

### *Dates for your Diary*

#### 2024 Events

- 28th August** Group Enrolment for 2024-25  
Church on the Heath,  
Elvetham, Fleet 11.00 to 12.30
- 11th October** Coffee Morning 10.30 - 12.00  
at Church on The Heath

#### Monthly Meetings 2023 /24 - The Harlington, Fleet, talk 11.00 to 12.15, coffee from 10.00

- 19th June** A Beginning, a Muddle and  
an End : where do novelists  
get their ideas?  
Speaker Bobbie Drbyshire

#### Visits

- 21st August** Chevenage House, Beverston  
Near Tetbury, Gloucester.

#### Dates for Group Leaders

- 5th July** Group Leaders Lunch.  
12.00 to 14.00 at Victoria Hall  
Hartley Wintney
- 20th Sept.** Group Leaders Meeting 10.30 -  
12.00 at the Memorial Hall,  
Sandy Lane

### *A Philatelic Plea - Stamps needed please*

Here's hoping you can all help.  
Starting in September at our Monthly Meeting, a 'bucket' will be placed in the foyer of The Harlington for collecting used stamps. These will then be forwarded to a cancer charity who can convert them into cash.  
I do hope that you will be able to bring along any used stamps as it really is for a good cause.

*Your Committee hope that you will all have a wonderful, safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you all at the beginning of our next U3A year*

*Don't forget to renew your membership.*

### *Chat from the Chair*

As I write, all our Group Leaders are receiving their invitation to a 'thank you' lunch in July, just after the U3A Summer Term has ended. It's a truism, but nonetheless worth repeating, that our U3A would be nothing without them. They are the prime focus and point of contact for each of our 110+ groups, but the intention is not to leave them coping *alone* with all the demands and responsibilities.

I could not, for example, keep the Music Appreciation Group going without the good folk who share the jobs of running the welcome table and serving the teas and coffees. Furthermore, there have been fifteen 'MAG' members who have stepped forward to share their choice of music with us all. I inherited a thriving group and, with support like this, I am confident of being able to pass it on in a healthy state in due course.

And that's the essence of the U3A: people coming together to share experiences and the behind the scenes work which makes them happen.

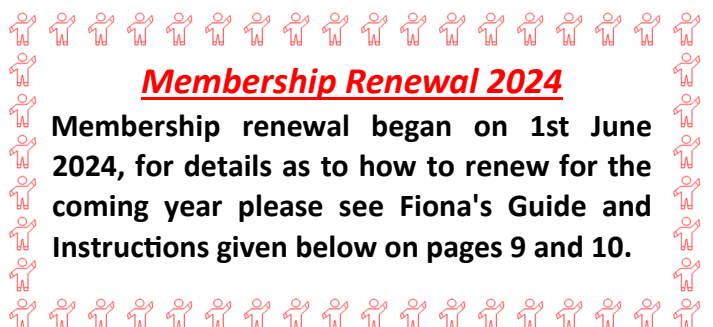
Can I ask you to think of the way tasks are shared in the groups you attend?

A couple of years ago we sadly lost our History Group, and we have now lost our Photography Group as there was nobody in place prepared to step up to lead it. Please do not let us lose any more groups, think about how you might make a contribution to a group leadership team.

Life always has a way of butting in. I am grateful that 'MAG' will have a keyholder and IT technician in place when I will be hors de combat after a hip replacement shortly. So, if your Group Leader were to be out of the picture for any reason, could you do your bit to keep the group running in the short term?

I hope we can start the Autumn Term in September refreshed and revitalised, with many readers of this newsletter having decided to play a bigger part in ensuring Fleet and District U3A continues to thrive.

*John Gawthorpe, Chair*



### *Membership Renewal 2024*

**Membership renewal began on 1st June 2024, for details as to how to renew for the coming year please see Fiona's Guide and Instructions given below on pages 9 and 10.**

## Creative Writing Group

### **The Coach Trip by Derek Gutteridge**

People milled around a ten-seater coach outside the small supermarket. The label on the side advertised the coach was going to Wisley, taking people to see the gardens and butterflies.

Maisie climbed the steps, showed her coupon, and walked into the coach looking for a vacant seat. She found one across the aisle from Betty. Maisie was an elderly woman in a light-brown overcoat who always insisted on wearing a head scarf, this one with printed views of Margate. Earlier this year, Maisie had an operation on her knee that stopped the pain but left her with a rolling walk like the proverbial sailor on land. She was unsteady on her legs.

With the coach full, the driver closed the door and spoke into his Tannoy asking that passengers use their seat belts. It was followed by much clicking, except Maisie was still trying to click hers shut when a commotion outside the coach grabbed her attention. A bell clanged in the Pawnbrokers opposite as two men with masks burst out of the door and into a red car waiting outside, ignoring the policeman calling out for them to stop. The car moved away as fast as the traffic allowed while the policeman looked about, ran up to the coach where the driver opened the door, and demanded he chase after the slow-moving robber's car.

Maisie was still standing when the coach jumped forward with the policeman hanging on to a rail. This was great, thought the driver, who had misspent his youth competing in 12-car road rallies. He swerved left and right, braked, then accelerated into a space between cars. It was too much for Maisie who was thrown left, then right, then projected backwards at a run towards the rear of the coach. When it braked, then accelerated, it sent Maisie running to the front where she managed to grab a rail shouting, 'Yaroo,' as the top-plate came out of her mouth.

Both Maisie and the policeman watched in slow motion as her teeth bounced down the steps and stopped at the closed door. The coach swerved again and Maisie lost balance, collapsing on to her haunches. She grabbed at the policeman's trousers to save falling but his trousers were big for the man and held up by cheap braces, which unclipped from his waistband allowing the trousers to fall to the policeman's ankles exposing white underpants with an action picture of Captain Marvel.

'Yaroo.'

The coach driver was close to the red car and rammed it causing the driver to veer on to the pavement. The coach slewed to the right and squeezed between a car and an on-coming small van.

'Go for it, cowboy,' hollered Maisie, still seated but able to see out the front windscreen as the policeman struggled to pull up his trousers.

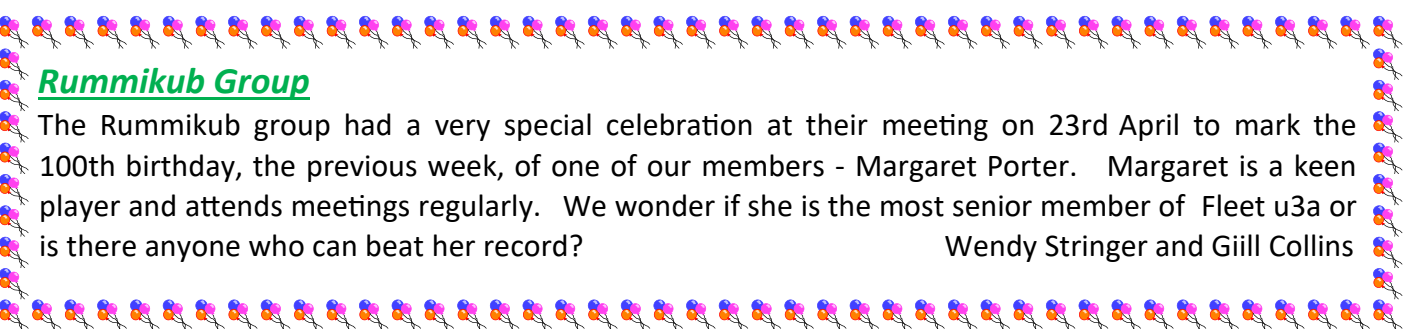
The coach levelled with the red car and rammed the rear offside quarter causing it to swerve violently, over-compensate, and shoot into the front garden of a house where it stopped by crashing into a stone fountain. The policeman shouted, 'STOP,' as the coach-driver slammed on his brakes. Maisie, trying to stand, lost balance again and tumbled into the step well next to her teeth.

A muffled, 'Yaroo,' came out of the crumpled brown overcoat as the driver and policeman managed, with much panting and appealing for 'Jesus Christ', to drag Maisie into a heap inside the coach. The driver opened the door and they jumped out while the other passengers rushed forward to help Maisie to her feet.

Two robbers had staggered out of their car, leaving the third hidden behind an inflated air-bag. One robber was bleeding and reeled as the other looked for an escape. The policeman and driver jumped on this man and held him down to apply handcuffs. An excited Maisie lost her balance running down the coach steps and charged into the third robber, knocking him to the ground. He had no fight left.

Betty led the other passengers off the coach and they crowded round Maisie, taking selfies with their new hero.

© Derek Gutteridge



## Rummikub Group

The Rummikub group had a very special celebration at their meeting on 23rd April to mark the 100th birthday, the previous week, of one of our members - Margaret Porter. Margaret is a keen player and attends meetings regularly. We wonder if she is the most senior member of Fleet u3a or is there anyone who can beat her record?

Wendy Stringer and Giill Collins

## Monthly Meeting June 19<sup>th</sup>

We had a good turn-out in May for the talk about Cyber Crime. Phil Atkinson, our speaker, alerted us to risks and reassured us in equal measure. He emphasised the importance of being in control. It's all right to give your bank or credit card details when you have initiated the contact but never to do this in answer to an unexpected phone-call, text message or email. Much to everyone's interest, he also highlighted the importance of strong passwords and suggested we choose three random words, a few numbers, some capitalised letters and a symbol or two e.g. book, vase, shoe, 2024, \*@ could become '20b\*\*Kv@sEsh\*E24'. We were all greatly reassured when Phil told us that our age-group was not the most easily scammed; surprisingly it was young adults who were most susceptible! If you are interested in booking a visit from the Blue Lamp Trust the details are: telephone 0300 777 0157 or Email [info@bluelamptrust.org.uk](mailto:info@bluelamptrust.org.uk) or [bobby@bluelamptrust.org.uk](mailto:bobby@bluelamptrust.org.uk) or [cyber@bluelamptrust.org.uk](mailto:cyber@bluelamptrust.org.uk).

Our speaker on June 19<sup>th</sup> will be the author, Bobbie Darbyshire. Bobbie has billed her talk as, 'A Beginning, a Muddle and an End; where do novelists get their ideas?' It sounds intriguing and will interest all keen readers and writers, I am sure.

Unfortunately, both John Gawthorpe and I cannot be present at the June Monthly Meeting but Sandy Redman, our Newsletter Editor, has volunteered (*both arms behind my back Ed.*) to cover for us. The Monthly Meeting team will be there as usual but Sandy may ask for extra help on the day, please help out if you can.

The June meeting will be our last Monthly Meeting until September 18<sup>th</sup> when we will have a return visit from Ian Keable. He gave us the history of cartoons last time and was very well received. In September he will talk about 'The Art of Trickery' and he will illustrate his talk with some magic tricks!

The usual timings apply in June at the Harlington:

10.00 for chat, coffee, tea and biscuits in the small hall.

The visits table in the foyer from 10.00.

11.00 the talk will begin in the main hall finishing at 11.15 with questions.

Fleet U3A Welcome table will also be in the foyer. (Guests are always welcome.)

The Monthly Meeting team looks forward to seeing you on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Paddy Powell**

### **Volunteering – more than just being kind!**

According to Michael Mosley's 'Just One Thing' podcast, regular acts of kindness not only benefit the individual but also the giver. In fact studies, shared on this podcast, suggest that those that carry out such acts (and volunteering is a easy way of delivering this) can help boost their mental health and more surprisingly the immune system, by reducing inflammation. Additionally, studies involving brain scans demonstrate that even thinking of being generous or co-operating with others activates an area of the brain which is associated with reward and feeling good and (more surprisingly) reduction in pain experiences. So the message here is volunteering is good for our health! Of course there are multiple other benefits, as well, such as improving or developing skills; reducing loneliness; better connection with the community; sense of purpose; improvements in wellbeing and maintaining mental agility.

Did you know that the U3A depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers and the future success and longevity of Fleet U3A is reliant on even just the smallest acts. In fact Fleet U3A desperately needs the engagement of its members to secure its survival and volunteers can get involved as little or as much as they wish. If you would like to find out more on how you can help please reach out to any Committee member.

If you are interested in other types of volunteering you can also visit [www.volunteernorthhants.org](http://www.volunteernorthhants.org) or contact the Volunteer Centre via [hartvc@hartvolaction.org.uk](mailto:hartvc@hartvolaction.org.uk) for further support.



**Tania Skinner, Volunteer Centre Manager  
Hart Volunteer Action**

## Visits - Hever Castle

This visit involved taking 50 members on a day trip to Hever Castle and bringing them all back safe, which was achieved, so a successful day for me (a newbie group visit leader).

Weather – well! The heavens opened on our arrival, so the weather gods were not with us but then at 2pm the sky cleared and the sun eventually came out and some of us were looking for a shady spot.

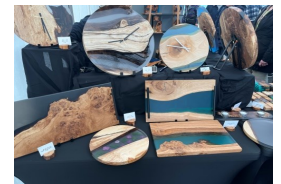


The castle looked beautiful even in the rain, it looked even better in the sunshine. It is renowned as the seat of the Boleyn family, particularly Anne Boleyn, a wife of Henry VIII. Some of us headed for the castle first to avoid the rain and queued for a short while. The rooms are very nice with a mixture of medieval and 20<sup>th</sup> century style furnishings, influenced by the Astor family who bought and restored Hever Castle in 1903. The estate is now owned by the Guthrie family.

The gardens are beautiful, the hostas amazing, rhododendrons were still putting on a show, the irises were very varied in their height and colour. The Italian gardens were immaculate and there was a lovely camelia in full bloom. The lake was relaxing and populated by a range of ducks and ducklings. The water features were very pleasant to watch and listen to (as long as there was a toilet nearby).



The craft fair musicians played to an audience sitting in the afternoon sun drinking and eating their picnics. There was an amazing range of goods on offer: garden art, love spoons, jewellery, artwork, food, liqueurs and gins, chopping boards, sheep stools, metal working which was being demonstrated live, pottery of all descriptions and glazing techniques were on show. Prices were variable, some more reasonable than others.



The coffee and cake stand drew some people to it and I even heard a champagne cork being popped by one group (not ours I think).

Mike our driver from Hodges Coaches did an excellent job giving us a little information about our journey and Hever Castle, opening the coach for those who wanted to return to it earlier and getting us home within a very reasonable time considering the M25 and M3 roadworks.

Lots of walking, talking, eating, coffee and a good time had by all.

**Sue Dalton**

**Thank you Sue it was a really good trip. Ed.**

## Phyllis Tuckwell Stall at the May monthly meeting

This time, we raised £121.50 for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care, so a big thank you to everyone for supporting us. Linda's marmalade and chutneys were as popular as ever and I was pleased all my surplus vegetable plants found a good home. Our thanks also go to the card making group for continuing to provide us with a lovely selection of cards to sell. I appreciate some people would like us to be there for every monthly meeting, but other commitments and the time taken to make the comestibles means as much as we'd like to, sadly we can't! In this connection, we are grateful to Linda's friend Anna for adding to her stock of marmalade. Finally, congratulations to Dave Glasscock, the winner of our raffle. He took home a basketful of chocolate which he shared with the grandchildren.

**Margaret Garrod and Linda Martin**

## The Film Set

On Friday morning May 17<sup>th</sup> several members of Fleet U3A made our way to the Reel Cinema in Farnham for a special showing of two films each being shown on two separate screens, one with sub-titles and one without. The cost was £5 a ticket including a cup of coffee or tea. This was the first time Fleet U3A had been invited to join with Farnham and Alton U3As in a joint venture called, 'The Film Set'.

Farnham U3A initiated the idea with the Reel Cinema, who have a community focus as a local business. I met the manager of the cinema and discussed with him and Farnham U3A's representative the future of this new venture. Farnham U3A will liaise with the manager in selecting two suitable films on a regular basis and will communicate the details to us. Fleet U3A will circulate an email to all members, and it is up to you to let us know if you are interested and then just to turn up on the day and buy your tickets. Any adult is welcome to attend, U3A member or not.

Watch this space...

**Paddy Powell**

## Grumpy Old Men in Parliament

Ian Stephenson, secretary of the GOM group, organised our trip to the Houses of Parliament. We had hoped to meet our MP Ranil Jayawardena but unfortunately the house was sitting and he was busy.



We went up to London by train and arrived at Waterloo station around eleven o'clock. Then a walk over Hungerford Bridge to the embankment and along the embankment to the entrance to the Palace of Westminster. We entered through an airport style security check (all metal objects including belts in the tray!). One of the group was carrying a small penknife and it was confiscated and he was ordered to collect it when leaving. Thus chastened we arrived in Westminster Hall where we joined our tour group. The guide explained that as the House was sitting we were limited to viewing the House of Lords and the surrounding corridors. We moved from Westminster Hall and passed under the "New Dawn" window.



The circular "New Dawn" window celebrating the "Votes for Women Movement" was installed in 2016. The 168 glass disc array is illuminated from the rear and linked to the tide of the River Thames. At high tide all discs are illuminated but at our time (mid tide) only half were lit. The passage under the New Dawn arch led us into the Central Lobby where reporters interview the politicians on TV. The lobby is decorated with paintings, primarily of Henry VIII and his seven wives, we were told the portraits had various mistakes, it seems that artists of old had problems with typo's too. We left the Central Lobby and moved along the corridor to the Lords Chamber. We were asked to keep to the right in the corridor to allow any lords or ladies plenty of room to pass.



At the end of the corridor, we waited in the Robing Room where the King dons his robes before entering the Lords Chamber at the Opening of Parliament.

We entered the Chamber and assembled in the benches where their lordships sit. We were instructed to stand – not allowed to sit. The chamber is beautifully furnished with red leather benches and polished woodwork but is dominated by the ornate golden throne overlooking the whole chamber. From the Lords Chamber we

passed back to the Central Lobby and on to Westminster Hall for our group photo. We left parliament - somewhat delayed by the member recovering his penknife who was escorted out of the House and on to the pavement by a very large policeman. With the group complete we walked across the road to the near-by Jewel Tower.



The tower is one of the oldest surviving parts of the original Palace of Westminster. Built in 1360 to house the jewels and valuables of Edward III it has had various uses since. In 1540 it was used to store items of value for Henry VIII and in the 1600's the House of Lords papers and journals were stored there. In early 1900 it was used to house the Standards and Measures Department, storing and testing the nations standards. Vibration from increasing traffic and building work forced them to move to a more suitable location in 1938. The tower is now a museum with exhibits on three floors, accessed via a very narrow circular stone staircase



designed to test the fitness of all their visitors. We didn't all manage to visit three floors.

Suitably exercised in the tower exhibition we strolled back across Parliament Square to take lunch in the



St Stephens Tavern. The tavern is a very busy London hostelry offering good pub food and ale. The prices were not too bad either. Suitably refreshed we finished the afternoon strolling across Westminster Bridge, grabbed a quick ice cream from an illegally parked Mr Whippy on the bridge, down the steps onto the south bank and under the London Eye to Waterloo Station and the train home.

**John Guerin**

## Walking Group B - Annual Bluebell Walk

I recently visited a friend in the United States, who hasn't been back to the UK for fifteen years. He always says the three British things he misses most are the Beer, Back Bacon and Bluebells! Well, at least I can send him photos, - although he deletes the beer and bacon ones!

The Bluebell Walk has become an annual fixture for the Group, which arrived at Ellisfield on a dank, cold morning, the heavy drizzle resulting in many of us feeling less than enthusiastic about the approximately 5 mile walk ahead. Spirits were lifted however, as soon as we saw our first carpet of the blooms, standing out against the backdrop of the fresh, bright green foliage of the trees. It even stopped raining shortly afterwards, although some of the paths remained unseasonably muddy!



It was noteworthy that when we did the walk last year (May 5th), the flowers were in their prime; this year however (May 3rd), it was apparent that some of the blooms had 'gone over', although they had lost none of their overall visual impact. Is this evidence of

global warming? If so, why is this earlier maturity coming after such a cold and wet spring? Answers on a post-card please!

After the walk, most of us repaired to the village pub (the Fox Inn) for a relaxing drink and light lunch before heading for home.

Andrew Robinson, Group Leader

## Hart's Community Garden - A garden for everyone

Hart's Community Garden is on the edge of Fleet where everyone is welcome. Our facilities include two polytunnels, a fruit cage, a variety of raised beds, a large wooden gazebo and a wide, even path that makes the garden an accessible and inclusive space. Parking and toilet facilities are available.

We are pleased to be open to the community all year round, offering gardening-related activity that has been shown to bring many wonderful benefits, regardless of health, age or circumstance.

It is well documented that garden-related activities benefit us in many different ways:-

Better physical health (through exercise and strengthening muscles to improve mobility)

Improved mental health (through a sense of purpose, hope, and achievement)

Options to connect with others (reducing feelings of isolation or exclusion)

Opportunity to learn new skills (increasing confidence and self-fulfilment)

Increased connection to nature (which itself is documented to improve mental health)

We run a programme of events throughout the year, which include creative workshops, social events and wildlife talks. So, if you are looking to be part of local community project where you can find friendship, relaxation, fresh air, varied opportunities to learn new skills, as well as enjoy the positive effects of the outdoors upon your wellbeing – please do get in touch with us.

If you have not visited Hart's Community Garden before, it is located within Edenbrook Country Park, with the nearest access point located on Pale Lane (nearest postcode RG27 8SP) on Winchfield/Fleet borders. What3words: ///fidelity.chase.duplicity. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/XLiopL4xWQFtMVYy9>

If you are interested in getting involved at your local community garden you can visit [www.hartvolaction.org.uk/community-services/hartscommunitygarden/](http://www.hartvolaction.org.uk/community-services/hartscommunitygarden/) or contact the team at Hart's Community Garden via [mtg@hartvolaction.org.uk](mailto:mtg@hartvolaction.org.uk) for further support. The Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/mindingthegardenHVA/> and telephone number 01252 815652 (ext 706 & 702).

We look forward to welcoming you to the Garden soon!

**Amanda Slater, Wellbeing Projects Officer**

**The Garden is part of the Hart Voluntary Action - Wellbeing Services, Minding the Garden**  
HVA are located at the Civic Offices, Harlington Way, Fleet, Hampshire GU51 4AE  
[www.hartvolaction.org.uk](http://www.hartvolaction.org.uk)

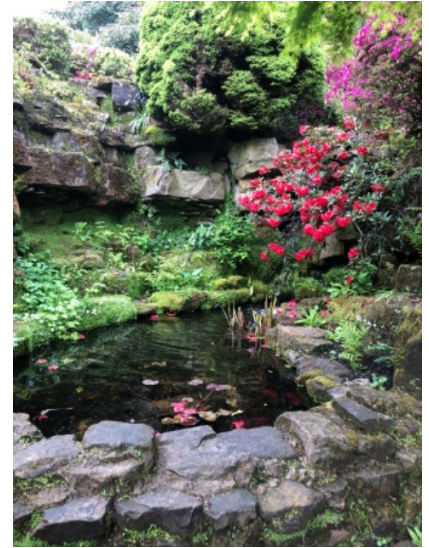
## Visits - Leonardslee Gardens

The weather gods were with us today (29 April 2024), we had sunshine and no rain in the forecast. This was the first time we had booked a Hodges coach and we were pleasantly surprised by how comfortable it was to travel in. Our driver Mike was informative about our route and Leonardslee Gardens which made my job easier as this was my first trip taking a group of 44 people on a visit.



The coach arrived early, all our members arrived promptly and we were away before our allotted time. We took a scenic route avoiding the motorway and arrived earlier than expected.

We were greeted by a representative from Leonardslee Gardens who advised us about the best areas to view such as the rock garden, we were warned to be to be wary as the paths are narrow, slippery and the steps can be steep in places.



The azaleas and rhododendrons were spectacular in their spring colours of orange, red, yellow, white etc. The camelias were not as plentiful but still had a reasonable display, mostly high in the trees, again the array of colours were amazing.



Leonardslee provided a large golf buggy type vehicle to run trips to and from the lakes every half hour, some of the group took advantage of this facility. Some of us walked down to the lakes and back again.

The wallabies were a nice attraction to view especially as some had joeys in their pouches.

There is an amazing array of art work dotted around the gardens, their price tags were a little too high for my pocket, but it gave us a chance to nose around the house which is now a hotel and a Michelin star restaurant.

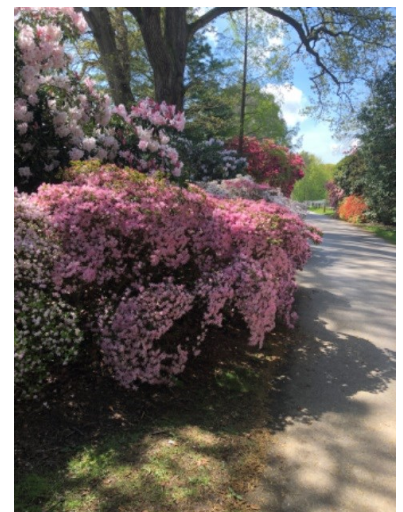


There was plenty of room for people to sit and enjoy coffee, tea, cakes and lunch. Prices were very reasonable. I particularly enjoyed eating an ice cream down at the pump house café overlooking the lake and watching the waterfall, feeling the sun on my face.

The doll's house was a surprise to me, I was expecting a single dolls house but what you actually get is a whole room of small cameos of how Victorian life was lived. The attention to detail is amazing, rooms were

built to show: the laundry with miniature irons, sewing rooms with miniature sewing machines, grocery shops with products like Vim and sardine tins all miniaturised. There were also dress shops for both men and women, school rooms and kitchens all kitted out with what you would expect to see in a real shop or kitchen of that period but miniaturised.

Before leaving we had to visit the garden centre and of course buy a plant or two or three or four. Mike our driver carefully stowed our goods away in the coach for us. We left a very tired but happy group.



**Sue Dalton**

**Help Needed Please on the 27th and 28th August**

We would really like some help on the afternoon of the 27th August, 3.00 pm on, for a couple of hours to set up tables, chairs and signs etc. ready for the Enrolment Day on the 28th August. Equally help is needed, following the finish of the event, to put everything away. If you can help please contact Mike Brown, Group Leaders Liaison Sec. at [groups@fleetu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@fleetu3a.org.uk).

**Ice Creams may be used as a bribe**

**Strollers and Rollers - Notice**

Jenny Teagle is unable to run the Strollers/Rollers group for some while, but please note that the group will continue to meet fortnightly from 10th June at the usual start point of the De Havilland car park. The group is still covered by U3a. Coffee for the group has been booked at the De Havilland on that date as usual. Jackie Bignell

*The Group will for the present be led by Jackie Bignell and Patricia Chiverton. The Committee thank you for stepping in.*

**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.***

**Crafted Poppy Appeal**

The Craft Group intend to form a display for Remembrance Day in November and would ask if you would like to assist the craft group in producing Poppies.

The display will be inside and the Poppies can be knitted, crocheted, felted, sewn, tissue paper or any other medium.

I would ask that you leave the tails on please to enable the Poppy to be attached to the display. Colours can be red, purple or white. The finished Poppies will be collected at the end of August.

If you require further information please contact Jackie Cresswell 01252616289 or

[email Jackie.cresswell@ntlworld.com](mailto:email.Jackie.cresswell@ntlworld.com)

**COMMITTEE EMAILS**



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Treasurer	Neil Morley	<a href="mailto:treasurer@fleetu3a.org.uk">treasurer@fleetu3a.org.uk</a>
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Events Sec	Pam Openshaw	<a href="mailto:events@fleetu3a.org.uk">events@fleetu3a.org.uk</a>
Webmaster	Stephen Grosvenor	<a href="mailto:webmaster@fleetu3a.org.uk">webmaster@fleetu3a.org.uk</a>
Monthly Meetings Sec & Vice Chair	Paddy Powell	<a href="mailto:meetings@fleetu3a.org.uk">meetings@fleetu3a.org.uk</a>
Newsletter	Sandy Redman	<a href="mailto:news@fleetu3a.org.uk">news@fleetu3a.org.uk</a>
Enquiries	Jenny Teagle	<a href="mailto:enquiries@fleetu3a.org.uk">enquiries@fleetu3a.org.uk</a>
Minutes Sec	Barbara Jones	<a href="mailto:minsec@fleetu3a.org.uk">minsec@fleetu3a.org.uk</a>
Venues Sec	Barbara Jones	<a href="mailto:venues@fleetu3a.org.uk">venues@fleetu3a.org.uk</a>
Outreach Sec	Jenny Teagle	<a href="mailto:outreach@fleetu3a.org.uk">outreach@fleetu3a.org.uk</a>
Publicity Sec	Adrian Van Klaveren	<a href="mailto:publicity@fleetu3a.org.uk">publicity@fleetu3a.org.uk</a>

**Fleet U3A Website**

**Keep up to date with all our activities, News, Events, Visits Monthly Meetings on our website [www.fleetu3a.org.uk](http://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 417+ 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.

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

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

It is now that time of year when your membership of Fleet u3a is due for renewal (details of the various payment methods are included on the renewal form attached with this email).

The deadline for renewal is 29<sup>th</sup> July. If you renew after this date, you stand the chance of not receiving your membership card and programme in time for Group Enrolment Day - don't forget, the Group Leader (s) of the group(s) you wish to join need to have confirmation of your current membership status before they can enrol you.

The easiest and preferred renewal method is to pay via the website. The website will be available for on-line renewals w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024 :

Go to [www.fleetu3a.org.uk](http://www.fleetu3a.org.uk)

Select the 'MEMBERSHIP' drop down menu (located on the top right-hand side of the screen) and choose the 'RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP' option. Please note that you will need to register for the new members' log in portal in order to renew your membership via the website. A full pictorial step-by-step guide is given on the website :

[On-Line Renewal Guide | fleetu3a \(flu3aweb.wixsite.com\)](http://fleetu3a.flu3aweb.wixsite.com)

**We would appreciate it if all members could renew as separate individuals rather than paying for their U3A partners as has happened in the past. The Beacon system for online renewal will unfortunately still offer the option to pay for any partner who is also a U3A member, but we ask you to ignore that option and only pay for yourself. Any partner can then be logged into Beacon separately and pay for themselves. Paying individually makes it much better for certain calculations in our U3A financial accounting systems.**

**Important :** An electronic version of your membership card will be issued automatically by Beacon as this is issued at the same time as you confirm payment via PayPal, so please do not delete the message from your in box. A hard copy will also be sent with your programme.

**Remember :** You do NOT need to have a PayPal account in order to pay. You can pay by either a credit or debit card using the guest facility.

Whether you renew on-line, by Bank Transfer or by post, the request is very straightforward:

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR RENEWAL COMPLETED BY TUESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**

Your Group Leader(s) and Committee have worked hard in order to facilitate the continuation of group 'meetings' during the past 12 months and we look forward to receiving your renewal in due course.

Best regards

**Fiona**

The subscription for the coming academic year has been set at £14 per member. Three options for membership renewal and payment are set out below.

In 2015 Fleet & District U3A launched a web-based membership renewal system (Option 1).

You will need to have registered for the members' portal in order to renew via the website.

Whichever of the options below you choose this year, **PLEASE HAVE YOUR RENEWAL COMPLETED BY 29<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**

**Renewal and Payment Options****Option 1 Fleet u3a's recommended renewal process:**

Go to [www.fleetu3a.org.uk](http://www.fleetu3a.org.uk) and select the 'Membership' tab and then 'Renew your Membership'. Please read the full Guidance notes on that 'Renew Membership' page Beacon will transfer you to PayPal to pay, YOU DO NOT NEED TO SIGN UP FOR AN ACCOUNT WITH PAYPAL, you can just pay with a debit or credit card. [There is also a step-by-step guide to renewing your membership online.](#) Those who pay via this option should receive their membership card(s) by email within a few minutes. If your membership card email is not received within 24 hours, please inform [memsec@fleetu3a.org.uk](mailto:memsec@fleetu3a.org.uk). **We would appreciate it if all members could renew as separate individuals rather than paying for their U3A partners as has happened in the past. The Beacon system for online renewal will unfortunately still offer the option to pay for any partner who is also a U3A member, but we ask you to ignore that option and only pay for yourself.** Any partner can then be logged into Beacon separately and pay for themselves. Paying individually makes it much better for certain calculations in our U3A financial accounting systems.

**Option 2** By arranging an electronic transfer to the Fleet U3A CAF Bank account quoting :

**Sort code : 40-52-40 Account Number : 00006405 Your membership number as reference**

**Option 3**

By cheque made payable to **Fleet & District U3A** in the sum of £14 per member **(it is important that this account name is used as our bank will reject payment if not.)** Please do not send cash through the post.

**If paying by Options 2 or 3 please complete the form below** (ticking the appropriate boxes) and post it to

Membership Secretary, Fleet & District U3A, 39A Court Farm Road, Longwell Green, South Gloucestershire BS30 9AD

Payment method :

Option 2 : Bank Transfer

Option 3 : By the enclosed cheque

**PERSONAL DETAILS Please use BLOCK CAPITALS**

Title : ..... Forename : ..... Surname : ..... Membership No : .....

Address : .....

Postal Town : ..... County : ..... Post Code : .....

Telephone Number : ..... Email address : .....

Mobile Telephone Number : .....

**Gift Aid** (As a registered charity, Fleet U3A is able to treat your subscription as a Gift Aid Donation.)

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

I have made a Gift Aid declaration in the past and wish it to remain in force

Please let me have the papers to set up a new donation

I wish to cancel a previous declaration I am no longer a tax payer

**Optional consent to receive Third Age Trust Magazines by post**

I consent to my postal address information only, given above, being shared with the company that oversees the distribution of the Third Age Trust Magazine

I no longer wish to receive the Third Age Trust Magazine (TAM)

**A General Reminder**

Please notify the Membership Secretary ([memsec@fleetu3a.org.uk](mailto:memsec@fleetu3a.org.uk)) or update your details on line if you change your name, home, email address or telephone number at any future stage.

**Thank you.**

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM IN ITS ENTIRETY**