imaginative way.

We will encourage members to think independently when planning work, making decisions, and not be afraid to experiment. After all, it's only a piece of paper! If all goes horribly wrong there's always another piece of paper!

We will have a three week theme allowing time to stretch ideas and develop skills.

After discussion and suggestions, we hope everyone will tackle the subject in their own individual way; always keeping in mind the new title of our group Expressive Watercolours.

Simone & Judith

Rollers Visit to Winchester Christmas Market.

This visit will be taking place on Thursday December 5th 2019 We will be departing at 9.00 a.m. from Cody Sports & Social Club, leave Winchester 5pm.



24 members signed up on Enrolment Day.....fantastic thank you.

Places remain for sign up at the September meeting or by email/phone **after** the meeting. A waiting list will be in place if appropriate.

Cost **£23** coach only including the driver's tip. Parking costs are n/a.

Payment in full at the time of booking, cheques made payable to;

fleet U3A.

Liability and refund policies are the same as the U3A visits group (see page 6 of Fleet & District U3A Programme 2019 to 2020.)

Jenny Teagle

Visit to Dorchester and Athelhampton

House

On 27th June, 47 Fleet U3A members set out for a day in Dorset. First stopping at Dorchester, a small town with many historic buildings. Here the travellers disappeared into the town centre, some for the shops, others perhaps to visit the Dinosaur, Tutankhamun or Teddy Bear Museums, certainly all to enjoy a quick lunch. Then back to the coach for the short trip to Athelhampton House and Gardens. On arrival a very interesting and fact packed introductory talk, then we were free to explore the house, the building of which began in 1485 – the year Richard III was defeated at Bosworth Field – and has been continuously occupied as the home of successive families ever since. Not a very large house compared to some, but packed with historic details and domestic interest, also a Gallery dedicated to the work of Russian cubist artist Marevna, who lived in the house during 1948 to 1957.

Outside there were extensive gardens, bounded by the River Piddle, and divided into several formal courts and gardens balanced by woodland and riverside walks. The 12 great Yew trees clipped into pyramid shapes in the Great Court were particularly notable. After that to the Stables tearoom for a much needed cream tea or at least a slice of cake before boarding the bus for home.

The house is for sale and under offer, and faces an uncertain future, so this may well have been our last chance to offer this destination.

Chris Porter

CREATIVE WRITING

This month we are delighted to showcase a winner. Several of our members enter competitions and this little gem recently won a small prize. The task was to write a story in 100 words or fewer and to include the words 'carrot', 'sunburn', 'sigh', 'nine' and 'mustard.'

Beverly Carpenter

Seeing Red by Margaret Garrod

'Why if it isn't a skipping Ginger Nut!' I sigh inwardly as Tara Cassidy, the class bully sidles up.

Mum says if you ignore bullies they go away.

Head down, I concentrate on my skipping: salt, mustard, vinegar, pepper.

Tara shows no sign of budging.

'Careful Carrot Top, you don't want sunburn; you're ugly enough without more freckles.'

Mum says I'm lucky to have red hair and pale skin.

Tara makes a play for my rope.

Mum says redheads can be hot-headed and unpredictable. Seems she's right for a change.

Word from the hospital is that Tara needs nine stitches.

©MGarrod

MONTHLY MEETINGS

2019

Sept. 18th **The Gallipoli Campaign** (the incompetence of Command)

Speaker: Larry Bohana

Oct. 16th **The Fleet B I D**

Speaker: Tracey Shrimpton

Nov. 20th **AGM plus Fascinating Fungi, Friend or Foe?**

Speaker: Dr Peter Herring

2020

January 15th **The Story of Berlin 1931 to 1989**

Speaker: Alan Grace

February 19th **Fleet Pond**

Speaker: Colin Gray MBE

March 18th **In search of Elgar**

Speaker: Richard Wigram

May 20th **Al Bowlly, Britain's first pop star**

Speaker: Jerry Ward

June 17th **The Flying Girls**

Speaker: Anita Mays

John Gawthorpe



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
Treasurer	Neil Morley	treasurer@fleetu3a.org.uk
Membership Sec	Fiona Godfrey	memsec@fleetu3a.org.uk
Group Leaders' Liaison Sec	Leigh Palmer	groups@fleetu3a.org.uk
Events Sec	Mike Brown	events@fleetu3a.org.uk
Deputy Events Sec	Carol Howlett	
Webmaster	Rod Marshall	webmaster@fleetu3a.org.uk
Monthly Meetings Sec	John Gawthorpe	meetings@fleetu3a.org.uk
Newsletter	Sandy Redman	news@fleetu3a.org.uk
Enquiries	The Jones'	enquiries@fleetu3a.org.uk
Minutes Sec	Barbara Jones	minsec@fleetu3a.org.uk
Venues Sec		venues@fleetu3a.org.uk
Outreach Sec	Jenny Teagle	outreach@fleetu3a.org.uk

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE MEMBERS BEFORE 9a.m OR AFTER 5p.m.



FLEET AND DISTRICT
University of the Third Age

ANNUAL QUIZ CHALLENGE

Friday 18th October 2019
Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney
2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

ENTRY FORM

The team is to consist of six members of Fleet & District U3A.
Cost per team, including a cream tea: £18.00
Cheques to be made payable to Fleet U3A

TEAM NAME	
TEAM LEADER	
<i>E-MAIL ADDRESS (if Available)</i>	

Team Member	Mem. No.	Telephone No:

***PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM WITH PAYMENT
BEFORE FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2019***

To: Mike Brown, Events Secretary,
20 Wood Lane, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 3DX

Telephone: 01252 629609

Office Use: Date Entry Form & Payment Received:

£ _____