

NEWS BULLETIN

SUMMER STROLLING ON HISTORIC BOX HILL



40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE U3A MOVEMENT

You may have wondered why Bookham u3a has not been participating in the 40th anniversary celebrations of the u3a movement. Look on the national u3a website or read *Third Age Matters* and you could not avoid the celebration events.

Here in Bookham, we of

course welcome the 40th anniversary and continue to support the principles of the u3a movement. However, it was only four years ago that we celebrated our own Silver Anniversary and Bookham u3a is an independent organisation affiliated to the

Continued on Page 2

Muriel Barnish led Walking Group 4 on a glorious trip to Box Hill on Thursday, 7 July. Shown above from the left are Pam Hyde, Frank Cross, Cynthia Watson, Benita and Chris Middleton, Muriel, Jan Hudson with her little dog Katie, and David Hyde.

(Photo by Val Cross.)

Continued on Page 2.

40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE U3A MOVEMENT

Continued from Page 1.

national movement.

We celebrated in style in 2018 but with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee occurring this year, we wanted to avoid celebration overload and confusion.

Bookham u3a could not have been 25 years old in 2018 and now be 40 years old too. When Bookham u3a reaches its own Ruby Anniversary in 2033 there will be time to prepare and enjoy properly.

BOOKHAM FOOD FESTIVAL IS BACK

Bookham Food Festival will be held at the Old Barn Hall and field on Saturday, 10 September from noon until 9pm.

A Wellbeing Zone will be added for the first time this year, supplementing the usual family activities, music, cooking demonstrations, local produce stalls and licensed bar.



SUMMER STROLLING ON HISTORIC BOX HILL

Continued from Page 1.

Katie was on her lead throughout to ensure she kept pace with everyone but she really enjoyed being in a wide variety of habitat. Her breed is a mystery as she is a rescue dog from Romania. Although known to be at least 13 years old she still acts like a puppy at times and was especially happy to dine in the café after the walk.

The group followed the National Trust *Happy Valley Walk* which took them to the Broadwood Tower folly and Juniper Hall where French aristocratic emigrés from the Revolution lived in the 1790s. General Alexandre d'Arbly met the novelist Fanny Burney there. They married in 1793 and their son Alexander was born the following year. They lived for a time at The Hermitage in Lower Road, Bookham, and also at Camilla Cottage in Westhumble. Fanny was especially close to Mrs Frederica Locke of Norbury Park House.

Juniper Hall was later owned by Thomas Broadwood, son of John Broadwood and a member of the piano manufacturing family Broadwood and Sons. There was a musical connection between the family and Ralph Vaughan Williams who composed *The Lark Ascending* there. The house was occupied by the Canadian army in World War 2 in the build up to the Normandy landings.

From Box Hill the spire of St Barnabas Church was visible on Ranmore. This was built by George Cubitt, 1st Baron Ashcombe (1828-1917) and son of Thomas Cubitt (1788-1855), the leading London builder and property developer of his day who built Denbies House, his home next door and now the famous vineyard. Thomas Cubitt also redesigned Polesden Lacey. George Cubitt, who is buried in the churchyard, was the great great grandfather of Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall.

Hunger at the end of their walk stopped the group visiting Swiss Cottage on Box Hill which was rented in 1929 by John Logie Baird, inventor of the first working television system. He built a small electricity generating plant in an outbuilding to provide electrical power for his experiments. One of the first test transmissions was to the roof of the Red Lion Hotel in Dorking High Street.

The walking group's future plans are fluid as they continue to work around rail disruption and Covid concerns. This month they are following a heritage trail in Epsom and a walk around the embassies of Kensington is planned.

Registered Charity No 1036386

WHY NOT USE THE *NEWS BULLETIN* TO PROMOTE YOUR OWN U3A GROUP?

Has your group done something interesting recently? Would other Bookham u3a members be interested in your news? Or do you have vacancies to fill which would help strengthen your group? If so, you can use this monthly News Bulletin to reach our whole membership and attract the attention you need. Try contacting Tony Matthews, Editor, at newsletter@bookhamu3a.org.uk. The more we all share, the more we get to know about Bookham u3a and its potential for future growth.

BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION FOR U3A FRENCH GROUPS

For the second year running on 14 July - Le Quatorze Juillet - Judy Smith and husband Nigel hosted a memorable Bastille Day celebration lunch at their home for members of the two u3a French language groups.

Le soleil brillait (the sun shone) as everyone gathered in their garden to enjoy some select French-style dishes - some shown below - followed by two delicious desserts prepared especially by a group member.

To complete the mood, there was a rousing performance of *La Marseillaise*, the French national anthem, as tales were exchanged of past holidays in La Belle France.

There has been a decline in group numbers and Judy is keen to encourage more u3a members to try their hand at simple French, however rusty. To help inspire, see those

w o r d s
shown over-
leaf. **Page 4.**



Registered Charity No 1036386

WORDS OF *LA MARSEILLAISE*

EN FRANCAIS

Allons enfants de la patrie,
Le jour de gloire est arrivé !
Contre nous de la tyrannie
L'étendard sanglant est levé !
L'étendard sanglant est levé !

Entendez-vous dans les
campagnes,
Mugir ces féroces soldats ?
Ils viennent jusque dans
nos bras
Égorger nos fils, nos
compagnes!

*Aux armes, citoyens!
Formez vos bataillons!
Marchons! Marchons!
Qu'un sang impur
Abreuve nos sillons!*

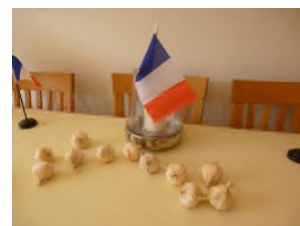
*Aux armes, citoyens!
Formez vos bataillons!
Marchons! Marchons!
Qu'un sang impur
Abreuve nos sillons!*

IN ENGLISH

Let's go children of the fatherland,
The day of glory has arrived!
Against us tyranny's
Bloody flag is raised!
Bloody flag is raised!
In the countryside, do you hear
The roaring of these fierce soldiers?
They come right to our arms
To slit the throats of our sons,
of our friends!

*Grab your weapons, citizens!
Form your battalions!
Let us march! Let us march!
May impure blood
Water our fields!*

*Grab your weapons, citizens!
Form your battalions!
Let us march! Let us march!
May impure blood
Water our fields!*



QUIZ NIGHT WITH FISH & CHIP SUPPER

(Vegetarian, gluten-free
and vegan options all
available)

When: 11 October
Where: Old Barn Hall
Time: 7 pm
Quiz to start 7.30 pm

Tables: Up to 8 people
Cost: £15
with payment by
card preferred

Tickets: Available at the
meeting on 6 September.



Registered Charity No 1036386

WHAT KIND OF U3A DO WE WANT TO SEE IN THE FUTURE?

In the monthly digital *u3a Newsletter* circulated to members nationally, Third Age Trust Chair Liz Thackeray asked the above question. She wrote:

Last autumn the u3a initiated a strategy review focusing on the future of the u3a – its image and direction of development. We know our membership took a hit during the pandemic but the good news is that many u3as are growing again.

If we want a growing and thriving movement that is fit for the future and relevant to those entering their third age, we need to ensure the wider movement is properly supported financially, and that means ensuring the national u3a is properly funded.

Increasing the membership subscription is something nobody really wants to do, especially at a time when we are all facing increasing costs that are putting pressure on all our purses.

The subscription paid by u3as to the trust has always been contentious. Unlike most similar voluntary organisations, the u3a does not have the power to impose subscription increases on members. The members decide on any increases, and there is a resolution going to the AGM proposing an increase in the membership subscription paid by u3as to the trust.

As Eric Midwinter, one of the founders of the u3a movement in the UK, wrote many years ago, imposing increases is not the u3a way: “True to its belief in the primacy of the local unit, the national u3a had never for a moment considered that over-mighty route.”

He went on to quote a colleague: “...it is one thing to be locally autonomous. It is another if autonomy is claimed in order to imply that local u3as can feel free of any obligation to the larger movement.”

So, what kind of u3a do we want to see in

the future and are we prepared to pay to make it happen?

Several trustee-led presentations are taking place on the proposed resolutions and the thinking behind them. Members are invited to register to attend one of these at 10.30am on Wednesday 3 August or 10.30am on Monday 15 August. Go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/agm-2022>. To email questions or comments after the event, go to agm@u3a.org.uk

U3A SHARES LEARNING WITH TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

More than 50 u3a members from across the UK have been working with TfL’s corporate archives to develop and deliver the Revealing the Past Minutes Transcription and Indexing Project. The project is in the running for the Record Keeping Project of the Year Award.

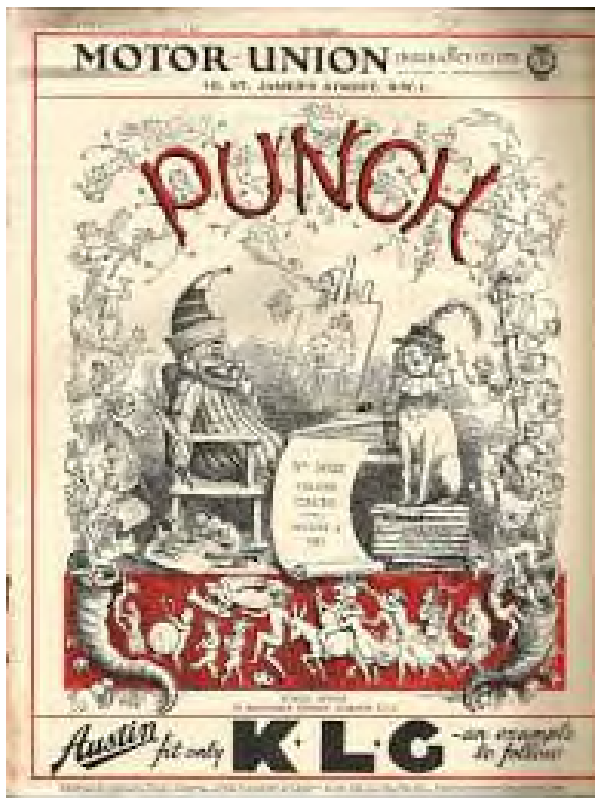
The challenge was to transcribe, index and catalogue minute books covering the early years of the Underground Electric Companies, so that the contents can be made available to the public for interest and research.

Volunteers got involved in recording, collating and developing a number of interesting topics arising from the transcriptions. These range from the pay and conditions of staff to dubious career histories of highly paid directors, female employment, World War 1, strikes and influenza.

There is also detailed information about technical and planning issues and operations arising from the development of the underground lines.

Jo, Shared Learning Projects Coordinator, said: “Although this was originally conceived as a London Region SLP, circumstances have meant the project has been undertaken remotely. This has enabled us to welcome members from across the country, as well as a number of London u3as.

COMING TALKS IN THE OLD BARN HALL THIS YEAR



**Tuesday, 6 September: Ian Keable
The History of Cartoons**

Cartoons became standard in *Punch* magazine from the 1840s but Hogarth and Gillray employed satire, caricature, speech bubbles and captions long before then. Masters of the craft have since included John Tenniel, John Leech, David Low, Vicky, Ronald Searle, Giles, Heath Robinson, Gerald Scarfe, Steve Bell and Peter Brookes among others.

**Tuesday, 4 October: Paul Barfield
The mysterious death of MI6 spy Gareth Williams**

In August 2010 Gareth failed to return to work at MI6 HQ in Vauxhall after annual leave.. Police found him dead in his flat inside a large sports bag, padlocked from the outside and placed in his bath. The flat

was locked from the outside. The speaker delves beneath the media headlines into the world of international espionage. Who would want to kill this mild-mannered maths genius? A former policeman, Paul recalls how events unfolded to a disbelieving world. We ask if this was a tragic accident, a deliberate act by Gareth or something a lot more sinister. We look at the part played by MI6 and the police enquiry and ask whether international agents had a hand in his demise.

Tuesday, 1 November: Neil Hanson Ghostwriting

Author Neil Hanson has led an extraordinary life but as a professional ghost-writer of over 60 published books, he has also worked with a remarkably diverse collection of fascinating people. His clients include household names, among them an American showbiz legend, England's most famous cricketer, a famous actor, one of Britain's most decorated soldiers and an England football manager. Others include SAS men, fast-jet pilots, explorers and adventurers, a treasure diver, a kidnap negotiator, a hugely successful businessman, a spy, a notorious gangster, an around the world walker, a submariner, a maxillofacial surgeon and many more.

Tuesday, 6 December: Jacques Arnold The House of Windsor

Jacques Arnold, author of the *Royal Houses of Europe* series of genealogical books, draws on a lifetime interest initially encouraged by Lord Mountbatten when Jacques was a school-boy 40 years ago. He is now one of Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenants of Kent. He will provide a wealth of interesting anecdotes, drawing on European history with all its dramas and personal triumphs and tragedies.

Registered Charity No 1036386

SURREY u3a NETWORK

STUDY DAYS AT THE MENUHIN HALL

Study days at the Yehudi Menuhin Hall have returned to their pre-pandemic popularity over the past year since September 2021. The main difference is that u3a members are now welcome both in the hall as before but also remotely online.

Advertising & Booking

The practice of applying by post or by email continues, with booking responses being sent as members choose, while payment can be made by cheque or bank transfer.

The organisers have discussed using on-line booking and consider this their likely next step but the workload in setting up the programme for 2022 and 2023 has been their first priority.

They advertise the study days with full details and booking forms on the website - <http://u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/> and also circulate the information electronically to all u3as in Surrey Network and surrounding areas.

In the past they posted booking forms to all those u3as but as most members have Internet access and due to the work involved, they have decided to discontinue that service.

They have been electronically circulating a poster to advertise the forthcoming programme on display

Coming up:

16 September
Voices from Ancient Mesopotamia
Presenter: Dr Irving Finkel (see page opposite)

21 October
Eureka - A Brief History of Maths from 3000 BC to 2000 AD
Presenter: Roger Luther

18 November
Industrial Archaeology at 50
Presenters: Professor David Perrett & Professor Martin

21 April 2023
The Story of Polar Exploration & the Recent Impact of Security Considerations & Climate Change
Presenters: John Ash & Robert Headland, Scott Polar Research Institute

19 May 2023
The Dead Sea Scrolls
Presenter: Professor Hugh Williamson

16 June 2023
The Vikings & Their Influence in the World
Presenter: Imogen Corrigan

boards or websites and this will continue.

The booking fee was £9 when the study days started in 2004 and has been £10 for the last five years. The fee has risen to £12 in 2022 with the virtual attendance fee staying at £5. The fee for guests rose to £15.

Nut Allergies

The Menuhin School has pupils who have an allergic reaction to nuts. The staff have taken the decision to

make the school and the Menuhin Hall a nut-free environment. Please ensure that your lunch does not contain any trace of nuts.

Disabled Parking

There are six spaces behind the hall and more in the main car park. If you have a blue badge and need level access to the hall, tick 'Disabled Parking' on the booking slip; you will then be allocated a space at

Continued on Page 8.

Continued from Page 7.

the back of the hall and sent a permit. There is a drop-off space with level access to the hall.

Wheelchair Spaces

If you need a seat removed in the hall to accommodate a wheelchair, please tick 'Wheelchair' on the booking slip.

Appreciation of Team Members and Plea for Support

Over the period of lockdown the organisers were very sad to hear that four team members had passed away due to various causes. They wish to acknowledge the valuable support the four gave for many years:

Alison Gaitonde, Banstead u3a; John Harbridge, Dorking u3a; Sheila Hill, Fetcham u3a; and Sheila Pomfret, Bookham u3a.

The study days have been running successfully for 18 years and new volunteers with ideas for the future programme and the energy to help run the days will be made very welcome.

The website is based on the u3a software Site Builder. As a transfer to a new system is required in 2023 some extra support for the website would be very welcome.

Please contact Surrey Network Chairman, Caroline Sawers, on 01483 560590.

VOICES FROM ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

Friday, 16 September 2022.

Speaker – Dr Irving Finkel, The British Museum

This four-part study day is an eye-opening introduction to the world of ancient Mesopotamia, using cuneiform writing and inscriptions with surprising results. Dr Finkel will show that, thanks to their own words, long-dead Sumerians, Assyrians and Babylonians are surprisingly accessible and even familiar to us, when you look carefully.

Dr Finkel is a British philologist and Assyriologist. He is currently Senior Assistant Keeper of Ancient Mesopotamian script, languages and cultures at the Department of the Middle East in the British Museum. A specialist in cuneiform inscriptions on tablets of clay, he is the author of several books of children's fiction. Books on his specialist subject include *The Ark Before Noah: Decoding the Story of the Flood* (2014) and *The First Ghosts: Most Ancient of Legacies* (2021). He has also been involved in YouTube videos and TV programmes on cuneiform tablet findings.

Programme

9.30 Registration

10.00 **The Wonder of Cuneiform** - What cuneiform writing is, how it came into being, and the extraordinary range of exciting documents that have come down to us. Also, how clay tablets excavated from ancient Iraq present us with the oldest words and ideas, beliefs and fears.

11.00 Coffee/tea

11.30 **The First Ghosts** - The subject of the speaker's recent book, this talk uses a special group of cuneiform tablets to look at this most ancient case of belief in ghosts and how Mesopotamian exorcist specialists dealt with them, or called them up to answer questions.

12.30 Lunch – Bring your own. Tea/coffee available

1.30 **The Ark Before Noah** - In another book the speaker described how a cuneiform tablet from 1800 BC came to light with instructions for building a great boat against the imminent flood to safeguard animal life, ancestral to the Noah story in the *Book of Genesis*. The details were so exact that a modern replica of this ancient craft was built, as shown in a TV documentary.

2.30 Tea/coffee

3.00 **The Ark Affair: The Consequences** - Discovery of this new pre-Biblical ark narrative from Mesopotamia provoked many reactions around the world, with rank opposition from fundamentalists and other interested partners. The day

will conclude with a humorous look at some of the speaker’s experiences in this regard and consider the role of truth in a world where logic and accuracy have to fight to be heard.

4.00 Departure

To book, u3a members

should send the completed slip below to Denise Dobbs, u3a, 5 Aldridge Rise, New Malden KT3 5RJ with a cheque for £12 or £5 for Virtual Attendance or £15 for a Guest, payable to Surrey u3a Network. Denise is available on telephone

07964 798791 or by email to surreyu3astudyday@btinternet.com.

Alternatively, pay by bank transfer to HSBC Account Number 11519018 Sort Code 40-27-07, Event Reference Sep 22. Enclose an SAE or email address for confirmation.

VOICES FROM ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA, 16 September 2022

Member £12 Guest £15 Virtual Attendance £5

Please Tick

Attend Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	Virtually	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email	<input type="checkbox"/>	SAE	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cheque	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bank Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/>

Title . . . First Name Surname Name of u3a
 Address
 Post Code Telephone E-mail

Do you need disabled parking A wheelchair space in the hall

Location - The Menuhin Hall, Cobham Rd, Stoke d'Abemon, Surrey KT11 3QQ. Map Ref: TQ 132 579 on Landranger 187 & Explorer 146

Contact details on-day-only 07763 805046 or Menuhin Hall Box Office 01932 559400. There is a garden centre (01932 862530) about 800 metres

north of the hall where light lunches are available and reservations not required.

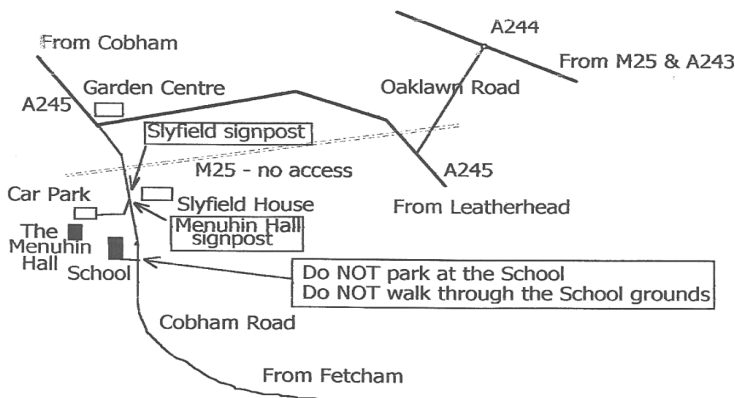
The Menuhin School was founded in 1962 in London and moved to its present site in 1964. It has around 80 pupils, learning to play stringed instruments including piano and is financed, in part, by the DfE.

Lord Menuhin was born in New York 22 April 1916 of Russian parentage and died 12 March 1999 in Berlin.

His first public concert was in March 1924 and his first in Europe, in Paris, in 1927. His performance of Elgar’s *Violin Concerto* was recorded at the Abbey Road Studios in 1932.

The Menuhin Hall, designed by Mark Foley, was conceived as a memorial to Yehudi and was handed to the school on 5 August 2005 with an official opening on 7 January 2006.

Yehudi is buried in front of the building near an oak tree he planted on his 80th birthday. Our first Study Day was on 14 October 2005.



Registered Charity No 1036386

ATTAINING AND MAINTAINING HEALTH IN THE THIRD AGE

**Professor Norman R Lazarus of the Centre for Human Applied and
Physiological Sciences, Guy's Hospital and Kings College London.**

2pm Thursday, 8 September 2022 at

St Mary's Church Hall, 10a Ridgeway, Fetcham, Surrey KT22 9AZ

Organised by Surrey u3a about physical exercise and your name or names and
Network for all members and how it helps healthy ageing. u3a name to surreyu3a-
those who want to learn more No charge but please email tudyday@btinternet.com

YOUR OPTIONS FOR GROUP MEETINGS

Please go to the website to ensure you connect to the latest information on each group.

CODE	GROUP NAME	WEEK IN MONTH	DAY	TIME
His12	3E London	Fourth	Wednesday	AM
Art06	Architectural History	Fourth	Thursday	PM
Art02	Art Appreciation 2	Third	Monday	PM
Art03	Art Appreciation 3	Third	Tuesday	PM
Bee01	Beer Appreciation	Second	Wednesday	PM
Eng07	Book Reading 1	First	Thursday	PM
Eng08	Book Reading 2	Second	Thursday	PM
Eng12	Book Reading 3	Third	Tuesday	PM
Eng10	Book Reading 4	Second	Tuesday	AM
Bri01	Bridge 1	Weekly	Monday	AM
Bri03	Bridge 3	Weekly	Monday	AM
Bri04	Bridge 4	Weekly	Tuesday	AM
Bri05	Bridge 5	Weekly	Thursday	AM
Bri06	Bridge 6	Weekly	Friday	AM
Bri07	Bridge 7	Weekly	Thursday	AM
Bri0x	Bridge All Groups	Weekly	Various	AM
Bri08	Bridge Beginners/Improvers	Weekly	Wednesday	AM
Can01	Canasta 1	Second + Fourth	Wednesday	PM
Can02	Canasta 2	Second	Tuesday	PM
Cra07	Card Making	Last	Thursday	PM
Ch01	Chess	When required	TBC	PM
IT03	Computing Workshop	Second	Thursday	AM
Cra01	Crafts	First + Third	Tuesday	AM
Cra08	Creative Embroidery	First	Monday	AM
Eng03	Creative Writing	Every Other	Friday	AM
Cro01	Croquet (April to Oct)	Various	Various	AM
CA01	Current Affairs	Second	Wednesday	PM
Cyc01	Cycling	First + Third	Friday	AM
Wal03	Easy Rambling	Second + Fourth	Tuesday	AM
His10	Family History	Third	Monday	AM
Cra06	Flower Arranging	First	Thursday	AM
Fre01	French Conversation	Second + Fourth	Wednesday	AM
Fre04	French Intermediate	Second + Fourth	Thursday	AM
Gar03	Gardening 03	Second	Wednesday	PM
His22	History	Second + Fourth	Wednesday	PM
Dan01	Line Dancing	Weekly	Wednesday	PM
Dan02	Line Dancing Beginners	Weekly	Wednesday	PM
His11	London Walks	Third	Wednesday	AM
His13	London Walks 3	Third	Thursday	AM
His15	London Walks 4	First	Thursday	AM
His17	London Walks 5	Third	Friday	AM

Registered Charity No 1036386

CODE	GROUP NAME	WEEK IN MONTH	DAY	TIME
His18	London Walks 6	Third	Thursday	AM
zz01	Qigong	Weekly	Monday	PM
Mah01	Mah-jong	Weekly	Friday	PM
Met01	Metal Detecting	Second + Fourth	Wednesday	PM
His08	Military History	Fourth	Tuesday	PM
Wal04	Morning Hikes	Second	Wednesday	AM
Sci06	Ornithology & Botany	Second	Tuesday	PM
Art04	Painting Workshop	Weekly	Monday	AM
Per01	Phoenix Entertainment	Weekly	Thursday	PM
Pho01	Photography	Fourth	Wednesday	AM
Eng11	Play Reading	Fourth	Monday	PM
Eng01	Poetry Appreciation	Second	Thursday	PM
Zz01	Qigong	Weekly	Monday	PM
Sci01	Science & Technology 1	Second	Thursday	AM
Sci02	Science & Technology 2	Fourth	Thursday	PM
Sci03	Science & Technology 3	Third	Wednesday	PM
Scr01	Scrabble	When required	Various	PM
His16	Social History 1	Second	Monday	AM
His20	Social History 2	First	Monday	PM
Ten01	Table Tennis	Weekly	Monday	PM
Ten02	Table Tennis Summer	Weekly	Monday	PM
TC01	Tai Chi 1	Weekly	Thursday	AM
TC02	Tai Chi 2	When Required	N/A	AM
The01	Theatre Interest	When Required	Various	PM
Tra01	Travel Experiences	Third	Tuesday	PM
Mus11	Ukulele	Second + Fourth	Thursday	AM
Gar02	Vegetable Gardening	Second	Saturday	AM
Wal02	Walking 12km	First	Friday	AM
Wal01	Walking 7km	Second + Fourth	Friday	AM
Win02	Wine Appreciation 2	Fourth	Wednesday	PM
Win03	Wine Appreciation 3	Second	Tuesday	PM
Win04	Wine Appreciation 4	Third	Monday	PM
Win05	Wine Appreciation 5	Fourth	Monday	PM
Win06	Wine Appreciation 6	When Required	N/A	PM

SITUATION VACANT

Please contact Chris Middleton at chairman@bookhamu3a.org.uk or call him on 01372 454107 for more information on the role below. This is becoming increasingly urgent. At the July Committee meeting Chris stated that if no Vice-Chairman was forthcoming before April 2023 he would propose closure of Bookham & District u3a as its charitable status could not be maintained.

VICE-CHAIRMAN

A Vice-Chairman is needed who will deputise for the Chairman and be able to fill that role when the current period of office expires. The Chairman has the following roles:

- Maintain the objectives/purposes of the u3a.
- Preserve order at meetings/ensure the correct procedure is followed and agenda covered
- Guide discussions in a positive manner while allowing different points to be expressed
- Encourage audience participation in discussion and decision-making
- Draw discussions to a conclusion and summarise for audience votes where required.
- Ensure decisions are followed through.

Registered Charity No 1036386

TRIP TO BLENHEIM PALACE AT CHRISTMAS



Leatherhead u3a has arranged a special one-day trip to Blenheim Palace at Woodstock in Oxfordshire on Wednesday, 23 November, and members of Bookham u3a are invited to join them.

The birthplace and ancestral home of Sir Winston Churchill, Blenheim is the seat of the Dukes of Marlborough and has been described as the only true palace in England without either royal or church links. One of the country's largest houses, it was built between 1705 and 1722. It was named after the Battle of Blenheim in 1704 where the first Duke of Marlborough, John Churchill, beat the French and the Bavarians in the War of the Spanish Succession. In 1987 the palace was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The palace will be decorated for its special *Blenheim at Christmas* event and there will be a market selling festive goods, food and drink as well as an Illuminated Trail.

The coach is expected to leave Leatherhead at around 10.30 am, stopping at Oxford Services for lunch (at your own cost) and arriving in time to enter the palace at 2.15 pm. As it gets darker the group will be able to stroll around the market stalls and enjoy all the illuminations. The return journey is expected about 6 pm, returning to Leatherhead by 8 pm but timings will be finalised on the day.

The palace has provided a group concession for 30 people which will bring the cost to £70 each, not including lunch.

Email murielaroberts@btinternet.com for details of how and when payment is due.