

## ***Dates for your Diary***

### 2023 Events

- 27th October** Quiz Challenge, Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney 14.00 to 17.00 see page 7
- 10th November** Members Coffee Morning 10.00 to 12.00 Church on the Heath,
- 15th November** AGM 10.45 The Harlington, Fleet
- 1st December** Christmas Lunch 12.00 to 14.00 Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney

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

- 20th September** WW1 - How it all began  
Speaker : Larry Bohana
- 18th October** Stories from the Klink  
Speaker : Neil Sadler
- 15th November** Bridge Disasters - 1847 to the Crimea Bridge 2022  
Speaker : Alan Haywood  
*(this talk follows the AGM)*

### Visits

- 30th October** Hever Castle, Kent £36 p.p.
- 16th October** 4 night stay Potters resort Norfolk, booking now
- 22nd November** 'The Drifters Girl' at Woking Theatre £50pp

***See also Page 2 for other visit information***

### Chat from The Chair

As the forecasters tell us that there's not much more hot weather to come - at least not after 11th September - the thought that a new U3A year is about to begin is a very pleasant one.



This year the new groups include 'Pickleball' – yes, I had to google it – and Poetry Voices. I've joined one of them, you might guess which?

Could this be the year you emerge from your comfort zone to try something new? I did so – with much trepidation – a few years back when I joined Mike Rance's excellent Jazz Appreciation Group. I now know much more about what I'm listening to and, indeed, have come to appreciate it. Job done Mike.

Thanks to a very willing team of Group Leaders and Committee members, Enrolment Day was a successful and stimulating event. I must also thank the team at The Church on The Heath, who had ensured that the organisers did not have to move all the chairs and stack all the hymn books, and then replace them all afterwards. Such a relief.

U3A membership can bring benefits beyond our groups and meetings. A few have been added to our website. Click on Membership. Then Discounts.

**Finally, do you know of anyone who could become 'Assistant Treasurer', so that the workload can be shared. *Could it be you?***

***John Gawthorpe  
Chair***

### Membership Renewal Form

For those who have still to renew their membership and cannot do so on line a renewal form is attached.

### Things you can still help with please

2024 is Fleet U3A's 30th Anniversary, we are looking for ideas as to how best to celebrate this occasion. For our 25th Anniversary we had a concert. What might we do this time? Please send your ideas to Paddy, the Vice Chair at [meetings@fleetu3a.org.uk](mailto:meetings@fleetu3a.org.uk) Thank you, Ed

### Philosophy Group 2 - New Group

A second Philosophy group has been established. The Group will meet on the Third Tuesday of each month, during term time, starting in September 2023. The Group Leader is Michael Butcher and his deputy is Ellie Faulkner. Ellie can be contacted on [ellie.faulkner1@gmail.com](mailto:ellie.faulkner1@gmail.com) ***Ellie Faulkner***

## **Poetry Voices** A new group starting in October Just 3 places left...

Love poetry?

Then this group is for you!

Like to share that love?!

Then this group is for you!

You enjoy 'getting into' poems?

Then this group is for you!

Curious about how poetry can be shared more widely – in **fun** and **unthreatening** ways?

Then this group is for you!

Like listening to the sound of poetry?

This group is for you!

Do lyrics make you think musically?

Then this group is for you!

The idea is to **enjoy ourselves - exploring, reading aloud and sharing our love of poetry, with each other and more widely when we can.** We'll start with autumn themed works, then onto an existing short Christmassy themed anthology programme – to which you can bring your own favourites, to make it our own – for sharing sometime during the Festive season.

In 2024, for the 80<sup>th</sup> D-Day commemorations, we will turn to writings around WW2, especially those of soldiers based in Aldershot and the south of England, 'In Their Own Words'.

**Venue?** Meeting room, Holy Trinity Church, Church Crookham, every second Monday 1 – 3pm. Autumn term: Oct 9<sup>&</sup>23; Nov 6<sup>&</sup>20; Dec 4

I'm looking forward to getting going with this exciting new group! For more information – or to express an interest – contact [christine.west1@gmail.com](mailto:christine.west1@gmail.com) **Christine West**

## **VISITS UPDATE**

### **Petworth House NT Sorry Cancelled due to lack of support**

**Wednesday 14th September, £37 per person, NT members £18.50 per person** (for those who can show Petworth a current NT membership card). Departing Cody 8.30am

Come and see the wonderful art collection at a home that has been in the same family for 900 years.

Email Carole: [visits@fleetu3a.org.uk](mailto:visits@fleetu3a.org.uk) (Andy King who is taking this trip will be away until just before the trip)

### **Hever Castle**

**Monday 30th October, £36 per person**

The birthplace of Anne Boleyn, Queen of England. There is a special exhibition about Catherine & Anne: Queens, Rivals, Mothers. Hopefully we will also be able to see Autumn colours in the extensive gardens as an extra bonus.

**Please note** access may be difficult for some as there are several steps. Please ask for further information. Email Sue Dalton: [suemdalton@icloud.com](mailto:suemdalton@icloud.com) (our new team member, this will be the first trip that she has hosted).

The 'Visits Team' are working hard on new visits for 2024. Check the Fleet U3A website and newsletters for updates - <http://www.fleetu3a.org.uk>

We hope to see you all at the U3A Monthly Meetings, you will find us in the foyer of the Harlington from 10.15am. **Carole Matthews**

## **International Folk Dancing**

We are pleased to announce that the venue for the above group from the Autumn Term will be once again at Crookham Memorial Hall (CMH) Sandy Lane Church Crookham. Hopefully, this will enable anyone without a car to access this friendly group more easily. We would welcome new members to join us for dancing, friendship, exercise and fun. You do not need a partner and dances are walked through before each one commences.

Our new term starts on Friday 22 September at 10am and is every two weeks. If you would be interested in learning more about this group, please contact Betty Hall our Group Leader on 01252 650853 or email to [catlover.betty211@gmail.com](mailto:catlover.betty211@gmail.com) **Maureen Dickinson**

## Enrolment Morning 2023

Planning the Enrolment Morning started back in July when Group Leaders were asked whether they or a member of their group would attend the event. The replies pointed out that some of the Group Leaders lead more than one group; sometimes on totally different subjects. The GLs were also asked how many people/chairs were needed on their table and which other groups they wished nearby.

All this information received was tabulated in a spreadsheet and this was fed to the Pam, the Events Sec.

She attempted the near impossible by allocating tables to groups while also meeting the needs & wishes. An added complication was that we hired 30 tables which were 2m long rather than the traditional 6ft.

The day before Enrolment Morning a group of helpers arrived at the Church on the Heath, expecting to clear the church of chairs & bibles. Imagine our surprise to find that the church was already cleared of chairs and made ready for us to layout tables according to Pam's plans. Unfortunately, the van bringing the tables was delayed on the M25 but as it was a hot day, we all considered that we deserved a "Cornetto" and some also had cups of tea. Perks of coming to help.

We were thus full of energy and ready to go when the tables finally arrived. It was amazing how fast a team of ca.15 can lay out 50 or so tables and then populate them with chairs. Little was left to be done on Wednesday morning. Thank you, the Tuesday afternoon set-up team.

GLs were asked to arrive from 10:30 and ordinary & prospective members from 11:00. Only one group arrived unexpectedly but fortunately provision had been made for this eventuality in Pam's plans. The hall was heaving for most of the morning and Fiona & her Membership Enrolment team were kept busy all morning. All too soon it was 12:30 and enrolment ceased. It always amazes me how quickly the hall can be cleared when 25 people set to work. As a result, the hall was clear of tables, flag poles, flags & name stands by 12:50. Thank you all for staying on after 12:30 to clear the hall.

A suitable quotation that is perhaps appropriate – "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity – Seneca".



**Mike K Brown**



## CREATIVE WRITING

This month's poignant story comes from Andrew Robinson, a founder member of Creative Writing 2.

### Sunflowers

Olena was nine years old, or thereabouts, she wasn't certain. She assumed that everyone in her class at school was about the same age, but hers was a special school in the nearby town and included children of various sizes and therefore possibly different ages. She didn't mix with the children in the village; they teased her and were generally horrible. This had made her sad but she made the best of things; she loved her colouring books, cartoons on the television and playing with her baby sister. The house was crowded, as her aunt and uncle also lived with them. However, her uncle, along with her father and many men in the village, had had to go away some months earlier. This had marked a big change; the communal gaiety in the village was gone, the school bus often didn't turn up and the electricity was frequently off. Also, an apparent increase in the number of overnight thunderstorms had resulted in the adults making everyone take shelter in the cellar, instead of staying in their beds.

In the mornings though, everything appeared normal and, on the increasing number of days when the school bus didn't show, Olena took to exploring the countryside near her house. Her favourite haunt was a sunflower field, and she became fascinated by how the flowerheads turned to follow the sun throughout the course of the day. The plants grew rapidly to be tall as her, but they were sturdy and her small frame slipped between them without causing damage.

The weeks passed and included a spell of inclement weather, which largely confined Olena to indoors, when she wasn't at school. Venturing into the sunflower field once more, she found the plants had grown way above her head, obliterating all but the sky. Sometime later, she realised she didn't know the way back. Panicking, she broke into a run and started to cry. The foliage slapped at her face and arms until suddenly, she broke out into the sunshine. All she had to do then was to follow the field boundary back home. The experience boosted her confidence and her subsequent forays held no fear for her. The lack of horizontal vision was substituted by a soothing, green screen which somehow relieved her of the task of trying to make sense of some of the things the world presented. The sunflowers stood tall, proud and majestic, and Olena began to think of them as her silent friends.

One morning Olena found her mother strangely tense, telling her not to leave the house. She initially complied, but her sister was grizzly and didn't want to play, so, in a fit of pique, she ran outside when her mother had left the room. Later, whilst wandering between the sunflowers, quietly singing to herself, she became aware of a rumbling, grinding noise. Curious, she headed in the direction of the clamour, eventually emerging on the edge of the crop, where she stopped dead. In the distance was a line of machines, moving slowly towards her. They were a dirty green and Olena could see they had the letter 'Z' painted scruffily on their flanks. Olena had seen enough television to know these things were called tanks. Another loud noise behind her caused her to whirl round. Two airborne machines appeared, making a clattering noise. She realised these were helicopters, though she could barely pronounce the word. As she watched, one of them released a streak of smoke and flame towards one of the distant tanks, which disappeared in an inferno of flame and noise. The same fate befell one of the nearer vehicles, prompting Olena to run back into the sanctuary of the crop; the nearest tank was closing rapidly and she wanted to get away before it too violently vanished. The expected explosion occurred and Olena screamed, but she couldn't hear herself above the maelstrom of fire and noise.

The tiny, red-hot piece of shrapnel scythed into Olena's side, throwing her to the ground. She got up again but saw blood gushing from a wound in her tummy. She gasped and sat down abruptly, with her legs crossed; amazingly she felt no pain. She looked up at her silent friends; some had fallen over but most were still standing. Perhaps they would watch over her until her mother came to find her. Suddenly, she was no longer afraid.

After the war machinery had gone, the entire village turned out to search for Olena. Darkness fell but the searchers persisted. Shortly after midnight they found her, still sitting cross-legged, eyes closed, wearing a peaceful expression. Her head was perfectly aligned with those of her friends, facing east, ready to greet the rising sun.

© *Andrew Robinson*

## Wine Appreciation Group

In August, the Wine Appreciation groups enjoyed a trip to the Raimes Vineyard near Hinton Ampner. After a guided walk to view the vines and learn about the art of wine making, the group got to taste three sparkling wines before adjourning to the Flower Pots Inn at Cheriton for lunch.

**Margaret Garrod**



*And don't they look as if they enjoyed themselves. Ed.*

## Monthly Meeting September 20<sup>th</sup>

The first speaker we have in this new U3A year is Larry Bohana. This will be the third time Larry has spoken at our Monthly Meetings. He is returning due to popular demand. Larry is a retired Army officer and he has made it his mission in retirement to study the First World War. He has spoken to us before about the Gallipoli Campaign and about the final weeks and conclusion to WW1. This time he will be telling us about the events that led up to the start of WW1. It seems only right that we should complete the story even if it is the end before the beginning!

Larry says that his talk will demonstrate how history can be 'bent' by authors to suit their personal needs. How politicians could avoid having to go along with what others believed to be the one single cause of the war and put forward what they supposed to be the reasons for war. There were many and very varied motives for the build up to warmongering. Great Britain, at the time, had been just as guilty as other countries in the 'Arms Race' that went on between nations. Larry's talk will also show how the best of well laid plans go so wrong and how a short, planned campaign escalated into becoming a four-year World War.

The Harlington is still unable to provide refreshments for us so it's BYO coffee or tea as before. The small hall will be open from 10 o'clock as usual for a chat and a catch-up after the summer hols. The visits' desk will be in the foyer along with our signing in and information table for guests. Please spread the word about our meeting and bring along guests who may want to find out about Fleet U3A. Perhaps you are in a history group outside the U3A and your fellow historians would be interested in hearing Larry's talk. Just bring them along and check in at the welcome desk.

You will be able to pick up a flyer for a charity concert by the Farnborough Concert Band on September 30<sup>th</sup> in Hartley Wintney. I think some of you went along last year so you may want to put the date in your diary now.

Group Leaders, please let me know if you would like to set up a table and/or display to show your wares or to attract new members for your group.

The Monthly Meeting Team and I are looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 for a chat and 11 for the talk. See you soon,

**Paddy Powell**

## **Strollers throughout the Summer.**

There has been no break for the summer for strollers. Being the determined folk that enjoy our strolls so much, the vote to continue weekly throughout the summer was unanimous.

We are flexible, we don't have any venue considerations, so it has been easy to just carry on. In fact, with groups closing for the recess, our weekly social has been very popular. We have found ourselves having a subgroup!! Well actually even a sub, sub group!!

Strollers aim is to meet the needs of its members. So, if anyone wants to prioritise the post stroll chat and social, they adjourn straight into the De Havilland Arms. As our regular coffee house, the Management welcome us no matter when we arrive. Those who prefer a gentle stroll before coffee, they meander around the green or take to the playground for a wheelchair ride on the skateboard thing!!!

For those who enjoy a longer stroll, the Country Park offers varied, different, weekly treats. Last Monday, the heron delighted strollers by perching on the fence over the bridge. Sitting perfectly still, watching for movement on the lake, he appeared pleased to "show off" for all to see.

Everyone ends up in the pub to swap stories, catch up on the week's goings on, relax and enjoy a good coffee and an excellent shortbread "biccyy."

During the summertime, each week has seen different folk arriving. No problem, strollers are a lovely group of fun-loving folk. We laugh, care and share, live and yes learn too. Thankyou Jane our photographer and all "our" strollers, it is my privilege to have friends like you.

**Jenny Teagle**

**PS** Christmas Lunch again, same place Jane?



## **Rollers went to Salisbury**

Just such a great day with absolutely no hitches! Our accessible coach was punctuality plus and even better still, our driver, was none other than Krzysztof from Blenheim. Couldn't believe it, twice, short straw or what? He was just the same, so professional, helpful, funny, flexible and a favourite. He even said that "he'd volunteered for our job cos he liked us!!!!!!!" Such a nice guy.

The day took on its own identity. Several folks took the opportunity to meet up with family in Salisbury. The feedback was a good time was had by all. A guided tour round the Cathedral had been booked. The Guides were somewhat overbooked. We were given an introduction



together and then given choices to either continue independently or join other groups. After making sure everyone was ok, three of us proceeded to follow the suggested route in the guide map leaflet.

The Cathedral is impressive in every way. It was completed in just 38 years being moved from Old Sarum hill fort to its present site in the river valley. It has the tallest spire in England. We chose not to climb the 322 steps!! The beautiful stained-glass windows, the reflective mirror like font, the finest pipe organ in the country, the medieval clock and so much more.

After visiting the Magna Carta exhibition, we were more than ready for lunch.

The Refectory Restaurant provided home cooked meals, snacks, and cakes. There were chairs and tables outside in the welcome shade of the cloisters. As the afternoon slipped away, "rollers" arrived sharing their stories of walks by the river, searching for the market which appeared a very well-kept secret, lush ice creams and retail therapy.

We finally wended our way back to the coach a happy band of tired "rollers." The photo shoot had to be done. Thanks, Alan, for the picture that says it all.

**Jenny Teagle**

**Do you Know of anyone who does not have an email address or doesn't receive emails**

If you know of any member who does not receive these emails please ask them to contact the Membership Secretary via email address

[memsec@fleetu3a.org.uk](mailto:memsec@fleetu3a.org.uk)

and provide their email address so that we can email them U3A information. We do not provide member email addresses to any other organisation, they are used only for Fleet U3A communication with members

**Did You Know?**

**Volunteering is Good For Your Health**

- Yes it's a proven benefit
- It keeps your mind active
- You meet other people
- It improves your mental health
- How about meeting the challenge?

**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 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.

**Quiz Challenge**

**27th October 14.00 to 17.00**

**Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney**

***It is that time of year when you need to organise your team, and those little grey cells, and enter the Fleet U3A Quiz Challenge. As usual maximum teams of 6 persons. The Charge for this year is £48.00 per table. Application Form attached***

**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.***

**COMMITTEE**  
**EMAILS**



Chair	John Gawthorpe	<a href="mailto:chairman@fleetu3a.org.uk">chairman@fleetu3a.org.uk</a>
Secretary & Beacon	Alan Jones	<a href="mailto:secretary@fleetu3a.org.uk">secretary@fleetu3a.org.uk</a>
Treasurer	Neil Morley	<a href="mailto:treasurer@fleetu3a.org.uk">treasurer@fleetu3a.org.uk</a>
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Group Leaders' Liaison Sec	Mike K Brown	<a href="mailto:groups@fleetu3a.org.uk">groups@fleetu3a.org.uk</a>
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>

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

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). Those members who made use of the scheme last year will receive their renewal invitations via e.mail. This paper invitation is being posted to those members who do not have an email address registered on our database.

Whichever option you choose this year, **PLEASE HAVE YOUR RENEWAL COMPLETED BY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

**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. You will need your membership number, forename, surname, postcode and email address to log into Beacon. 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 on line.** 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 U3A in the sum of £14 per member. 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
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**PERSONAL DETAILS Please use BLOCK CAPITALS**

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

Address : .....

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

Telephone Number : ..... E.mail address : .....

Mobile Telephone Number : .....

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

	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)
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**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, e.mail



**FLEET AND DISTRICT**  
**University of the Third Age**

## ***ANNUAL QUIZ CHALLENGE***

Friday 27th October 2023  
Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney  
2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

### **ENTRY FORM**

The team is to consist of no more than six members of Fleet & District U3A.  
Cost per team, including a cream tea: £48.00 per table  
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 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023***

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

Telephone: 01252 629609

.....  
Office Use: Date Entry Form & Payment Received: .....

£ .....