

Senior

Moments



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

Issue 46

May 2015



London Walks at the Foundlings Museum



London Walks at Guildhall



Bookham and District U3A

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This month's Senior Moments could perhaps be described, more than most, as an educational issue. There are pieces on the Culham Fusion Research near Abingdon in Oxfordshire and an article on the Huguenots and how they integrated into this country after persecution in France. Then just to keep you on your toes the Guildford piece about the Victorian Oxford professor of mathematics, Lewis Carroll, refers to another famous mathematician from the 20th century, without whom we might now be living in a very different world indeed. He was of course Alan Turing and a recent excellent film, *The Imitation Game*, has been made.

By the time the next issue of Senior Moments is published in July we shall be formally reminded to renew our membership of Bookham U3A. It is most essential that all members renew, not just for the benefit of our records, but also because it gives us all insurance protection. Insurance protection is something we frequently keep to the back of our minds and we may not even realize the importance of it for a U3A, but if a member does not keep their membership up to date not only will they have no insurance cover but neither will the other members within the group, if an insurance claim needs to be made. For your protection and that of all other U3A members please remember to renew by 31st August each year.

This issue also contains two reviews of London walks because they involved visiting places of particular as well as general interest. If a group you belong would like to be featured in a future issue of Senior Moments, this can be made with photographs and a write up even if you are not sure how to achieve this. Just contact the editor with the minimum of details.

When did you last visit the website at bookhamanddistrictu3a.org.uk? Harold Reglar has not only revamped the whole site, but he now keeps it up to date with all the news for members and back issues of Senior Moments. It is password protected and this is changed each year, but the password is on your membership card.

Maurice Baker

Notes from your Chairman

By the time you read these notes, Spring will nearly have passed us by and Summer is just on the horizon. Our U3A may be likened to Spring with its freshness, new appearances and that feeling of a New Year with all its challenges and new events to engage us.

Since the beginning of my term as Chairman, Peter Clarke our Groups Co-ordinator, has set up 6 new groups with at least another 3 in the pipe line, showing that we are an expanding and innovative organisation. We have increased our membership to over 500 members with 59 new people joining in 2014. It was on the 11th February that a "New Members" Coffee Morning was held in the Barn Hall and was well attended by the majority of the new members. It was here that the ethos of U3A and the facilities which we can offer was fully explained and this was followed by a lively "Question and Answer" session. What became apparent was that the ethos of U3A was not fully understood – that it is a self-help and self-educational organisation where all are expected to help and participate. It was noted that there was a great deal of enthusiasm amongst the new members and it is hoped that some of them will consider taking a more active role in the future. For it is only with new blood, new ideas and new enthusiasm that we will continue to grow and flourish.

Our annual Group Leaders Meeting with lunch was held on the 28th January and over 60 Group Leaders attended giving them and the Committee the opportunity to discuss areas of importance and how these can be managed going forward in the future.

I had been invited to attend 2 groups during March, the first was John Dicker's Introduction to Classical Music, where we listened to composers as wide

ranging as Dohnanyi, Finzi, Shostakovich and Gershwin plus many more. Their works varied from a Variation on a Nursery Song, Clarinet concerto, Tahiti Trot and Porgy and Bess. What a well organised Meeting and what an interesting 2 and a half hours I spent listening to such a diversification of classical music.

This was followed 2 weeks later by my going to Wine Group 3 where Lynn and Mike Farrell arranged an excellent evening, illustrated with slides, on Crete and its wines. What a surprise to me – really good and interesting wines and well worth the tasting but to buy these wines you will have to go to Crete. Not a bad idea, anyway!

This brings me along quite nicely to our next Social event on Wednesday 27th May when Jan Dicker and her team are organising an International Festival of Wine and Food Tasting. All 120 tickets were sold at the monthly meeting on the 3rd March and that there is now a waiting list. I'm sure that this will prove to be as great a success as her "Shuffleboard" evening last year: I can't wait.

So, I raise glass to you all and wish you an enjoyable and fulfilling time in your U3A and should you have any thoughts on how we should move forward, please, please give me a call

Neil Carter



GARDENS OF BOOKHAM 10th OPEN DAY

Sunday 21st June 2015 – 10am to 5pm

Many of you will be familiar with the great amenity we have in our historic Old Barn Hall, the venue for many local activities and a focus for the community. Did you know that our Open Gardens Day has raised over £42,000 for its upkeep over the years? This year is our 10th anniversary, having started in 2006 with 500 visitors and raising just under £2800. Now we typically welcome around 700 visitors to enjoy our beautiful gardens and perhaps get ideas for what they could do in their own patch, be it large or small. Over the years more than 50 private gardens have been involved, some just once, some several times. This year's event will feature around 14 varied and attractive private gardens where garden owners will give you a warm welcome. Two of the gardens have been with us, on and off, since that first year and we are delighted to have six gardens opening for the very first time.

The younger generation are joining us once again, with the Dawnay and Polesden Lacey Infant Schools opening their special gardens developed by the children, with sensory gardens, themed allotments, bird hides and wildlife areas. The Victorian Walled Garden at The Grange has been with us since the start and they are opening once again. Did you see their amazing tree yarn bombing last year? There's some photos on this page and also you can also check out more from last year on our Facebook page. You'll find examples of 'edible' gardening at a number of our gardens, but you will find particular inspiration, and a plant buying opportunity, both at The Grange and at Little Bookham Allotments.

Delicious home-baked cakes, rolls and drinks will be served throughout the day at the Old Barn Hall and there will be the opportunity to visit some stalls there as well, including some from the Bookham Country Market. Once again there will be a raffle with lots of great prizes.

We are very grateful once again to The Vineries Garden Centre for sponsoring our day, and to The National Trust who are kindly offering ticket holders one free visit to the gardens at Polesden Lacey w/c 22nd June.

Tickets: £5 in advance from 16th May, £6 on the day (children under 16 free). Wheelchair users £3, carers free. Regret no dogs. Include admission to all gardens and a free minibus service along the route.

- The Vineries Garden Centre, Lower Road (our sponsors)
- Weale's Store, Little Bookham Street
- Wishing Well, 7 High Street
- Bungalow Stores, Beckley Parade
- Old Habits, 17 Church Road
- Contact Cards, 228 Cobham Rd., Fetcham
- Village Day, 21st June, behind the Old Barn Hall
- Old Barn Hall Office, Church Road

(open Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30 to 12 noon. Tel 01372 456307) or on the day

- At the gardens themselves on the day

Further Information

For more information visit www.bookhamsbulletin.co.uk where we will post a link to the programme/map in mid May. Alternatively follow us at 'Gardens of Bookham Open Day' on Facebook and Streetlife, or contact Tina Hutton on 01372 457598 / email: tina.hutton@btinternet.com.

BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – Registered Charity No. 1148881



U3A Members Visit the Hottest Place on Earth

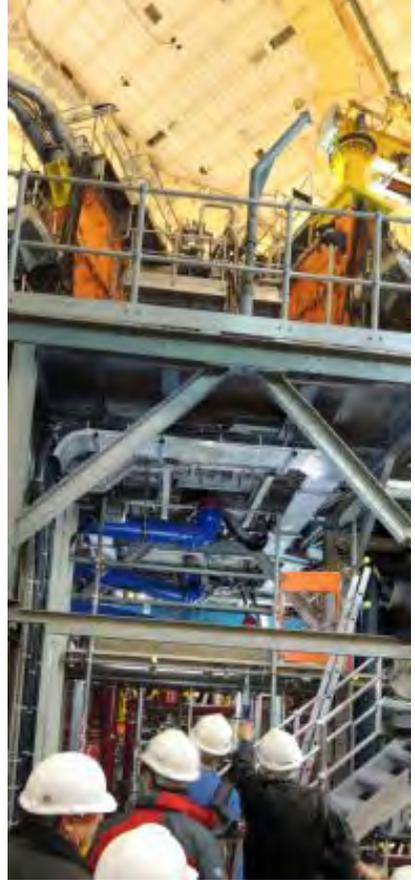
A suitably named 'fusion' of eleven U3A members from Bookham, Horsley and Fetcham visited the Culham Centre for Fusion Research near Abingdon, Oxfordshire on the evening of 26th November 2014. In 1997, as part of an experiment by the Joint European Torus project (JET), a gaseous mixture of deuterium and tritium atoms, were fused together in 'plasma' operating at temperatures in excess of 200 million degrees; 20 times hotter than the centre of our sun. As a result, Culham with over eight hundred scientists and engineers from around the world holds the world record for fusion power at 16 megawatts.

Fusion power is the opposite to our traditional nuclear uranium or plutonium 'fission' electricity generation reactors and is an important long-term energy source to complement non-carbon options such as hydro, wind and solar. Mimicking processes found in our sun, at over 100 million degrees deuterium and tritium fuse together to form helium



atoms along with high-speed neutron particles that carry significant amounts of energy. A commercial power station would absorb this energy by slowing neutrons down in a dense blanket of lithium metal to generate electricity via a traditional turbine.

One of the biggest challenges for the engineers and physicists working at Culham is to understand the behaviour sufficiently well to maintain stable plasma formed when the gaseous fuel is heated to such extreme temperatures. Remarkably, plasma is the fourth 'state of matter' after solid,



liquid and gas and it is where electrons have been stripped away from the gaseous fuel atoms. U3A members were shown images of this plasma during their visit to the JET facility's control room.

Fusion could start providing commercial electricity in about 30 years and has the potential to supply up to 20% of the world's energy by 2100. It is an ultra efficient method of making power with

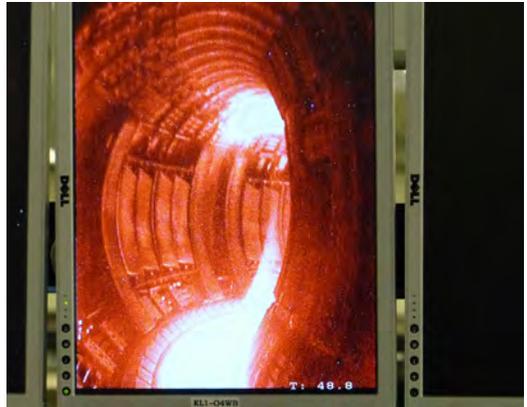
no atmospheric pollution, abundant fuels, and is inherently safe. For example, just one kilogram of fusion fuel produces the same amount of energy as 10,000,000 kilograms of fossil fuel. Both deuterium and tritium are abundant with deuterium being extracted from sea water and tritium produced in a fusion power plant from lithium metal. It is thought that the amount of lithium contained in a laptop battery combined with half a bathtub of water can produce enough fusion fuel to supply the average European person's total energy needs for 30 years!

However, the science and engineering challenges to produce a viable power plant are formidable with complex demands placed on the plant's engineers to maintain stable plasma away from materials surfaces and avoid it being cooled and contaminated. Strong magnetic fields and eventually super-conducting magnetic coils will be used to produce a toroidal or doughnut-shaped plasma controlling device called by its Russian name 'tokamak'. Culham's engineers have pioneered the use of complex mathematical modelling, remotely controlled robots and high-speed cameras operating up to 250,000 frames per second in controlling the plasma. One further challenge is to design a lithium metal blanket critical to ensuring that the energy generated by fusion far exceeds the energy required to run the reactor in the first place.

U3A members were very fortunate in being able to enter fully both of Culham's research facilities as maintenance was in progress. It is rare even for the scientists to be able to get close to the three-story house high JET machine and the UK's Mega-Amp Spherical Tokamak or MAST facility shown in our photographs. The MAST project is developing a new compact design spherical tokamak that requires fewer magnetic fields and offers better efficiency and plasma performance.

Size is everything with fusion power so the JET and MAST facilities are but just stepping stones to the next generation fusion power called ITER being built at a cost of 14 billion euros at Cadarache in southern France. ITER involves an

international team representing more than half the world's population including China, European Union, India, Japan, Korea,



Russia and the USA. It will be twice the size of the JET machine and is expected to prove the feasibility of electricity from fusion by releasing 500 megawatt of fusion power. Completion is expected in 2020. ITER represents the largest collaborative research and development project after the international space station. As such, it was a privilege for our U3A members to be shown around Culham by two



enthusiastic young scientists working at the forefront of fusion research in the UK.

Brian Chapman



The Huguenots

looked at the history of the Huguenots for a talk to the Social History Group.

Huguenots were Calvinist Protestants and first arrived in Britain from France in the mid-sixteenth century, escaping religious persecution and they also included Walloons, who came from Belgium and Northern France. The origin of the name Huguenot is unknown.



In the 1550's in France the numbers following the Protestant Faith grew and this expansion challenged the Catholic Church and resulted in the French Wars of Religion. Many Huguenots came to England after the Massacre of St. Bartholomew in 1572. The Edict of Nantes in 1598 allowed the Huguenots tolerance but the Catholic Louis XIV revoked the Edict in 1685 and persecuted French Protestants. Louis XIV had already prevented Protestants entering certain professions and billeted French soldiers (dragonnades) in wealthy Huguenot families. The Revocation in 1685 required them to convert to Catholicism and Huguenots were prohibited from leaving France. Despite this it is estimated that 200,000 -250,000 refugees fled with 40,000 – 50,000 coming to England.

Huguenots mainly concentrated in London, Canterbury, Southampton, Norwich and Bristol. Charles II had ordered funds for the refugees to be collected in every parish. On the death of Charles II in 1685 James II came to the throne and he was Catholic. On

5th November 1688 following the birth to James II of a son, James' son-in-law and nephew, William of Orange landed in Brixham to safeguard his wife Mary's (daughter of James II) Protestant succession to the throne. He gathered many Protestant supporters on his march to London and many of those who accompanied him from the Netherlands were Huguenot soldiers whose superiority to English troops was noted. James II sent his wife and son to France and eventually made his own escape to France. On 28th January 1689, Parliament declared that James had abdicated the throne and William and Mary were declared King and Queen on 13 February 1689.

Although anti-popery had been at a peak in England due to the fear of what might be done to Protestants by Catholic James II hostility of the English to foreigners was suspended for the Protestant Huguenot refugees. Also those who could afford it liked French fashion and so the new skills the Huguenots brought with them were welcomed.

There were successive Anglo French wars during the eighteenth century and Huguenots soldiers were found to be very effective soldiers on the English side. There were also several attempts by the Jacobians to restore the English throne to the Stuarts. The Huguenots identified with the Hanoverian court and were desperate not to have any restoration of the Stuarts. When the Young Pretender appeared in 1745 the Huguenots quickly promised service against him.

When the refugees came over in the late 1600's and early 1700's it is estimated they brought about £100 per head on average. This would mean the total refugee population brought £4m -£5m. As the Huguenots maintained contacts in France and internationally they re-orientated and increased English trade. They also made a major contribution to the rise

of Britain's industry.

Wealthy Huguenots brought money and other assets and invested in commercial ventures and helped poorer refugees. Artisans were the majority of refugees and they brought skills and cheap labour: Spitalfields became the centre of the Huguenot weaving industry. Here food and housing were cheaper and there was freedom from the Guilds' economic control. The Soho area was where Huguenots producing items for the aristocracy and middle classes settled. They were skilled in occupations such as gold and silversmiths, tailors, watch and clock makers, furniture makers, hairdressers, jewellers, shoemakers, and wigmakers. Huguenots with professions were clergy, doctors, merchants, soldiers and teachers.

Wealthy established Huguenots were involved in finance and of the 24 initial Directors of the Bank of England in 1694, seven came from Huguenots and Walloons: Sir John Houblon (First Governor), Sir James Houblon, Abraham Houblon, John Lordell, James Derow, Theodore Janssen and Samuel Lethieullier.

The first French Protestant church to establish in England was in London in 1550 in Threadneedle Street. A second French church was established in the Savoy in Westminster in 1661. This church used the Anglican liturgy translated into French. As more refugees arrived more Huguenot churches were established in the two areas in London where refugees were most concentrated: 9 congregations in Spitalfields and 14 in Soho by 1700. The Huguenot churches attracted refugees from specific French provinces and they provided support for new arrivals and welfare for the poor.

The Huguenots formed Friendly Societies between 1680 and 1710 and these were based on French Provinces. In 1708, Jacques de Gastigny left £1000 in his will to benefit poor refugees whom he had seen in the old Pest House in the parish of St. Giles, Cripplegate. The French hospital, "La Providence", was established in Bath Street, Finsbury. By 1723 there were 125 residents and there were between 220 and 230 for the next 70 years. Money, care and temporary treatment to the young and sick and elderly and poor was distributed among the Huguenot community. In

1862 the hospital moved to Victoria Park in Hackney and then in 1965 to Rochester in Kent. There are now 60 flats at Rochester for the elderly in need. Those who have direct descent from Huguenots can apply.

In 1767 the Westminster French Protestant School was established. This is now a foundation helping those of Huguenot descent in need of help with school fees.

Gradually the Huguenot population married British people and they became assimilated into the main population. Many French names were Anglicised. This means many Huguenot contributions go unrecognized.

However, many people today will find they have ancestors among the early French protestant refugees, particularly if these ancestors lived in the areas where the Huguenots settled. There are many records that survive from Church registers, charity and poor relief records. The Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland hold many of these records.

I have discovered that Mary Chrystie of Bookham was descended from Huguenot ancestors. This resulted in an interesting story about her ancestors' jobs and earnings, the churches they attended and the language used, where they lived plus the details of an Old Bailey Court case. This illustrated my talk about the Huguenots.

Do you descend from Huguenot ancestors?

Are you interested in Social History? Why not join the U3A Social History group?



Judith Witter

The Foundling Museum

On a bright but cold morning in February, the London Walks group, lead by Colin Jackson



met at the British Library and after a coffee and a brief look round we walked a short distance to Coram Fields where we came to the Foundlings Museum. Our excellent guide gave us a very good tour and explained



so much about the history of the foundlings and the very many wonderful exhibits in the museum.

We heard about the two most famous benefactors—William Hogarth who's many paintings were on the walls and of course George Frederick Handel who wrote the Massiah to raise funds for the foundlings. Hogarth I always think as the artist who dipicked the worst excesses of the 18th century but here were many paintings of full length portraits of the founder Thomas Coram. Both he and Coram were married but had no children, but they were heavily involved in the



Not foundlings—just attentive listeners!
Foundlings Hospital. Many of us knew about abandoned babies but we also learnt that a child could be 'donated' if, for instance, a



twelfth baby was too much to cope with the Foundling Hospital would take the child, so long as it was in good health and many parents of these children left a token that



At the Handel table chart.

would help to identify the child in the years to come. Many tokens were on display.
Maurice Baker

How to get more out of your U3A

Our U3A is a lively, vibrant organisation and a wonderful way to meet others, learn new skills, keep active both in body and mind—but how do we keep it this way?

Firstly we need everyone to be an active member—join a group (or more than one), attend the monthly meeting on a Tuesday afternoon, go on an outing or come to one of our events.

However there is more that you can do:

GROUPS

- Go on a waiting list or, if there are a number of you or it is unlikely that a vacancy will come up soon approach the groups co-ordinator to see if there are others who are interested and see if a new group can be set up.

- If you would like to do something and there isn't a group, again speak to the groups co-ordinator and see if anyone else is interested—you don't have to be a group leader but perhaps you can help with some of the organisation

VOLUNTEER TO HELP OCCASIONALLY

- Alternatively you could volunteer—some things do not require a regular commitment and you can go on a list where you will be contacted from time to time to help—this includes doing the registration at the Tuesday meeting, or perhaps help with the teas. When the list is circulated to do the vote of thanks to the speaker put your name down—it's not very onerous and you

can either choose to do a particular speaker or again be put on a "volunteer list" From time to time help is needed at our events—perhaps making sandwiches. Once a year you could take part in village day and do an hour's stint on the U3A stall. Perhaps you could spare the time to help with the distribution of Senior Moments—it is only published four times a year.

MORE REGULAR COMMITMENT

- If you are really interested in seeing our U3A develop maybe you would like to take on a role within the committee. Fresh faces and ideas will always be welcomed.

MINIMISE ADMINISTRATION

- Update your personal details—let someone on the committee know if you move, change (or get) your e-mail address or change your telephone number

- Pay your renewal subscription on time—it's **due on 1 August and the last date for payment is 31 August 2015** (for this year)

Finally, if you have access to a computer you can keep up to date with events, outings, notices, notes of meetings, group information by visiting our website: bookhamdistrictu3a.org.uk



Peter Clarke
Group co-ordinator

Lynn Farrell

Lewis Carroll in Guildford

The Digital Photography Group met in Guildford to take the Lewis Carroll (Charles Dodgson) walk through the town and learn about the author and his connections with Guildford. This very famous author was a Professor of Mathematics at Christchurch College Oxford and he wrote his world wide renowned book Alice in Wonderland in 1865, that is 150 years ago this year. He had



told the story he made up to three young girls, Ina, Edith and Alice Liddle, on a picnic outing by boat from Oxford to Godstow in 1862 and one of the girls, Alice, kept asking him to make a book of the story. The book, published in 1865, became so famous that it has been translated into very many languages and many films and even a ballet have been made from the story. He was however, not the only famous mathematician associated with Guildford. The other was Alan Turing, the founder of computer science who worked at Bletchley Park during the Second World War: and recently the subject of a film —The Imitation Game. His parents bought a house in Ennismore Avenue in 1927. Turing was away at school at Sherborne at the time, but came home to Guildford for the holidays and the school records show he borrowed Alice in Wonderland, Alice Through the Looking Glass and The Game of Logic all by Charles Dodgson,

but we do not know if he was aware that Lewis Carroll lived there over thirty years before? There is now a blue plaque on Turing's house, but nothing on the house Charles Dodgson bought for his sisters. He had 10 siblings and after his father died in 1868, he bought a house in Guildford for his unmarried sisters, six of whom remained unmarried throughout their lives. He used to stay at the house during his vacations from Oxford and as a clergyman preached at St Mary's church where eventually his funeral took place after his death from influenza in Guildford during the winter of 1898. He is buried in the Mount Cemetery.

Apart from his famous children's books and mathematics at Oxford he was



also an early photographer and a good one and that was no simple hobby in those days. Photography had been invented in England and France in the late 1830's and it involved coating glass plates with light sensitive chemicals, exposing the plates in the camera while still wet and developing and fixing

immediately to secure a permanent image. The exposures were many seconds long. The image in the camera had to be viewed upside down under a thick cloth to keep out as much light as possible from the dim inverted image on the ground glass screen. You needed to be very keen on photography to take it up as a hobby in those early days. He wrote a most amusing poem about the photographic process of the time in the style of Longfellow's famous Hiawatha poem. Not only is it amusing to read but it also explains the very real difficulties with photography in those early days.

His photography got him into scandals then and later because amongst other subjects, he liked photographing little girls in particular and sometimes without their clothes. It is said he always got their mother's permission and this was not an unusual subject at the time, another famous photographer, Julia Margaret Cameron also photographed many undressed girls but it is now certain he or any other photographers would not have been able to do that today.

The main memorials to Lewis Carroll in Guildford are two sculptures, one of Alice Through the Looking Glass in the park next to the castle park and another by the river where Alice can be seen being distracted from her sister's book by a rabbit running down a hole. Although delightful, the rabbit sculpture is far from accurate, since the book her sister is reading is obviously Alice in Wonderland which had clearly not then been written at that time and the open book also has a picture, but as we know from the story, Alice thought the book her sister was reading was boring because it had no pictures!

Alice in Wonderland was not the original title of the book, Dodgson's first title was Alice Underground, but in the 1860s the London Underground was being constructed and his publishers advised him to consider another name.

(photos by Pippa Carter & Maurice Baker)

Maurice Baker

U3A Bridge on Village Week

On Thursday 25th June in the Barn Hall at 6.15. The cost is £60 per table, including supper. Tickets will be on sale from May onward. For all those avid bridge players here is a chance to demonstrate your skills! Contact Jan Dicker on 01372 452251 or nancol@btinternet.com



All members—Don't forget!

This year and all subsequent years you must remember to renew your membership of this U3A by 31st August 2015. Failure to do so could not only invalidate your membership but also risk the insurance cover for the whole of all the groups to which you belong.

You will need your new membership card to access the Bookham U3A website (well worth doing on a regular basis) because it contains the password that changes every year..

LAST CALL FOR PLAY READING AND DRAMA GROUP I

It is with not a little sadness we have to report that this trend-setting play reading group has brought down the curtain on its dramatic performances spanning the past eleven years.

During that time we've experienced murders, adultery, mystery, mayhem and comedy while we marvelled at the brilliance of playwrights from Noel Coward to Agatha Christie and a host of theatrical legends in between. Sad? Yes, but there was always going to be a limit to the number of members able to join the casts at our monthly shows. This was due primarily to the limited number of roles written into suitable plays—especially modern works. Then, over the years, due to age and health issues people have put their books down and made their exits. Now the remaining old stagers feel they have had a good run and its time to take their final bow. No reviews to recall and no bouquets to admire but plenty of fun and lots of laughs to remember

Margaret Brazier

New members' coffee morning

In February, as usual there was a coffee morning where all the members who had joined in the last year were invited. The workings of Bookham U3A were explained and they were reminded that they were all expected to contribute in some way. Either by joining a group, attending the monthly meeting or going on an arranged outing. All the available committee members were in attendance so we had a good chance to get to know each other.



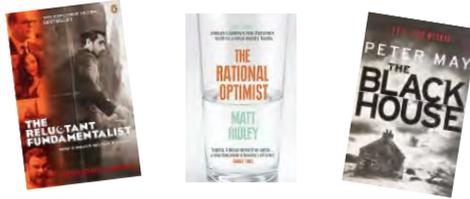
Jacquelyn & Jeremy Hodkinson



Bookham U3A's 500th member!—Nicola Hopkins

U3A Book Group 2 Average Voting Scores 2014

Book Title	Author	Style	Content	Enjoyment/Interest	Range	
The Reluctant Fundamentalist	Mohsin Hamid (2007)		7.8	8.2	8.3	6-10
The Rational Optimist (NF)	Matt Ridley (2010)		4.3	5.8	3.5	2-8
The Black House	Peter May (2011)		7	7.6	8	6-9
The Buddha in the Attic	Julie Otsuka (2011)		5.5	7.6	5.8	3-9
The Amateur Marriage	Anne Tyler (2004)		6.3	5.9	5.9	3-8
Miss Garnet's Angel	Salley Vickers (2000)		7.5	6.8	7.3	6-9
The Report	Jessica Francis Kane (2011)		6.3	6.6	6.7	3-8
Moon Tiger	Penelope Lively (1987)		7.8	8.3	8	3-9
Dissolution	C.J. Sansom (2003)		6.5	6.4	6.8	5-8
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (NF)	Maya Angelou (1969)	7.6	7.8	6.5	4-9	
The Sense of an Ending	Julian Barnes (2011)	6.5	6	6	4-9	



All except 2 of these books were written in the 21st century. Two were non-fiction, including one autobiography.

The most popular was *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. There was a wide range of opinions on *The Rational Optimist*, *The Buddha in the Attic* and *Moon Tiger*. The most consistent voting was for *Dissolution*.

We read 3 historical novels: *The Buddha in the Attic*, concerning Japanese brides of American men before and during World War 2; *Dissolution*, a 16th century murder mystery set in a monastery, and *The Report*, an account of the fatal crush in Bethnal Green tube station shelter in 1943. *The Report* raised many issues that are all too relevant today, including guilt, responsibility, prejudice against immigrants, the nature of inquiries and government attempts to cover up findings. Some of us were concerned about the



fictionalisation of a traumatic event that happened only 70 years ago, as there must still be a few survivors and more Bethnal Green families that were affected by it. This made us question historical fiction in general, however good the research, as the lines between fact and fiction are always blurred. Are we right to worry more when the novel is set within living memory? Perhaps the other two Book Reading Groups will have an opinion on this.

Anne Eagle

U3A Luncheon and Afternoon Bridge Drive

By the time you read this report it will seem a long time ago but unfortunately this event



Alma & Graham Nicholls

happened just after the previous Senior Moments went to print.

Once again the Annual Bridge and Lunch was held at Clandon Regis Golf Club on the 14th January, 2015 and organised by Alma and Graham Nicholls.

64 members enjoyed a scrumptious lunch and an afternoon of Bridge at which Heather Maurice and her partner Christine Jones won with a score of £3,850 – also making 6 hearts.

Long may this event continue and well done Alma and Graham with many thanks.

A monthly speaker

I thought that the speaker, Mel Rees gave a very entertaining talk re "My Family & Other Set Backs"



The audience seemed to appreciate his humour as to how he talked about his family & many other subjects.

Due to lack of interest by possible publishers he published his first book himself. It went into reprint !

As you can see from the next picture he has now published quite a collection, some



of which have won awards.

He also records some of his output on CDs

Ruth Aldridge

Monthly meetings can be well worth attending. Ed

Guildhall London walk

The march London walk was to Guildhall and we had a superb guide to show us around and explain many of the traditions and customs associated with



Guildhall and the city of London..

Our very knowledgeable guide had a ready



fund of famous quotes we use today but are not always certain of their origin. The only ones I can now remember are 'swinging the lead' that was a naval term for the junior sailor who was supposed to be measuring



the depth of water around the ship and did not always drop the lead weight to the bottom. 'Money for old rope' apparently originated from the hangman who went to the pub after he had finished his work and sold pieces of the rope he had been using earlier!



We also learnt about the guilds and freeman of the city's rights. The Guild of Mercers was one of the oldest guilds and many still have their



own fine halls in the city of London. The tour included a visit to the crypt that is not seen by most visitors to the Guildhall.



The Big Painting Challenge

This prime time TV programme on Sunday evenings has just finished and while most would agree that the winner was fully justified, it is most encouraging to know that many of the members of the Monday Painting Workshop group would certainly not been out of place had any of them taken part and some would most surely have challenged the winner.. What do you think?



A pastel drawing by Gillian Feary



Brian Whittet's watercolour



Pencil drawing by Rita Pitcher



An oil painting by Patricia Stevens



An acrylic painting by Eric Flint



Painting Workshop Artists at work

Out & About with Bookham U3A

OUTINGS & THEATRE VISITS

Telephone Sheila Pomfret – 01372 454706

Theatre matinees at Woking by coach from Bookham

(discounted tickets may be available without transport if you wish to make your own way

Wed 6 May DEAD SIMPLE—stage adaptation of one of crime writer Peter James's novels. Detective Roy Grace attempts to solve the mystery of a missing man who seems to have been buried alive. Will Roy get there in time? Stalls seats and coach from Bookham £25

Wed 20 May THE PRODUCERS—revival of the 2004 musical success featuring two theatrical producers scheming to get rich quick, but a hilarious situation develops when things go awry. Circle seats+coach from Bookham £25

Matinee at the National Theatre (travel by train)

Wed 1 July THE BEAU STRATAGEM "a wild comedy of love and hate" written in the eighteenth century and adapted to entertain a contemporary audience. £16

Matinee at Chichester (note corrected date)

Thurs 23 July MACK & MABEL—We have a reservation for this year's popular musical at the Chichester Festival Theatre, starring Michael Ball. It is based on a true love story and is described as "a tribute to the grit and glamour of the era of silent movies." Coach leaves Bookham 09.30 to reach Chichester in time for lunch or picnic, shop or look around before the start. Coach+ticket £50 or £31

Tues 12-Sun 17 May HOLIDAY by coach to explore areas of **NORFOLK & SUFFOLK** 6 days/5 nights Half-board accommodation at 3* George Hotel, Norwich. Itinerary includes visits to Snape Maltings, (Aldeburgh, Constable country, Bickling Hall, Feldbrigg, Melford Hall, Oxburgh and a paddle-boat on the Broads.

U3A SURREY NETWORK STUDY DAYS at the Menuhin Hall

Friday 15 May 2015	The Story of Stonehenge
Friday 19 June 2015	Galloping Through Philosophy

U3A Monthly Meetings

Tuesday 05 May 2015	Bugs, Plagues and Pestilence
Tuesday 27 May 2015	International Food and Wine Fair
Tuesday 02 June 2015	The Story of Epsom Coaches
Tuesday 07 July 2015	The Bare Bones of London



Group Leaders meeting



Some conviviality after the main business