



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## Bookham & District U3A

### December 2016 Newsletter



Being the Christmas meeting the formalities were kept to a minimum to enable members to enjoy both the excellent presentation by Dr Bob France and the refreshments organised by Jan and her team of helpers.

Thanks ladies, you did us proud!

As such, the next section does not faithfully reflect Lynn's introduction, but includes some items of importance that she would have mentioned had this been a normal monthly meeting. Still with me....? Just read on!

### Announcements Made at the December Meeting

#### **New Members**

Members who have joined in the past year will be invited to a coffee morning on 8<sup>th</sup> February. Please pencil it in your diary - invitations will be sent out soon.

#### **Social Events**

We still have not yet had a volunteer to take over from Jan Dicker who is standing down as social secretary after the May. If you are interested in taking the position of Social Secretary and would like to know more about the job please contact Jan Dicker on (01372 452251, email [nantcol@btinternet.com](mailto:nantcol@btinternet.com)) or contact Lynn Farrell (01372 451797, email [m.farrell@btinternet.com](mailto:m.farrell@btinternet.com)).

#### **Group Leaders' Meeting**

Groups leaders should have received an email giving details of the annual group leaders' meeting, which will take place on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. If you have received this email and not responded please do so! If you haven't received it (and it was sent on 13<sup>th</sup> November) please let Harold Reglar (01372 452445) know and he will send a further copy, but first of all check your spam or junk mail folders.

#### **January Meeting**

This will be held, as usual, on the first Tuesday of the month, which is January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Details can be

found later in this email.

### Senior Moments

The closing date to submit articles and photographs for inclusion in the February edition of Senior Moments is January 10th. Submissions to Maurice Baker please.

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### Group News

There have been a small number of minor changes to group meeting dates and times since the yellow booklet was printed. Full details of each group are always available on the website and Documents/Groups section of the website holds two updated documents where the list of groups is presented in two ways:

- By day of the week, so if you are looking to fill a Tuesday afternoon you can quickly see what's available - click [here](#) to have a look.
- By type of group, so if you are looking for an exercise (or other type of group) you can again quickly see what's available - click [here](#) to have a look.

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### Speakers

The **December speaker** was Dr Bob France with a talk entitled 'What The Butler Saw'. A nuclear physicist by profession, Bob regretted not having the opportunity to study subjects such as history and on retirement became a volunteer at the National Trust property Petworth House where he engages in what he described as 'Costume Interpretation'. He cut a fine figure dressed as Stedman, the Regency butler to Lord Egremont, and shared his experiences many of the guests, including the artist Turner, the Prince of Wales (who became George IV and Lord Melbourne. We discovered the eccentricities of formal dining from table etiquette to wine adulteration, promiscuous seating and chamber pots, all delivered in an amusing and sometimes bawdy manner!



The **January speaker** will be Dr Kathryn Harkup -with a talk titled Dying to be Beautiful.

Chemist trained in York and Nottingham (degree and PhD) with more knowledge of phosphines and phosphorus NMR than is really healthy - anything you want to know about the effect of ring size on coupling constants, just ask. She flirted with the idea of research as a postdoc at York before realising talking about and demonstrating science appealed more than hours slaving over a hot fume hood. For six years she ran the outreach in engineering, computing, physics and maths at the University of Surrey as well as being the co-organiser of a Science Circus and doing art/science collaborations like LightTAG.

She is now a freelance science communicator delivering talks and workshops on the quirky side of science. Talks and workshops have been delivered for science festivals and schools across the South East as well as organisations such as The Huntarian Museum, The Training Partnership, RHS Wisley and The Royal Institution of Great Britain.

Throughout history humans have sought to embellish and augment their physical appearance. As fashions change new contraptions, cosmetics and costumes are devised. There has often been little regard given to comfort and well-being when it comes to the body beautiful, and as this talk illustrates, some fashions can be fatal.

## Outings and Theatre Visits

Details of planned visits are held on the website [here](#).

**Additionally**, Fetcham U3A are organising a visit to Woking on 2 February 2017 for the ballet 'Red Shoes'

Pippa Carter is organising a visit to **Bletchley Park** on 22 February 2017, for which there is already a waiting list.

**Anne Glyn** is acting as 'Outings Administrator' to support the individual visit organisers.

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## Surrey Network Study Days

The information below is taken from the Surrey U3A Network website which can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Reproduced below is information on the various study days for which booking is open. The website has more details on conferences and summer schools as well as an outline of events and study days running through 2017.

On Friday, 17th February 2017 at The Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon, the study day will consist of three speakers:

MY LIFE IN CRIME Speaker: Richard Hawkins  
MY LIFE IN RHYME Speaker: John Griffin  
CRIMESTOPPERS Speaker: Ian Chandler

Richard Hawkins will outline the highlights of his forty years applying the law. He will describe what this implies and how practice has changed. Richard was called to the Bar in 1963 and took Silk in 1984. He became Recorder of the Crown Court in 1985. He was appointed a Circuit Judge in 1989 and an Old Bailey Judge in 1992. He retired from the Old Bailey in 2012 and joined Kingston U3A (now chairman).

Ian Chandler, a retired Detective Superintendent, will explain the function of Crimestoppers and outline present crime trends.

John Griffin will outline his life as a poet and how Surrey has inspired him. John was born in Dunfermline and later his family moved to Surrey. From his schooldays at Box Hill he began writing, reciting and delighting in poetry. More information and a booking form can be found [here](#).

**Friday, 17th March 2017** is the 100th Study Day, as always at the Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon where there are a number of speakers, led by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey. The programme includes talks on various aspects of Surrey, including:

- A Surrey Poet - Poems from John Griffin
- The Archaeology of Surrey by Jon Cotton
- Leith Hill Place by Anna Trenter
- University of Surrey by Mr Greg Melly
- The Surrey Landscape by James Herd

More information and a booking form can be found [here](#).

**Friday, 21st April 2017** the talk is by Professor Marilyn Palmer entitled

## COMFORT & CONVENIENCE IN THE COUNTRY HOUSE

Visiting country houses is a very popular leisure pursuit in the UK, and those who run such houses are becoming aware that their visitors are not just interested in architecture, paintings and furniture but in how the household and their servants lived and worked, inspired by popular TV programmes such as Downton Abbey and The Edwardian Country House. After this study day, you will not look at a country house in the same way again!

More information and a booking form can be found [here](#).