



Bookham & District U3A

January 2017 Newsletter

## Announcements Made at the January Meeting

### First time attendees

The chairman, Lynn Farrell welcomed a number of members attending their first monthly meeting, these being Pat Grover, Jenny Caine and Moira and Malcom Dyson.

### Group Leaders' Meeting

A number of Group leaders have still to respond to the email sent in November giving details of the annual group leaders' meeting, which will take place on January 25th 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 13th 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. With membership now in excess of 550 and with 90% of members having an email address, email has become a vital tool in communications with members.

### 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.

### Tea Rota

The afternoon tea and biscuit is a popular time for members to have a good chinwag with friends. This would not be possible without the work of the volunteers and more are needed!

### Surrey Network and South East Forum

Lynn reminded members of some of the upcoming events which I always cover at the end of this email and provide links to the appropriate booking forms. For those without internet access, or indeed a printer, Anne Glynn usually has a number of booking forms.

### Calendars

The 2017 calendar has sold well, with just two remaining. Speak to Mike Farrell or Maurice Baker if you would like one. Their contact details are on the website.

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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 **January speaker** was Dr Kathryn Harkup who is a chemist and author. Kathryn completed a PhD then a postdoc at the University of York before realising that talking, writing and demonstrating science appealed far more than spending hours slaving over a hot fume-hood. Kathryn went on to run outreach in engineering, computing, physics and maths at the University of Surrey, which involved writing talks on science and engineering topics that would appeal to bored teenagers, and she is now a science communicator delivering talks and workshops on the quirky side of science.

And was today's talk quirky!

Kathryn invited the audience to choose from a list of six topics, all of which sounded rather gruesome, but members responded with enthusiasm to the invitation and soon Kathryn was launching into a detailed account of the effects of a range of chemicals used over the year to 'improve' one's appearance. The talk was brilliantly

delivered without notes and with a blend of historical and chemical facts. Starting with a look at the original medical use of Botox ( Botulinum Toxin Type A) she gave an interesting description of how it affected the human body by blocking the transmission of messages through the nerve system and the types of illnesses that benefitted from its use, in particular strokes and migraines. She then amusingly described the uses it was put to by stars on the red carpet.

Moving on rapidly to arsenic, she traced its use from ancient Egypt through 17th and 18th century France (where it was referred to as 'the inheritance powder') and on to the 19th century era where its use as a dye to produce intense the red and green colour that was so favoured by the Victorians.

Members were enthusiastic questioners looking for more information, to the extent that their motives were occasionally open to misinterpretation!

The **February speaker** will be Lucy Allen who will tell us about the stunt business as she shares the highs and lows of her career in stunts. Her credits include a number of Harry Potter films, Skyfall, Suffragette and Titanic, and for television EastEnders, Coronation Street and Dr Who. Sounds like it will be another excellent meeting!

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## National U3A events

Events organised at national level can be found on the U3A website by clicking [here](#).

You will need to register before you can access all of the content.



**Mughal India:  
Art and Culture**  
27 March  
The British Library, London

[Details & Book](#)

**National Gallery  
Going Dutch**  
9 March  
The National Gallery, London

[Details & Book](#)



## [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](#).

## South East U3A Forum

The South East Forum Summer School will be held at the University of Chichester from Monday 19 to Thursday 22 June 2017. Full information is available by clicking the following links and the course fees are lower than in 2016. The summer school [poster](#) has the list of courses, the [synopsis](#) of all eleven courses will enable you to choose a course and the [booking form](#) has prices and notes about the accommodation and booking process. The **Annual Conference** on the theme Learn, Laugh and Live! will be held at the Meridian Hall, East Grinstead on May 3rd. The keynote speakers are Sam Mauger, the new CEO of the Third Age Trust, and Marianne Talbot from Oxford University talking on "Is moral truth relative or absolute?"

More details can be found on the South East Forum website by clicking [here](#).