



December
2023

Dates for your Diary

2024 Events

- 15th March Inter U3A Quiz, 14.00 to 17.00, Victoria Hall. Hartley Wintney
- 17th April Open Morning, From 11.00 The Harlington, Fleet.
- Monthly Meetings 2023 /24 - The Harlington, Fleet, talk 11.00 to 12.15, coffee from 10.00
- 17th January Guide Dogs for the Blind Ann Bradford & Mel Phelhan
- 21st February Craftsman's Art & Music's Measure
Speaker : Paul Bodiam
- 20th March The National Trust
Speaker David Hunt
- 15th May The Bobby Scheme: Cyber Crime,
Speaker Phil Atkinson
- 19th June A Beginning, a muddle and End : where do novelists get their ideas?
Speaker Bobbie Derbyshire

Phyllis Tuckwell Stall - November Monthly Meeting

Thank you for helping us to raise an impressive £273.50 for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care. Once again Linda's chilli jams proved popular, as did her whiskey marmalade and many were tempted by the delicious mince pies and Christmas cake. Thanks also to the card making group for providing us with their cards to sell. Finally, congratulations to Bhupa Panchal, the winner of the raffle prize.

Margaret Garrod and Linda Martin

Your Fleet and District U3A Committee

*Wishes you all a Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy and Healthy New Year*

Chat from The Chair

It was very encouraging seeing so many of you at the AGM, the second of the three I shall be chairing.

After the AGM paperwork went to press, I noticed that the list of officers shows a single Vice Chair post, but the constitution allows for two. It would make a great deal of sense to include a second Vice Chair, as *Chair – Elect*.

I am keen to ensure that the transfer at the end of my three years is a smooth one, not a cliff edge. The committee is empowered to fill a casual vacancy, so we could welcome a Vice Chair / Chair elect early in 2024. Please give the situation serious thought: *'And if not you, then who?'*

It is great to welcome Kath Williams as Assistant Treasurer: she will make Neil's workload as Treasurer much more manageable.

The other person with a heavy workload is Barbara Jones who doubles as Venue Secretary and Minute Secretary. Please, is there someone who could take over from her in keeping the minutes?

The number of new members we continue to recruit is encouraging, I hope that this trend continues. Nevertheless, it is still surprising how many people "haven't heard of the U3A"; to counter that the best thing is word of mouth, so please continue to **'spread the word'**.

This newsletter is rightly admired by other local U3As, and Sandy does an excellent job in producing it. We rely heavily on our main contributors, Creative Writing and the Visits Team, to provide interesting and readable material, but we do need more from Group Leadership Teams and group members. As you read this, ask yourself whether you have had a U3A experience you could share?

Group members and group leadership teams should be aware that in many cases, demand exceeds our ability to meet it. Tactfully managing group membership and creating opportunities for newcomers is a sensitive but necessary skill. The whole of our U3A will dwindle over time if we cannot enable new members to take part.

The 'word' we wish to spread is 'you're welcome' not 'they're full'.

John Gawthorpe
Chair

Creative Writing

The Nativity Play by Dawn Greenwood

'So, what did Lucy get, then?' Alison took a sip of her latte and sat back. The three friends were in their favourite coffee shop after school drop off, catching up on their weekends and the castings for Kershott Primary's upcoming nativity play. Rachael grinned at her.

'Angel. The wings can be a right pain, but I still have Amy's from last year, so one of Jack's old shirts on backwards, and we are good to go.'

'What about the halo? I can't imagine Amy's halo will do for this year?' Claire sniggered.

'Hardly! I don't think halos are designed for angels getting into fights with Marys.' Alison chortled. 'I know I should have been more cross with Amy. Stealing the baby Jesus is never okay. But, in her defence, Amber Wainwright is a proper little madam, and trying to lord it over the celestial bodies because she was 'the chosen one' was really annoying.' Rachael hotly defended her firstborn. 'Still,' she conceded, 'Amy did throw the first punch. Everyone knew it was premeditated, because she had stopped to remove her wings first. But it was embarrassing to see the Virgin Mary with a Frozen sticking plaster across her nose on the stage'.

Claire decided it would be wise to move the conversation on. Nobody wanted to remember the threats of assault charges bandied about by Amber's besotted (and highly offended) parents after a few too many mulled wines at the end of the performance. She turned to Alison.

'And what about Joey?'

'Joey is a very excited wise man. He feels it is a great promotion from second shepherd of last year. He is the 'gold' one, and that is the best role in the show, as far as he's concerned.'

'Isn't Joseph the lead male?' queried Rachael.

'Oh no, not according to Joey. He says he wouldn't want to be dealing with all that 'baby stuff'. Top king is his dream.'

Rachael and Claire exchanged a quick glance and avoided looking at Alison's rapidly expanding belly, or indeed at little Catrina asleep in the buggy beside her.

'So how's the costume coming along for your little king, then?'

'Oh. It's easy enough. We raided mum's 'party' cupboard. She's got enough glitzy tops and sparkly dresses to clad the entire cast of Strictly.' They all smiled at the thought of Nana Pauline strutting her stuff at the Kershott working men's club every Friday. She definitely had a more active social life than any of the stressed mothers present.

'And, of course, Joey will look fabulous! He's never happier than when dressed up top to tail in sequins with Nana Pauline,' chuckled Allison. She looked at Claire.

'And what about Katy?'

The question wiped the grin from Claire's face. 'Ahh, Katy. Katy is furious. She is a shepherd. Nothing wrong with shepherds, but Eddie Bilson is also a shepherd, and Katy assures me that he is the most annoying boy on the planet. She hasn't yet made it through a rehearsal without storming off the stage because he's picking his nose, or shoving at her with a sheep. What she'll do when she is in charge of a crook in front of a packed school hall is anybody's guess.'

Alison raised her coffee mug. 'I will have my camera primed, it'll be a scream. Here's to Christmas.'

'To Christmas,' they all giggled.

© Dawn Greenwood

Computing PC & Tablet Workshop

January/February Group

Only one person has been interested in this repeat group so I have had to cancel the proposed January/February Group. This will not now be taking place. The November/December group is well attended and is proceeding.

Richard Fielding

This is such a shame when people give up their time to run a group and it is not supported. Ed.



The 2023 Fleet U3A Quiz Winners

Fleet and District U3A Reserve Fund

Following the issue of the recent accounts many have asked why we must have a reserve fund and why is it so high. We hope that this brief explanation helps.

We are required by the Third Age Trust (TAT) to have a reserve fund to cover unexpected bills such as accommodation hire fees, Tutors fees and similar commitments. Were a group to cease to exist or some other incidences occur, part way through a term or contract period, then there would inevitably be costs that we would have to meet.

It may at present seem that the reserve fund is a bit on the high side, but we expect over the next 12 months for this to decrease as costs are increasing and we do not have the benefit of any membership fee increase or income; in fact we cannot benefit from any membership increase for two years based on the way our constitution is written, unless we have a Special General Meeting. The current venue fees are only just covered by the existing attendance contribution. The increase in attendance fee, that was agreed at the AGM, does not come into effect for twelve months so we need to use some of the reserves to cover the shortfall resulting from increased hire costs.

In order for some groups to operate they need equipment including computers. Some of these items are aging and the computers will need replacing as Microsoft Word 10 ceases to be supported. Finally, it is assumed that postage, on the TAT Magazine, will shortly increase and this cost has to be met by each U3A District.

We hope that you have found this useful and allays any concerns you may have.

Neil Morley, Treasurer

UP - A reminder that one word in the English language can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb and preposition.

Read until the end ... you'll laugh.

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is 'UP.' It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv.], [prep.], [adj.], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning, but we close it UP at night. We seem to be mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP.

When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for a while, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now . . . my time is UP!

Oh . . . one more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night?

U

P !

Did that one crack you UP?

Send this on to everyone you look UP in your address book . . . or not . . . it's UP to you.

Bridge in Fleet U3A

I'm not very good at this wordsmith lark but Sandy, our Newsletter Editor, has clearly got desperate and wants something. So here goes!

I run one of the four Bridge Groups in the Fleet U3A which I took over from Mike Brown back in September 2018, I think! Seems a lot longer than that to be honest! I had been through the "Learn the Basics", "Got through the Advanced vagaries of the game" and found a partner who tolerates my rather "gung-ho" approach at times. We started in the Practice Group in about 2013. Mike was reducing his commitments to all the Bridge Groups he had started way back when and asked me if I could run this Group.

Why did I take on the role of Group Leader as I am not that good a player, but I do enjoy it and all the members in the Group accept that as it is the Practice Group not everyone is of the same standard. There are a few I'm sure who "play to win" but we are all also keen to promote the U3A mantra of **...looking to develop new interests, keep mentally and physically active, extend your social life and, most important, to have fun.**

It's not that physical but all the rest applies. Mentally active, extend your range of friends round a table playing cards, and just occasionally we do have fun. At the end of the Christmas Term, I run a game where we change the usual format and have a bit of fun and then chat over some refreshments at the end.

I only learnt to play Bridge after I retired in 2011. I had always liked card games, Rummy, Whist, Cribbage etc but I can still recall my 93-year-old Grandfather driving himself to his local Bridge Club three times a week. It certainly kept his mind active for a good many years. Only 16 more years for me then!

There are currently forty-six playing members on my list and we regularly get seven, eight or sometimes nine tables on a Monday morning. Not everyone can play every week because of other commitments but there is a hardcore of thirty + who make it every week. This year (since September 2022) we have welcomed at least six new players who have "come up" through the Beginners and then the Advanced learning groups and a few have either moved away, moved on to play in local Clubs or found something new. We do it this way so that everyone is playing to the same "rules", or conventions as they are called in Bridge and that way it is a fairly level playing field – but it never ceases to surprise me just how many combinations of cards you can get at any one session!

It is fun and, it is challenging at times but most of all it keeps you mentally active! And I have made a lot of new friends.

Tony De Vos

Thank you Tony, must bully you more often. Ed.


CROCHET class.

We meet monthly on the first Monday in the month from 10.00 till 12.00 o'clock.

We started back in September with a full class of mixed abilities from absolute beginners to experienced. Some of the work we have seen at class is really good this includes hats, scarves, baby clothes, or squares and circles that are then joined together to make a baby blanket. So many different projects.

We break to enjoy tea and biscuits and we are getting to know each other and have a good giggle, and who doesn't enjoy that. REMEMBER Laughter keeps us young.

We have decided that our last meeting for this year will be our "Christmas Bring a plate meeting." And we will all share and have some fun.

We wish you all at U3A a very happy and safe Christmas  and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Katherine and Eve

Art 8

We are a happy, friendly group.

Our members have fun experimenting with new techniques and exercises which are presented to them. They always do their best with a few giggles along the way!

We try to be true to the title of our group "Expressive Watercolours" and there is always someone who will come up with an idea if a member is stuck.

We encourage everyone to circulate and see each other's work in progress. Much can be learned with this interaction.

We have been very busy this term, tackling colour temperatures (warm and cool), flower painting with no pre-drawing, autumn landscapes - leaves, fruit etc.

At present, we are concentrating on learning how to paint people in an atmospheric landscape.

Simone Tyson

Visits

In the next newsletter I hope to be able to report on our trip to Woking theatre for the 'Drifters Girl', the first African American female music manager. We are all looking forward to the show which will feature a lot of music that we are all familiar with. It will be a 'cheer me up' event for all of us.

When visit book trips we look at many different venues and often we are constrained as to when we can go due to the 'What's on'. Several times in the past we have been caught out with Fleet Road being closed due to marathons and various other events. We do our utmost to inform you of any changes as we are made aware of them.

Booking our visits is still proving challenging, and we are very aware that with cost of living, prices are very high for everything, but we do, and will continue to, give 'value for money'.

Many of our 'regulars' praise our visits team, and first timers can't wait for the next trip. Take up for some of our visits has been poor, these events have been supported from outside U3As who don't have a visits section, so Fleet U3A is very fortunate.

We aim to announce our visits in good time usually two months in advance, for you to book on 'the booking day'. The Fleet U3A web site and newsletters will show up to date information. We will notify all members by Beacon of any late trips, many of our members don't read any of these notifications and are then very miffed that they missed out on a visit.

If a friend wants to come on a visit and is NOT a U3A member then we will be unable to include them on the trip, so a very good reason to join as a member, for £14 p.a., for all the benefits that Fleet U3A offers. What a price for fun and friendship!

Visits 2023 year started last September 2022 with our wonderful five-day visit to Kynren in Bishop Auckland. This was followed by Funny Money at Sonning Mill in October. January was the adult panto at Bricklane Music Hall and 'Sister Act' at Woking theatre in February.

With a promise of better weather our April trip to Beaulieu had a real bonus with Gardeners World in attendance for the Spring Show. Disappointedly Watts Gallery and Petworth House were both cancelled due to poor numbers, but then in July Poole with a boat trip to Swanage along the Jurassic coast was over booked. This was cancelled due to a storm, a bitter disappointment for the original bookers who were unable to come on the rearranged date. But good news for everyone who had been unable to come on the original date. Watch this space, it may be another visit to Poole.

Our 2023/2024 U3A year started off with our October trip to Potters a roaring success and now I have come full circle as 'The Drifter Girl' is our next trip. The cancelled Hever castle trip will be rearranged for the spring.

Last December I wrote about going down memory lane having found old newspapers from the 70s I did say perhaps through the winter months it may keep you amused to reminisce, in that vein IF you haven't read any of the newsletters catch up on the web site and see what you have missed on our visits.

The visits team wish you all Good Health and a very Happy 2024 and look forward to seeing you all on the next visit.

Carole Matthews

The Shorter Walks Group

We were lucky to hit perfect weather for the November walk. Our route took us past the prosaically named lake "Reservoir Two" in the woods between Bourley Road and Beacon Hill Road. Many thanks to Brian for leading us.



***Sally Mullin and
Kerensa Pearson***

Monthly Meeting

What an impressive turnout for the AGM and monthly meeting last week! Over 200 loyal members arrived at the Harlington to enjoy the biscuits, the stalls, and the talk. Oh, and the AGM of course.

Alan Haywood, a fellow member of Fleet U3A, gave us a fascinating if slightly disconcerting presentation about bridge disasters from the Victorian age to the present day. I shall never again go over or under a bridge with quite the same nonchalance as before...

Due to the pantomime at the Harlington in December, the next monthly meeting will be on January 17th 2024.

Ann Bradford and Mel Phelan will talk to us about Guide Dogs for the Blind. Mel will be bringing her own guide dog with her, and Ann is hoping to bring a puppy in training as well. Ann and Mel will be very grateful for any donations you may want to make to the Guide Dog charity as you leave the hall.

As yet, there are no extra stalls at the January 17th MM but that could change if anyone has an event to advertise or if there is a group that would like to show us their achievements or encourage new members. Just let me know.

Otherwise, the arrangements at the Harlington are the same as ever;

BYO coffee to drink with the biscuits provided by us in the small hall at 10 o'clock

The jigsaw and book swap table will be available (we anticipate a brisk trade as you will have finished all your Christmas puzzles and books!)

Visits table in the foyer

Welcome table in the foyer as guests are always welcome at our MMs, all we ask is that they sign in so we can give them some information about our U3A and

Ann and Mel's talk will start at 11 o'clock in the main hall.

Thank you for all your support this year.

Happy Christmas and see you in 2024.

Paddy and the MM team

The Jazz Appreciation Group

This group has been going at the St Philip & St James church for over 10 years. We cater for many tastes within the very wide range of music that uses the tag 'jazz'. However, largely due to the age range within U3A, we pay little attention, probably too little, to the contemporary scene --- if we did concentrate on new music produced in the last thirty years, our audience would dwindle.

The term 'modern jazz' was first applied in the 1940s to the new jazz created by the likes of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, otherwise known as be-bop. Many people refer to all jazz created over the last eighty years as modern jazz. This helps to complicate the efforts of those who try to define jazz, because there have been many changes to the music in those eighty years. The question 'What is Jazz?' is impossible to answer in less than an A4 sized piece. So I won't try here.

Our end-of term session on Thursday December 7th (10.30 till 12.30) is a live performance by the Graham Hix Quintet. This will be a welcome return by Graham and the band, on what turns out to be his birthday. So there are many reasons to visit us visit us. Guests welcome.

Mike Rance

Practical Photography Group

I am Group Leader and member of the U3A Practical Photography Group. We are a friendly group of mixed ability; we meet once a month and have about thirty five members.

The aim of the group is to improve all aspects of members' photographic skills. It is not a taught course – the emphasis is on learning by doing. Group members are encouraged to share their skills and photographic experience, take photographs on specific themes, and to submit them for feedback as well as contributing feedback on other members' photos and approach.

Recent and planned subjects include photo-editing, ICM (involuntary camera movement), portraiture, architecture, and more. We plan to organise some outdoor group photo-shoots when the weather improves & the rain stops!

Pat Bussy

New Keep Fit

Keep fit classes - we've started a new group at a new time. The new weekly keep fit class will run from 11am to 12am every Thursday at the Methodist Church in Reading Road South.

There are still a few places. If anyone is interested please contact Alan Goldring on 07814481389

The German Conversation Group

This group meets almost every week of the year on a Thursday afternoon at a private venue. We do what it says on the packet! We chat and discuss anything and everything under the sun, mainly in German though we do out of necessity lapse into English at times, to clarify something – particularly on the political or rather technical scene! Our topics of discussion can include current affairs, holidays, places we have visited, our individual interests, our NHS experiences - anything a member wants to introduce or talk about. Three of our current 13 members are German nationals who have lived in the UK for a long time. The rest of us have studied German or lived in Germany in the past and are keen to keep up and improve our spoken language.

Jenny McKeown

Art 3 - Mixed Media

I took over Art 3 Mixed Media in 2012. It had been a privately run group when I joined in the early 80's. There are twenty members at present - lovely people who get on very well. We have watercolour, pastel and acrylic in all subjects and varying talents. I take in different books for reference and inspiration each week. We have a tea break when we can see each other's work and pick up tips to help. Most people prefer to do their own thing. Also, we have had a very informative demo by Tony Yates three or four times which has been much appreciated.

We do meet for meals occasionally and maybe a theatre socially and are now looking forward to our annual Christmas lunch this year the choice being The Fox and Hounds. However, much as I am sad, I am hoping someone will take over from me next September.

Eileen Griffen

U3A Walking Group A

Back in October, the U3A Walking Group A, enjoyed a lovely walk in the Puttenham/Cut Mill Pond area. We parked by Cut Mill Pond (now known as "The Tarns"). Twenty of us started off on a rainy morning but then the sun came out and the autumnal colours on the trees was magical. We also walked across fields, heathland and parked by a lake. A wonderful 4.5-mile walk enjoyed by us all.

Jean Libaert



Music Appreciation Group

As the current GL of 'MAG', there are questions which frequently arise when people ask what 'MAG' might be. I'll try to answer them here.

First, MAG is not a course: there is no attempt to approach music in a historic or thematic sequence. The programmes reflect each presenter's tastes, knowledge and experience.

The music selected is certainly not 'pop', but nor is it all classical. Perhaps I might define the content as *serious music, worthy of attention*. That covers the recent programme on the history of folk songs in Hampshire and also, in a session on 'Guitars', Django Reinhardt alongside Julian Bream and John Williams.

Over time, two musical connections noted by a presenter continue to fascinate me. The first, between the second movement of *Tchaikovsky's* Symphony No 5 and *John Denver's* 'Annie's Song'. The second, the 'homage' to *Beethoven's* Moonlight sonata in the *Beatles* 'Because'.

Having had a programme devoted to stringed instruments, '*Music Without Strings*' will feature in 2024. We have considered '*Aimez-vous Brahms*' and enjoyed dipping into Clemency Burton-Hill's marvellous three hundred and sixty six day playlist, '*Year of Wonder*'.

A programme on Mendelssohn and a 'Christmas Special' will end the year.

We run in the traditional U3A format: '*two sessions with a break in the middle*'; modified since COVID to include '*bring your own cup*'. A team of volunteers take the register, collect the fees and make the teas and coffee. All watch and wait in nervous anticipation as I coax the Audio – Visual systems into operation. (The role of '*resident technical expert*' is vacant at present...)

Our speakers introduce their theme, adding information and illustration in a variety of ways. But the essence of 'MAG' is the opportunity to sit and quietly enjoy a range of music.

We are in the happy position of having a healthy list of volunteer presenters, with enough lined up to take us well into the summer term. We are always delighted to add new names to the list, whether absolute beginners or those with some experience.

The one hundred and fifty seat capacity at SS Philip and James Church accommodates us all with ease, so you'll be very welcome if you want to come along on a Thursday between 2.00 and 4.00 pm just to enjoy the music.

John Gawthorpe
Group Leader M.A.G.

Strollers Christmas

I don't feel I have told you much about Strollers for ages. I offer many apologies.

My Strolling friends continue to grow in numbers, regularly up to fourteen for coffee after!!!! We stroll around Elvetham Heath every two weeks beginning and ending at The De Havilland Arms.

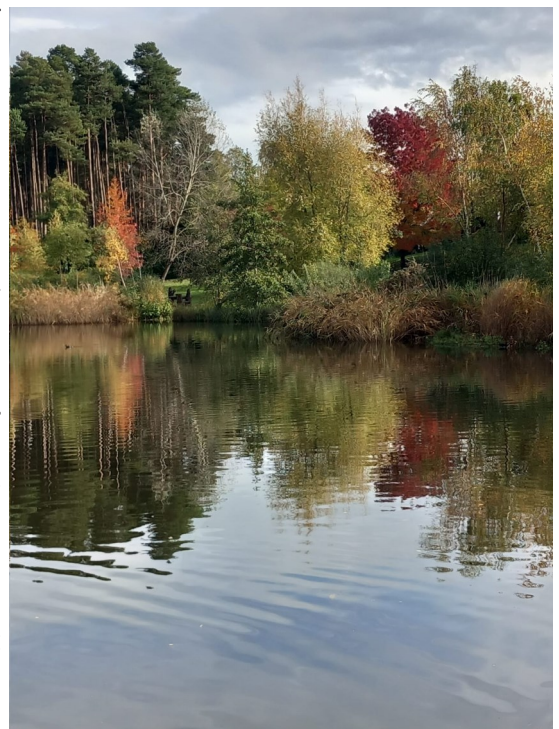
The group is lively, we laugh out loud a lot, we are a happy band of strollers. We speak to the local residents who seem to remember us each fortnight, the dog walkers, the young mums with their preschoolers whose conversations are enlightening.

We do sometimes "break up" into longer and shorter strollers. We do just as we please depending on how we feel on the day, the weather and how desperate we are for coffee. I must mention the beautiful photo attached. The Autumn colours around the pond were captured by Pat Chiverton. This is a stunning picture, thanks Pat. Yes, we are aware of the flora and fauna we see. To be out in the fresh air with like minded people is just well-being in itself.

We will celebrate the Festive Season by dining once more at The De Havilland on December 4th.

Thank you, Strollers past and present, it is my privilege to be the Group Leader. I wish you all a very good Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Jenny Teagle



Fleet U3A email communications with members - Actions you can take to help

Most Fleet U3A communications with our members are via email. Because there is so much spam email around then occasionally Beacon emails, that we send to members, can be treated as spam by some email providers. How often this happens seems random but probably depends on how busy the receiving email system is and how many customer complaints they have had recently! Yahoo, TalkTalk and btinternet seem to bounce emails as spam more than some other providers.

You can take action to help avoid our U3A emails being treated as spam, therefore not delivered to you at all, or filed in your email spam/junk folder by your email system.

Firstly you should add the email address noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk as a contact in your email system, maybe as contact 'U3A Beacon' or under whatever contact name you wish. This may help as your email system will know you have our sending email address in your contacts and therefore the sender is known to you.

Secondly, many but not all email systems have a 'whitelist' function to set up a list of email addresses you are OK with. Because all the many email systems are different the best idea is to google 'whitelist' and the name of your email system provider (e.g. gmail) to find out if your system has this facility and how to set it up.

Alan Jones, Beacon Administration

Some photographs from our Christmas Luncheon



Pam's Table Decorations



Thanks go to Pam, our Events Secretary, for making all the arrangements for this very successful event



Eighty members enjoyed an excellent Luncheon provided, and served, by Peter Murray and his fantastic Ladies. Thank you to you all, from all of us who attended.



Steam and Transport

We are a group of men and women who enjoy the history of steam power in all its guises. Our talks have included the Somerset and Dorset railway and a detailed talk on Atmospheric and Pneumatic railways and systems, of which there are many more than you would think. Our next talk is on London's water supply from 1200 to the present day and covering pumping systems, sewage disposal and the London Hydraulic Power Company. Stranger than you may think. In January we have a talk about Monorails, more or less 'One wheel on my wagon'. February sees Frank Wall talking about Irish railways and the problems of moving from steam to diesel traction and the history of an accident in Wales. Our last talk this season is entitled "Slaves, Steam and Scandal", and is the story of the Union Pacific Railway across the USA. Involving Portugal in 1200 to San Francisco in 2020 touching on slaves, Abraham Lincoln, Union Pacific financial scandal and the need for the biggest locomotive in the world. If it interests you, come and join us. Details of where and when we meet are in the U3A programme /hand book.

Peter Maddison

Group Leaders - Important

In the event that you have to cancel a session will you please let Barbara, the Venues Secretary, know a.s.a.p. as she may then be able to avoid us paying for the venue on that occasion.

Fleet U3A Website

**Keep up to date with all our activities,
News, Events, Visits Monthly
Meetings on our website
www.fleetu3a.org.uk**

Find us on Facebook

Find us on Facebook - Fleet U3A has its own Facebook Members' Group, our Facebook page can be found by entering "Fleet U3A" in the search box at the top of any Facebook page. You can then request to join our private Members only group, you will be asked for your Name and Membership number.

We now have 360+ Fleet U3A members in our private Facebook Members Group for contact and discussion between members. This is a Private Group for members of Fleet U3A only, you are encouraged to join.

COMMITTEE EMAILS



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**PLEASE AVOID TELEPHONING MEMBERS
BEFORE 9 a.m. OR AFTER 5 p.m.**