



Senior

Moments



The Newsletter of the Bookham & District
University of the Third Age

Issue 57

February 2018



photos from the Phoenix Players latest production 'Entente Not So Cordiale'



Bookham and District U3A

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Another year has gone by—they seem to come round more quickly the older we get!

This issue has another crop of interesting articles to read that I hope you all enjoy. There are also many photos of our various activities. As Editor I am always very pleased to see contributions from members to our quarterly magazine.

Apart from all the pieces people have written you may find the cover photo of this issue particularly pleasing. Always on the lookout for good cover photos I visited last year St Mary's churchyard on the Leatherhead to Guildford road, that we take to the Park and Ride carpark at Merrow. The subject was recommended to me by my friends in the Painting Workshop group and if you want to see snowdrops at their best I have yet to find a better place! They will be at their best in February so it is well worth stopping to see them.

As always, we are on the look out for potential committee members so please step forward or recommend someone who would like to join us to make this U3A even better than it is. Remember this year is the big change when the Chairman retires in October and other committee places will become vacant. You are always welcome just as a committee member to learn what is involved before taking on any particular role.

Maurice Baker



This and the cover photograph St Mary's church West Horsley February 2017

NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

It may be a little late by the time you are reading this but I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year:

It should be a really good year for the U3A – our numbers continue to rise steadily, the number of groups becomes greater (in number) and more varied and it will be our 25th Anniversary year, so look out for the celebration in October!

In December we held, what we hoped was, a useful introduction to the U3A for new members (albeit the most popular thing seem to be the cake thoughtfully provided by Margaret New) and January will have seen the meeting of the Group Leaders.

In November our speaker was Pam Goodall who managed a round the world trip on a bike on her own—I'm not sure if she was foolhardy but she certainly was brave and had a wonderful spirit of adventure that I admire. As someone who can only do a very big wobble before falling off my bike (I hope I manage to do it relatively gracefully but I suspect not) I cannot think that anyone would do such a thing.

I know we have to make a small charge for our December meeting but hopefully it is worth it. Our 2017 Christmas meeting had Romy McCabe as our guest speaker to talk about stars of the old time music hall, to sing some of the songs and encourage a sing along before we partook of some Christmas cheer courtesy of Jan Dicker and her team (food), Peter Clarke and his helpers (wine) and Jan Meyer's wonderful cake. For those that came along – yes I did make all the flowers on my hat!

In 2018 our Christmas speaker will talk about how Christmas foods have changes and evolved over the centuries to produce the luxurious feasts we enjoy today – why not pencil it in your diary now so that you can order your tickets in November?

Our January speaker was Dr Kathryn Harkup, a science communicator – oh, how

I wish she had been to my school to inject excitement into my science lessons. Last time she came her subject was "Dying to be Beautiful", this time she talked of vampires. I was fascinated both by the history and the possible illnesses that could have led families to think they had a vampire in their midst. I was so intrigued I did what many people do these days – sat in front of my computer and looked up porphyria, not only did I find a great deal of information but some pictures that would lead you (well it did me) to understand how these things could come about.

Many a time has the U3A led me to do some research, find out more, expand my horizons, and I look forward to continuing this happy arrangement – long may the U3A continue and for all members to share their enthusiasms.
Best wishes,



Lynn

U3A Vegetable Gardening

In October we returned to Polesden Lacey to see how their Vegetable Garden had been put to bed for the winter. Most of the crops had been picked leaving only the parsnips, leeks and



winter greens to be harvested. The swiss chard was still thriving and its bright red and yellow leaves added a touch of colour to the almost bare plots. The bothy was full of interesting reminders of the past – dried flowers, tools, crocs and a bicycle. There was a display of fruit, vegetables and flowers that would have been grown to supply the house especially for Mrs Greville's guests.

We visited the rose garden water tower to discover the lavish plans Ronnie Greville had in mind for the formal gardens but would never get the chance to realise as he died in 1908. We took a stroll down the spectacular 450-foot long border of herbaceous plants admiring its vibrant autumn colour. Gardeners and volunteers were working on the front border in the small enclosure of Mrs Greville's grave. We were

intrigued to discover that they had just found an old wall in the border.

Wendy kindly hosted our Question



& Answer meeting in November. Topics ranged from leek moth (Brian bought a sample), mushrooms growing in the vegetable patch, where to get boards to make raised beds, how best to cook potatoes which go mushy, the use of fleece to prevent pests and the harvesting of brussels sprouts.



We met at The Anchor for our Christmas Lunch in December. The food was plentiful and delicious and we were well looked after by their lovely staff. No meeting in January but we join with Bookham, Fetcham & District Garden Society for their evening meeting at 7.30 pm on Monday, 26th February in the Harrison Room to hear Peter Almond's talk on "The Two Hour a Week Allotment"
Anita Laycock

Two Spottiswoode Sisters

My talk to the Social History Group meeting in October was about "Two Spottiswoode Sisters" - Abigail (Agnes) born 1852 and Catherine (Kate) born 1865 both in Houghton-le-Spring, Durham.

My paternal great grandfather Leopold Ganter (1846-1906) was born in Neustadt,



Ethel Spottiswoode

Germany and came over to stay with a cousin in Newcastle around 1870. In 1871 he was a Servant at a Jeweller's in Hatton Garden in London.

He came to Aldershot shortly afterwards and had a flourishing watchmaker's business and a smart horse and trap. He had 5 children with Agnes Spottiswoode.



Leopoldina Spottiswoode

He was introduced to the English beer, much stronger than German ale, which was probably his downfall. He cruelly treated Agnes which we now know from a letter

and as a result Agnes ran away with a soldier taking her two youngest children with her back up North. Leopold then left the other children with a neighbour and went back to Houghton-le-Spring. He returned with the two youngest children and "Aunt" Kate (my great grandmother) to look after the children. Catherine (Kate) was Agnes' younger sister.

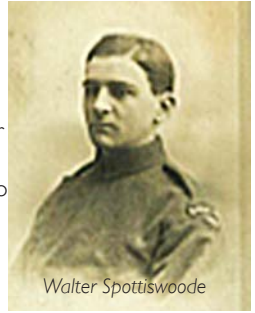


Irene and Joseph Spottiswoode

Kate had 6 children with Leopold born between 1886 and 1897.

My father and his brothers had no knowledge of their first two aunts, Ethel Abigail Jane Spottiswoode born in 1886

and Leopoldina Spottiswoode born in 1887. So what had happened to them? A family letter stated that there were rumours of two children who had been taken in by Dr. Barnardo's Home. I wrote to the Home



Walter Spottiswoode

and on their second attempt they verified that they had been admitted and sent me a photograph of them. My cousin Jon had corresponded

with one of Ethel's descendants and she sent him a copy of their records. The original story as told to Barnardo's is very sad as Leopold had ill-treated both Agnes and Kate.

Kate had taken Edith, Leopoldina and Joseph born in 1889 to



Walter, Joseph & Frederick Spottiswoode



Joseph, Sophie (my grandmother), Frederick, Walter and Kate Spottiswoode (my great grandmother)

London and was living in the Dock Street Shelter



Dr Thomas John Barnardo

at Spitalfields, a free lodging house owned by Barnardo's. Kate's aim was to put the two youngest children into care and find work for herself so she could keep Joseph. The girls were put into the care of Dr. Barnardo's and Kate, unable to find work, returned to Leopold.

missionary labour and began his life's work of setting up 112 district "homes" besides mission branches in the United Kingdom. Barnardo and his wife Syrie were given a home in Barking-side as a wedding present, where he created a 60 acre village. Launched on the 9th July 1876 The Girls Village Home was officially opened with 12 cottages by the then Lord Cairns. By 1906 it housed 1,300 girls.

Ethel and Leopoldina lived at The Babies Castle in Hawkshurst, Kent and then at the Village Home in Barking-side, Essex. They received training in domestic occupations and obtained jobs as domestic servants on leaving the Home. Ethel lived in London as



Leopold Ganter

She then had another three children—Sophie, Walter and Frederick.

Thomas John Barnardo was born on the 4th July 1845 in Dublin, Ireland. His father was Sephardic Jewish and his mother an English woman and member of the Plymouth Brethren. He studied medicine at the London Hospital and at Edinburgh. His medical work in the East End of London during the cholera epidemic of 1866 first drew his attention to the great numbers of homeless and destitute children in the cities of England. Encouraged by the support of the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury and the First Earl of Cairns, he gave up his early ambition of foreign



Babies Castle Hawkhurst

a house parlourmaid in Notting Hill. She married an odd job man at the same address and had children. Leopoldina had started work as a Lady's Maid at Darrington Hall in Pontefract. She married a Butler and lived in Leeds and Ecclesall Bierlow in Yorkshire. They had one son.

I have now found two great institutions who have helped some of my descendants. The Foundling Hospital who paid my agricultural labourers a small amount to care for a foundling and Dr. Barnardo's Home who took in two little girls. What will I discover next?

Anita Laycock

Metal detecting

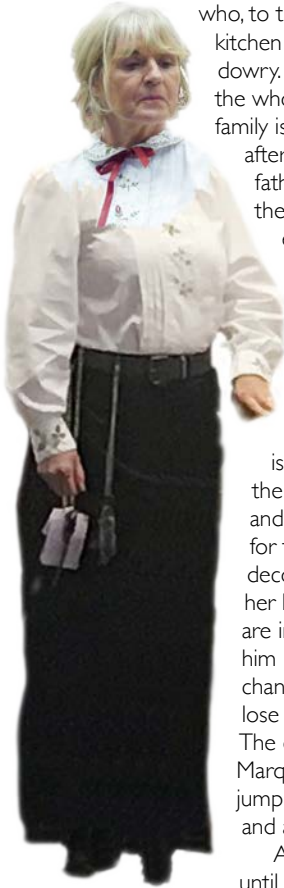
The Bookham U3A Metal Detecting Group has been operating for some time and we reported on a gold find recently, but of course this type of find is rare indeed and far more common finds are nails and bottle tops. The photograph is a composite of many items found on a local small farm in Bookham over the past 2 years. It shows the variety which may be found whilst metal detecting, from artists' paint tubes and smokers' fur toothpaste tubes, to lead toy animals, buckles, coins and bits of furniture. None of these items are considered valuable - however; they give an insight into local history, with badges from the East Surrey Regiment which was stationed on Bookham Common during WWII, buttons - military, naval and civilian, horse brasses, harness rings and bits of china not detected but just found whilst digging.

Frances Fancourt



Phoenix Players

The scene for the latest production *Entente Not So Cordiale*, is set in a Victorian kitchen on the day that the master's son, Lord Charles is to marry a local girl



Kate Broad
(housekeeper)

who, to the wonderment of the kitchen staff comes with no dowry. His lordship is hosting the whole event as the bride's family is quite impoverished after the death of her father whilst exploring the Zambezi (having been eaten by a crocodile). All the guests are staying at the home of the bridegroom Brockleton Manor. It transpires that one of the guests, the bride's godfather is going to pay for all the wedding expenses and in addition is paying for the West wing to be decorated and is making her his heiress. The staff are instructed not to upset him in any way in case he changes his mind and they lose out on all the money. The one snag is that this Marquis is overly fond of jumping out on the maids and attempting to kiss them. All goes reasonably well until the splendid wedding cake (as in the photos made by Janet Meyer, as was most of the scenery) is taken up to the wedding breakfast and the maids carrying them are surprised by the Marquis leaping out at them. Obviously when the broken cake is carried back to the cook she is far from pleased and sets off, rolling pin in hand to find the Marquis with the aim of doing him a great injury without regard for any loss of money. All follow her in an attempt to stop the attack.

All the audiences have reacted very well to

the music and play and laughed a great deal. Without exception we have been asked to come back next year. We have two more performances in January and then start on next year's offering.



Elizabeth Cross
(Nanny)



Rae Ann Wightwick
(Daisy)



Martlyn Moss
(Lily)



Janet Meyer
(piano)



Jenny Gaskell
(Emily)



Ina Hawes
(cook)

William Keswick

Keswick Road, Bookham is an important residential road that runs East-West between Leatherhead Road (A246) and the



Lower Road. It follows the line of an old rural track but why is it so called? Actually it is named after William Keswick. He was the last Lord of the Manor of Great Bookham and owned Eastwick Park

which he bought in 1882.

William was born in 1835 in Dumfries. His father, Thomas, had married Jardine's niece, Margaret, and joined the family business of Jardine Matheson. They were immensely important traders and shippers in the Far East. William joined his father in the firm in 1855 and worked out East until 1886 in both Hong Kong where he was Tai-pan (a foreign businessman). At about this time, their most



William Keswick



Map of Eastwick area 1800

profitable business was the importing of opium from India to China. The second Opium war from 1856 to 1860 was early in his career. Allegedly the Company



Jardines in 1846

stopped trading in opium from 1870. But, William must have been involved, as on the Internet there is a list of files under his name as originator which includes one from 1884. This refers to coolie emigration to Hawaii and opium imported to Hawaii from Macao via Sydney. Opium had a very important use as Laudanum a painkiller.

1892 (10,356).	
Mr. T. T. Bucknill, Q.C. (C.) 5,128
The Hon. T. A. Brassey (L.) 5,228
Unionist majority 2,403	
1906 (15,023).	
Mr. W. Keswick (C.) 7,516
Mr. A. W. Aston (L.) 6,221
Unionist majority 1,095	
January, 1910 (18,821).	
Mr. W. Keswick (C.) 10,919
Sir A. E. Rollit (L.) 5,292
Unionist majority 5,687	
In 1895 Mr. (now Mr. Justice) Bucknill, and in 1899, 1906, and December, 1916, Mr. Keswick, was returned unopposed.	

Election results

His first wife, Amelia Hippolyte Dubeux died in the 1883 aged 36 and in 1899 he married Alice Henrietta Barrington who was over 30 years his junior. They had children with his last child being born in 1904 when he was almost 70.

He took control of Matheson and Company in London. In 1898, he became High Sheriff of Surrey and in 1899, MP



Eastwick House

for Epsom. He was a Conservative and Unionist and in the 1910 election had a majority of 5,687 with 10,919 votes. He must have been a back-bencher as the

Liberals were dominant at this time. Three times he was returned unopposed and held the seat until 1912 when he resigned due to ill-health. He died on 9 March aged 78. He was described in his Times obituary as 'a generous landlord and a liberal supporter of many philanthropic and other institutions in the district.' For his funeral at St Nicolas Church, the 2.11pm train was extended to Bookham Station and there was a return train at 5.23pm.



Grave in St Nicolas church

He was succeeded by his son, Henry (1870-1928), who was MP for Epsom from 1912 to 1918.



Eastwick Park House 1960

He was a Major and bought Tyrell's Wood in 1923 which was turned into a golf course. It is stated that he never really acclimatized to the South and

went to live in Scotland. He worked for Jardine Matheson as did the following generations up to the present date. The Times Rich list of 2017 had Simon Keswick, 73 his grandson, as the 36th richest person with a fortune of £3.28bn.

Eastwick Park house was an imposing property set in magnificent grounds to the north of Lower Road. The sale advertisement describes it as an Italian style mansion with a 70ft drawing room, 9

best bedrooms, a walled kitchen garden of 2 acres with peach, nectarine, pineapple and melon houses and 520 acres of park and farmland.



Southey Hall school

The Internet is good for curious references. An article appeared in the Guardian in 2000. It starts 'Passing the Keswick family's grand home in

rural Surrey, one night in the early years of the 20th century, a villager might have seen an unusual sight through a window – a yellow light flashing on, or a brightly lit



Eastwick PH. Entrance hall 1890

room turning black with equal suddenness. This was not the fading and brightening of paraffin lamps, or the softer, yellower gaslight the family had used since 1897. If you wanted electricity you had to be wealthy and adventurous enough to put in



Eastwick PH Drawing Room 1890

your own generator like William Keswick. The article also states that their first car was a Cadillac and was pictured at the election of 1906.

William's widow sold the House in 1913. In 1924, it became a school under the name of Southey Hall for 60-70 boarders. This was until the second world war when the school was evacuated to the country. It was occupied by Canadian soldiers and allowed to deteriorate so much that although the school returned there was not enough money to restore the building. It finally closed in 1954 after the disappearance of the headmaster in suspicious circumstances. The building was finally pulled down by 1960. Part of the site is Eastwick First and Middle schools.

Chris Pullan

U3A Outing to Medieval Rochester September 19th 2017

Anne Glyn arranged a very interesting visit to historic Rochester. The group of 39 set off by coach to be dropped off at the Rochester Information centre. Here, we had coffee whilst awaiting our tour guides and on



their arrival we were split into two groups.

One took the high road and the other the low road (The High Street) and crossed paths in the middle to finish

where we had started with the afternoon free for lunch and exploration.

On the guided tour my group headed up the High Street and passed one side of the Cathedral by the Pilgrim entrance, the Cemetery gate, the Guildhall & Museum up to the Rochester Bridge and river Medway to enter the Castle Green.

Rochester Cathedral – The second oldest Cathedral in England (AD604). It has been a place of pilgrimage and worship for 1400 years.

Guildhall & Museum – Built in 1687 and a fine Civic building including a museum. The Stuart interior of the council chamber is described by Dickens in Great Expectations

Rochester Castle – One of the best preserved and finest examples of Norman architecture in England with spectacular views of the area as seen from the Keep.



From the Castle, our group walked past the Cathedral front, King's school, The Vines to

Restoration House.

The Vines – The vineyard of St Andrew's Priory.
Restoration House – Is an Elizabethan mansion where Charles II stayed a night on the eve of his restoration 1660. Miss Havisham's house in Dickens Great Expectations.

Our tour from here took us to see Eastgate House, Dicken's Chalet, Six Poor Travellers' House and then back up the High Street past the Huguenot Museum to conclude the excellent tour.

Eastgate House – A turreted Elizabethan brick building from 16th century.

Dicken's Chalet – The chalet is where he wrote a number of his novels and is situated at the rear of Eastgate House.

Six Poor Travellers' House – A Tudor charity house founded 1563 by Sir Richard Watts, providing free lodgings for up to six poor travellers.

Huguenot Museum – This is the only Huguenot museum in Britain. Nearby is the French Hospital providing housing for the descendants of Huguenots.

Dickens - It is very interesting to see how Rochester and many of these buildings inspired him to include/disguise them in his novels. As a young man he lived in Chatham dockyard and in old age at nearby Gad's Hill Place.

I had lunch at Peggotty's cafe, climbed to the top of the castle, visited the cathedral and the newly restored crypt and exhibition of the Textus Reffensus and then rushed to the Museum to see the Prison hulk and Dutch invasion exhibitions. The Textus Reffensus is 900 years old and lists the laws of Ethelbert and other Kent laws of 7/8th century influencing the much later Magna Carta.

We all returned, on time, to the Rochester information centre for a smooth coach journey home.

Well done Anne for organising a very interesting and educational visit to Historical Rochester.

David Middleton, also supplied all the photos



John & Anne Glyn

Why I Like Retirement !

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Two hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.

Question: Among retirees, what is considered formal attire?

Answer: Tied shoes.

Question: Why do retirees count pennies?

Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?

Answer: NUTS!

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?

Answer: Normal.

Question: What is the best way to describe retirement?

Answer: The never ending Coffee Break.

Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

Question: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with?

Answer: He is too polite to tell the whole truth.

And, my very favorite....

QUESTION: What do you do all week?

Answer: Monday through Friday, NOTHING. Saturday & Sunday, I rest.

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, 'How old was your husband?' '98,' she replied... 'Two years older than me' 'So you're 96,' the undertaker commented.. She responded, 'Hardly worth going home, is it?'

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: 'And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?' the reporter asked... She simply replied, 'No peer pressure.'

The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs and have fun finding them.

I've sure gotten old!

I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends.

But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Know how to prevent sagging?

Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.

These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, 'For fast relief.'

THE SENILITY PRAYER :

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Now, I think you're supposed to share this with 5 or 6, maybe 10 others. Oh heck, give it to a bunch of your friends if you can remember who they are!

Always Remember This:

You don't stop laughing because you grow old, You grow old because you stop laughing!

Chris Pullan came across this recently and thought it might be amusing

Kew Millennium Seed Bank



On a bright sunny day in early October sixteen members from Bookham U3A's three Science & Technology



Largest seed in the world

Groups visited the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst on the high weald in West Sussex.

The Prince of Wales opened the Seed Bank in 2000 with the role of preserving the world's plant species. Its aim is to conserve 25 percent of the world's seeds from non-cultivated or wild plant species by 2020.

And to demonstrate the diversity of their work, the seed bank houses seeds ranging in size from that of a melon from a tropical palm to the minute

around. We were taken to the laboratories where the seeds are initially stored, cleaned up and examined under x-ray to establish their viability. This led to the underground seed bank where every seed is catalogued on a database by internationally recognised experts prior to long-term storage. Seeds are stored in either glass jars or plastic containers within two identical environmentally controlled bomb proof facilities; one for long term conservation,



granules of a delicate rare orchid. The success of the Seed Bank has led to the doubling of storage capacity for these underground facilities in recent years.

All the seeds have to be routinely examined to establish their ability to germinate in the future. Conditions for germination vary enormously from seed to seed and there was a 'Eureka moment' when Dr Wedderburn opened one of the laboratory fridges to find that a seed in a Petri dish had just begun to sprout growth and start its germination process. The laboratory is both private and publicly funded and is the largest wild plant seed bank in the world. It has links to

universities and exploration groups from around the world and is set in the National Trust Wakehurst country estate with its formal and ornamental gardens, wildlife and a nature reserve.

Our visit ended with lunch and a chance to enjoy a perfect late autumn day walking around the lake amidst an impressive collection of mature trees.



Millennium Seed Bank



*Brian Chapman
Science & Technology Group*

The Croquet Group 2017 Season

As I write in January, mallets swinging on the Polesden lawns seem distant but as the days get longer we anticipate the 2018 season with relish.

Play started in April, continuing to the sad day in October when the mallets were put away for winter. Many happy hours during those summer months were spent on the lawns at Polesden. In May, experienced players had a day's coaching courtesy of the excellent coaches from Surbiton Croquet Club and a picnic lunch made it a social occasion too. Our own singles Golf Croquet tournament was won by Frank Cross in June and July's Inter U3A Tournament was won by - yes - Bookham! It was a great day, tense for some though! September and our own Doubles Tournament - this is another happy social occasion when players of mixed experience are paired together. The winners were Val Shelton and Averina Snow. Excellent pairing, Val is a long standing member and Averina joined the Beginner's group in April so especially well done. Another beginner, Viv Bignall, was a runner up, all very exciting.

June also saw some of us in Martin and Trudi's lovely garden where we played fun croquet in between the picnics and chat. A trip to Surbiton Croquet Club, playing on their superb lawns, was enjoyed by members in July.

The Beginner's Group of twelve players finished the season still with twelve in it and what a group it was. There was much fun and camaraderie and I'm sure that everyone will carry on into various groups for this coming season. Martin had prepared lesson plans throughout the season and I think the fact that Averina jointly won a tournament proved that they worked - well that and her natural ability!

And now for the advertising....There will be a "taster" session in April for U3A members who think that croquet might be a game for them but would like to try it before signing up for a group. Equipment is supplied and it's free providing you are a member of the National Trust. Full details will be on the boards at the February and March meetings or you can phone Martin Pulsford on 01372 453565. Please bear in mind that this and Beginner's group membership has to be restricted to about twelve so first ones signing get the mallets!

The Croquet Group would like to thank the National Trust for such a beautiful setting in which to play (a winter walk to look at the lawns show them to be in very good condition): to

those group members who set up and/or white line the lawns on a rota basis: to the members of Surbiton Croquet club for their coaching and opening their facilities to us and to Martin and Trudi for hosting the summer picnic. Finally, a special thank you to Martin who does so much work for the group "behind the scenes" and we all enjoy the result. Roll on April!

TAI CHI (Group 1)

This group is still going strong, hardy individuals have de-iced their cars this winter and rolled up to practice, hot coffee and mince pies afterwards being a good incentive!

We were even brave enough to put on a display for Village Day which seemed to be well received. Our turn came after the belly dancers, um... a slight difference in movement and music, how would we be received? Nerves were slightly ragged! In the event tai chi took over as it does, all was calm and people seemed to enjoy it and quite a few joined in at the end.

The benefits of tai chi are many, there are websites which explain them and the moves but nothing really beats joining a group and practising it together; some are more adept than others but it doesn't matter, it's the doing it that counts. A brain and gentle body exercise all in one! If you have practiced tai chi elsewhere you are welcome to contact this group, we meet on Wednesdays at 10am.

TAI CHI (Group 2)

If you would like to give it a try without initially joining a group, you would be more than welcome to contact Tai Chi Group 2, details of which are on the website or in the Information Booklet. There will also be a sign up sheet on the boards at the next monthly meetings. This group is a small friendly beginners group and meets on Thursday mornings at 11am for an hour, followed by tea/coffee and biscuits. We may not always get the moves right, but leave relaxed and refreshed!

As ever, both groups thank and are grateful to the owners of the Tithe Barn for a wonderful venue in which to practice.



Val Cross



Carol Stillwell

U3A Book Group 2 Average Voting Scores in 2017

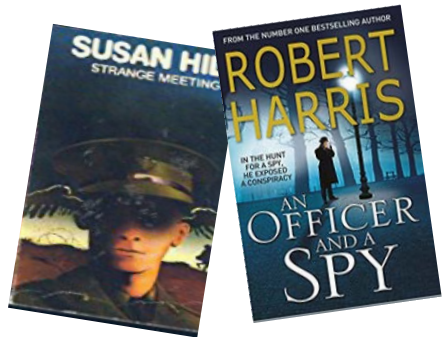
Book Title	Author & Date	Style	Content	Good Read	Range
Strange Meeting	Susan Hill (1971)	7.4	7.3	7.3	5-9
Life After Life	Kate Atkinson (2013)	7	7.2	6.6	3-9
A Street Cat Named Bob	James Bowen (2012)	4.9	6	5.6	3-7
Death Comes To Pemberley	P.D. James (2011)	4	3.1	2.7	1-7
H is For Hawk	Helen Macdonald (2014)	7.5	5.5	5.6	2-9
Jubilee-a day can change your life	Shelley Harris (2011)	6.4	6.1	6.3	4-8
An Officer and a Spy	Robert Harris (2013)	8.3	8.5	8.9	7-10
This Boy-a memoir of a childhood	Alan Johnson (2013)	6.6	6.9	7	5-8
A Long Long Way	Sebastian Barry (2005)	8.6	8.4	7.1	2-10
The Ways of the World	Robert Goddard (2013)	5.1	4.2	4.1	2-8
The Bees	Laline Paull (2014)	6.4	6.3	5.7	3-8



All except one of the books we read this year were written in the last 6 years. Unusually, three of them were autobiographical. Some were a mix of genres, for instance *Death Comes to Pemberley* combined murder mystery with a spoof sequel to *Pride and Prejudice* while *The Bees* mixed factual information about hives with a fictional autobiographical account by a bee.

Although some books set in the past, such as *The Ways of the World*, didn't impress most of us, the three most popular books were, like

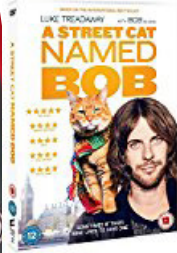
last year, historical fiction. *An Officer and a Spy* was an account of the 1894 court martial and imprisonment of Captain Dreyfus in France. We found out a lot about the carefully researched historical facts which were presented in an interesting way from the viewpoint of one of the characters. The



people and settings were well described while the exploration of opinions and motives gave the characters more depth.

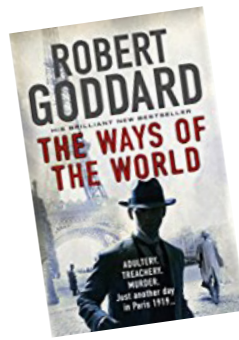
We could relate only too well to the issues of miscarriage of justice, corruption and violence in the name of national security, media witch-hunts of persecuted minorities and covering up crimes of those in power. Some of us had enjoyed Robert Harris's books on ancient Rome even more than this so many of us have been inspired to read those now.

Strange Meeting wasn't typical of its author; Susan Hill, who is known for her thrillers and detective stories. She was inspired to write this World War One novel because of the effect that the loss of a great uncle had on her family. Apart from horrific details about life



in the trenches and anger about the futility of the war there was interest in the angle of close relationships between men from very different social backgrounds. This book provoked much discussion about issues of war; public attitudes and how much we question what we are told by authorities. *A Long Long Way* considered another issue of the same war, the ambivalent position of the Irish soldiers. In 1916 the Easter Rising in Dublin was an attempt by some Catholic groups to overthrow British rule, so Irish members of British troops were expected to fight their own countrymen, which made some question the war against Germany. The effects of desensitisation on relationships with people at home were also explored so some of the tragedy was at the domestic level. The poetic descriptions and occasional ironic humour helped most of us to read to the end, but this book had the widest range of votes.

These three books were popular despite some grim contents because they were



interesting, had credible characters and earned our respect. We had previously expanded our third voting category to include 'interest' rather than just 'enjoyment' because of books like this. It has now been suggested that voting on whether it is a 'good read' covers enjoyment, interest and whether we would recommend it to others.

We have also discussed whether the sex of the author or the sex that the cover aims to attract influences our choices. We thought not, but looking back over the years we have read slightly more female than male authors. This year we read 6 female to 5 male. We hope that group pressure doesn't sway our voting



on books as we know that we all have different preferences and like to think that we have confidence in our own opinions by this age, but sometimes we might vote higher than originally intended if the discussion helps us to see more in the book.

Anne Eagle



How to get conned out of your life savings – a salutary lesson

The Background

On the evening of Friday 5th May, the day before we were due to go to France for a fortnight, I received a phone call purporting to come from Barclays Security. They said Tesco Mobile had put in a request for seven times £35, which was obviously a mistake. I agreed and we agreed to only pay once. While they were talking I checked the phone number I could see on my mobile against Barclays number on the website and they were the same, so I assumed it was safe to answer their security questions – full name, address, post code, mother's maiden name etc. The same security questions every bank asks.

"I could see on my mobile against Barclays number on the website and they were the same, so I assumed it was safe, to answer their security questions"

The following day Margaret and I flew off to France. On the Sunday, Margaret had a phone call purporting to come from Lloyds Security, where we have a joint account, querying a larger than usual payment. As far as we can tell this was actually genuine, but they wanted numbers from our "telephone banking code" to verify our ID. We don't have one and they said they would post us a new one, together with new cards. We asked that they hold the cards until we got back from France.

Two days later my phone went dead – it displayed "No Service" where the service provider name should be. The same day, Margaret received a text message on her phone, directed to me, saying that Tesco Mobile users abroad would experience connection problems due to "a technical fault" and that it might take 2 or 3 days to fix.

The very next day, Margaret received a phone call from Lloyds Security about very large movements of money through our joint account – tens of thousands of pounds. At this point we realised something was amiss and put a stop on any further use of our account. I phoned Barclays bank and discovered that my account had been emptied into our Lloyds joint account and that the movements had been verified using the phone number on my account – my mobile number. Fortunately, someone at Lloyds had looked at the numbers on our joint account and

happened to ring Margaret's phone instead of mine.

When we got home, we discovered that Margaret's personal accounts at Lloyds had also been emptied and so had my account at Nationwide and £700 pounds had been spent on my Barclaycard. They had also set up a new account in my name at Lloyds and a new account at an internet banking site in Margaret's name. Both of which we cancelled. They also broke into our post box on the wall the day before we came home probably looking for the card and PIN from the new account at Lloyds. Luckily our neighbour had emptied the box beforehand.

What actually happened

So this is what we have been able to glean since coming home:

1. The fraudsters reported my phone lost and applied for a new SIM, which was waiting for me at home. They actually transferred my number to one of their phones, so that all calls from the banks went to them instead of me.
2. They reported my debit cards missing to Barclays, Lloyds and Nationwide and my Barclaycard missing as well. They then intercepted all four cards before they reached our home. We know this, because a good neighbour of ours diligently emptied our post box every day. They not only ordered and intercepted new debit cards from the banks, but also ordered a new PIN numbers from Barclays and intercepted it – they needed the PIN to transfer money from Barclays to Lloyds. The PIN is not needed to spend money over the phone if you have the card. All one needs is the security number on the back.
3. They then used the cards to empty our accounts, spending money £20,000+ at a time. They also ordered and intercepted a new cheque book from Barclays bank and wrote cheques in my name to a value of £27,000. These cheques were not cashed by the bank, because they did not carry my signature.
4. They also extended my overdraft limit at Nationwide and applied for a £12,000 loan from them. Fortunately it took some time and I was home early enough to stop it.
5. They also applied for an e-bank account in Margaret's name and a new Lloyds account in mine.
6. We know that some of the cards were

used in Bookham Cooperative, Bookham railway station and an ATM in Horsley. Others were used in Portsmouth and Welwyn Garden City.

7. We have subsequently had a series of suspicious calls, which have now stopped, with call number withheld, purporting to come from "TSB Disputes Dept working on behalf of Lloyds, BoS and Halifax". The worrying aspect of these calls is that the caller knew the Lloyds fraud case reference number and was able to quote letters from a password that I put on to the account to enable me to verify the ID of anyone calling me. Lloyds insist that the calls must therefore have been genuine, but were unable to identify the caller or suggest why he might be calling.

"The worrying aspect of these calls is that the caller knew the Lloyds fraud case reference number and was able to quote letters from a password that I put on to the account to enable me to verify the ID of anyone calling me"

Some questions we have not yet answered

So we don't know:

1. How they tied me to my mobile number and Margaret to hers and how they tied my mobile to Tesco and our two phones together?
2. How they mimicked Barclays phone number on my phone – apparently Barclays only use the numbers on their website for in-going calls? They have other numbers for out-going calls.
3. How they intercepted 4 new cards and a cheque book?
4. How they made the transfer of funds from Barclays to Lloyds – indeed why they bothered, since they had acquired a Barclays debit card?
5. How did our suspicious caller know data from the Lloyds fraud case notes and why has he stopped calling and not made contact any other way?

"they mimicked Barclays phone number on my phone – apparently Barclays only use the numbers on their website for in-going calls"

6. Why have the banks not involved the police? Apparently I cannot, because I have had the money refunded by the banks and have not therefore lost anything. It was so slick they have obviously done it before and will, no doubt, do it again.

How much did they get?

1. From Barclays: just £12.45 plus 3 cheques totalling £27,000 which were stopped by the bank
2. From Nationwide: about £7000, plus £12,000

loan, which was stopped in time.

3. From Lloyds: about £70,000, plus a further £50,000 that was stopped prior to payment, plus a failed application for a loan.
4. From Barclaycard: about £700

Lessons to Learn

1. Be very careful who you talk to on the phone. If they purport to represent a bank get their name and department and phone the bank yourself using a different phone, because they may leave the connection open to trap any new call.

2. Beware texts asking you to phone numbers starting 0333 or similar – they are offered as an aid to business and include an automatic divert to another phone or mobile, so are ideal for fraudsters to use.

"Be very careful, who you talk to on the phone. If they purport to represent a bank get their name and department and phone the bank yourself using a different phone, because they may leave the connection open to trap any new call".

3. Remember banks never ask for a PIN number and never ask for the whole of any ID number you may have – only 2 or 3 numbers from it.

"Beware texts asking you to phone numbers starting 0333 or similar – they are offered as an aid to business and include an automatic divert to another phone or mobile, so are ideal for fraudsters to use."

4. Be very suspicious if your phone suddenly shows no service.

5. This fraud was not internet-related, but never use internet banking over an unsecured wifi connection.

6. Internet banking is open to misuse if someone gets a copy of your card and PIN number. Barclays and Nationwide use what they call PIN sentry – a device that verifies your ID by reading your card. It's very effective, unless someone has a copy of your card and PIN and their own PIN sentry.

Alan Emsley

Out & About with Bookham U3A

OUTINGS & THEATRE VISITS
To book please contact Anne Glyn
Theatre Matinees (by coach)

The new arrangements for organising outings in Bookham U3A

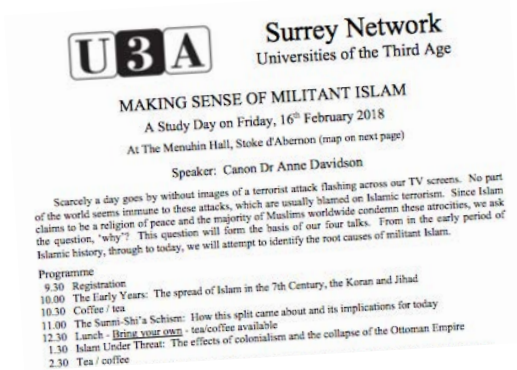
Anne Glyn is now the coordinator for Bookham U3A outings. This means individual members are now expected to come forward to arrange "one off" trips. Anne can assist them with details of the most appropriate coach companies to consider etc. There is no need to think of only 52 seater coaches, but individual members will book the transport and venue. Once this is done they will inform Anne of the date of the outing and she will announce it at the monthly meeting, hand out booking forms, collect the money, issue receipts and make up the list for the outing. Any other assistance or advice needed will be provided.

U3A SURREY NETWORK STUDY DAYS

February 16th Making Sense of Militant Islam *Anne Davidson*

March 16th Vincent van Gogh & painting in 19th century France *Leslie Pitcher*

April 20th Energy Planning for the UK *Graham Hill, Ian Funnell & others*



This is the form you get from the website that needs to be filled in for a Study Day. It gives you all the details about the day, you just need to sign it a return it with the fee.

U3A Tuesday Monthly Meetings

Tuesday 6th February The Central Royal Parks *Jim Buttress*

Tuesday 6th March Protecting yourself against Scams and Fraud *Steve Roberts*

Tuesday 3rd April English Cheeses *Rosemary Horton*