

NEWS BULLETIN

JOIN THE BATTLE TO SAVE BRITAIN'S BUMBLEBEES

DR NIKKI GAMMANS of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust delivered a powerful November talk about the campaign to save Britain's bees after the disastrous decline of recent years.

A Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society, she is project manager for the re-introduction of the short haired bumblebee in Kent and East Sussex. This is one of two native bumblebee species to have gone extinct. It was last spotted in 1988 at Dungeness.

Dr Gammans first became fascinated in social insects when studying biology and ecology at university in



Edinburgh. Her doctorate was on ants and seed dispersal, her post-doctorate the invasion of European ants in North America.

She explained that there were over 250 bee species in Britain, including 24 remaining species of bumblebee. Honeybees were another species and the rest all species of solitary bee such as leafcutter, mason and mining bees.

While solitary bees were



more efficient pollinators and honeybees were domesticated to produce honey, beeswax and royal jelly in their huge and complex societies, bumblebees were essential for pollinating crops and wildflowers.

With 97% of wildflower meadows lost since World War 2, bumblebee numbers had declined dramatically through loss of their food sources. Eight others among the 24 species were also now rare. **Continued overleaf.**

COMMITTEE EXPANSION AT AGM

Four new members were elected on to the Bookham u3a Committee at this month's 28th Annual General Meeting on 2 November. A fifth was co-opted to attend meetings when appropriate.

Liz Looney became Joint Membership Secretary with Pam Hyde. Brian Williams took the new role of Assistant Groups Coordinator, working with Mike Farrell. Carol Stilwell joined as Webmaster with continuing assistance from Harold Reglar. Michelle Howes organises Online Meetings via Zoom. Additionally, Tony Matthews, Editor of *Bookham u3a News Bulletin*, was

co-opted to the Committee for occasional meetings. See the full Committee list on Page 14.

Once again, as in October, there was a slight shortfall on the 105 members - 20% of the Bookham u3a total - needed at the Barn Hall for an AGM quorum but this time the rules did not require it so the election was able to proceed anyway.

Chairman Chris Middleton said there had been a 17% reduction in members overall since March 2020, roughly in line with the average for u3as nationally. The need for a Vice-Chairman was also mentioned.

Continued from Page 1.

The short-haired bumblebee (*Bombus subterraneus*) was once widespread across southern England and found as far north as Humberside. But from the 1950s, its population distribution became isolated and patchy. Its decline resulted from the loss of the species-rich grassland habitats on which it depends. It was declared extinct in 2000.

The short-haired bumblebee reintroduction project aims to reintroduce this lost species, raise awareness of bumblebee and flower meadow declines generally, increase rare bumblebee populations, and recreate and advise on managing flower-rich areas.

The project has been running since 2009 and works with farmers, conservation groups, smallholders and other landowners to create flower-rich habitat within a release area of Dungeness and Romney Marsh in Kent and East Sussex.

This is now the trust's longest running project. Sweden has one of Europe's only surviving populations of the short-haired bumblebee and the aim is to reintroduce a population from there.

Recreating essential habitat is the key aim and since 2012, available land for the project where owners and farmers are being advised by the trust has grown from 100 to 2460 hectares.



Our gardens have a crucial role in linking food source habitats for bumblebees. Wildflowers, fruit trees, and long flowering plantings are key, however large our outdoor space may be. Even balconies, patios and hanging baskets can make a difference.



Monitoring has shown that several other species of rare bumblebees have increased as a result of the project. On nature reserves, their numbers are up eight-fold with both advice and planting.

The rare Ruderal bumblebee has increased the most. Dungeness is now one of the

country's best places for the species. With the right levels of pollen and nectar and the end of pesticides, rare bumblebees have been recorded in areas where they had not been seen for up to 25 years. More information at www.bumblebeeconservation.org

WARM WELCOME FOR NEW MEMBERS

Fourteen new members met at a special welcome on 20 October. Bookham u3a Chairman Chris Middleton explained the many activities.



COMING MONTHLY TALKS AT THE OLD BARN HALL

TUESDAY, 7 DECEMBER

A MISCELLANY OF POETRY AND PROSE FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

JONATHAN JONES took early retirement in 2010, after a career in IT, quality assurance and process improvement, latterly with Vodafone UK. He became a public speaker/performer and has now delivered over 800 talks, the last to our group two years ago.

We will hear the following: *T'was The Night Before Christmas*, Clement Clark Moore; *Advent 1955*, John Betjeman; *The Nativity - St Luke, Chapter 2, Verses 1-20*; *The Journey of the Magi*, T S Eliot; *Nursery School Nativity Play*, Joyce Grenfell; *The Throwing of the Christmas Trees from A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Betty Smith; *Christmas 1914*, Rifleman Graham Williams; *Christmas*, John Betjeman; *The Boy who Laughed at Santa Claus*, Ogden Nash; *Talking Turkeys*, Benjamin Zephaniah; *Sam's Christmas Pudding*, Marriott Edgar; *Twelve Days of Christmas – A Correspondence*, John Julius Norwich; *A New Nativity*, Alan Titchmarsh; *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, Dylan Thomas

Optional additional prose/poetry may include: *The Carol Singers* from *Cider With Rosie*, Laurie Lee; *The Adoration of the Magi*, Christopher Pilling; *The Shepherd's Tale*, James Kirkup; *The Carol Singers* from *The Wind In The Willows*, Kenneth Graeme; *A Carol of the Poor Children*, Richard Middleton; *Yes Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus*, Francis Pharcellus Church; *Eddi's Service*, Rudyard Kipling; and finally *Christmas Landscape* and *Twelfth Night*, both by Laurie Lee.

Tuesday, 4 January 2022:	George Lockwood	Flowers for all the year round
Tuesday, 1 February:	June Davey	West Horsley Place : The history of the house and its future
Tuesday, 1 March:	Alan Jones	Look into my eyes
Tuesday, 5 April:	Mary Smith	A Schoolgirl's War
Tuesday, 3 May:	Howard Smith	Picture Post
Tuesday, 7 June:	Fran Needham	My Walk across Africa
Tuesday, 5 July:	John Griffiths-Colby	Nurse Emily Connell's Autograph Book (2nd part of the Sapper Clay trilogy)

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YOUTUBE PODCASTS ON U3A PEOPLE AND ACTIVITIES EVERY MONTH

In case you were not aware of them, you can now listen to regular u3a radio podcasts covering the full range of subjects and areas of special interest of u3as throughout the country.

The podcasts on YouTube go out every 17th of the month. In the October podcast, the presentation team talked to a u3a geologist about his adventures while travelling the world and to the winners of the u3a creative writing competition among others.

You can hear the podcasts on **YouTube** at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheU3a>

SOUTH EAST REGION: VIRTUAL AUTUMN GATHERING ‘WORKING TOGETHER’

Meeting online on Wednesday, 17 November from 9.30am to 1pm, this event will be of interest to anyone interested in the u3a future. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/autumn-gathering-ser-working-together-tickets-174364818867>

Keynote speakers will be Liz Thackeray, new Third Age Trust chair, and Michaela Moody, vice-chair, looking at the next three years and talking about what will happen in 2022, the u3a’s 40th anniversary year. They will take questions after their presentations and you can also join them in a breakout room to ask further questions.

Following a short break there will also be the opportunity to attend one of seven other break-out rooms covering the following areas of interest:

Public Relations (Jeff Berliner, Evesham, West Midlands); Pros and Cons of hybrid monthly meetings (John Haigh, Lymington u3a); Resuming activities safely (Jane Bailey, Third Age Trust); Different ideas for interest groups (Hilary Robinson, Lymington u3a); Revitalising your interest group (John Russell, Kings Hill u3a & Sue Brimilow, Tunbridge Wells u3a); Revitalising your Committee (Linda Wilson, Matlock u3a); National Science Network (Jo Livingston, Bexley u3a). Go to

<https://u3asites.org.uk/u3asciencenetwork/welcome>

APPEAL FOR WALKING CRICKETERS

Darren Talbot of Twenty20 Community Cricket who runs Walking Cricket on behalf of the Surrey Cricket Foundation, is appealing for u3a members to take part in this special all-year round version of the sport for the over 50s.

It is aimed at retired men who once enjoyed playing cricket and retired women who played school rounders. It is essentially the same as a normal game of cricket except players must walk instead of run.

Mac McKechnie of Barnsley u3a is national adviser on this sport and has a page on the u3a website explaining the rules.

Darren has already linked in with the Epsom and Elmbridge u3as. He says: ‘We currently have around 50 players, men and women, who take part in weekly indoor sessions in Epsom and Walton-on-Thames ahead of playing outdoors, with at least three hubs expected by the summer.’

Sessions are an hour long, cost £3 and are fun-based. The coffee and social side after each session is as important as the cricket itself.

‘We have an official county team and played a home and away match against Essex in the summer,’ he adds.

For more information go to his website at [<darren@twenty20communitycricket.com>](mailto:darren@twenty20communitycricket.com)

AN OPEN LETTER TO U3A MEMBERS FROM LIZ THACKRAY, CHAIR OF THE THIRD AGE TRUST

The past 18 months have been difficult for all of us as we have found ourselves living lives in ways we never expected. None of us could have foreseen a worldwide pandemic, lockdowns, and all the restrictions on our way of living.

Although we are now moving towards a time when it is likely we need to learn to live with Covid, many of us are still nervous about returning to what was our normal way of life, while others cannot wait to meet up again.

Whether we like it or not we have all been affected by the changes in our lifestyle and expectations over the past months. This is irrespective of whether or not we have ourselves suffered a Covid infection or have experienced the suffering – and perhaps death – of close friends or family members.

We have all made adaptations in our lifestyle as we have adopted technology or gone out of our way in different ways to ensure we keep in touch with our friends, especially those most vulnerable.

As u3a members, we have benefitted enormously from the work undertaken by our local committees, by the support provided by volunteers working directly with the Third Age Trust and the work undertaken by the staff team.

Without the enormous amount of voluntary effort by so many people, our movement would not be continuing to thrive. However unfortunately, sometimes surviving through adversity can lead to us not always appreciating properly the support we receive.

As u3a members, we belong to a movement built on principles of mutual aid and self-help. Although we may join the u3a in order to learn a new skill or to enjoy meeting new people, we also join a movement where we are all volunteers with something to contribute – and that is our greatest strength!

However, we also recognise that the mantra ‘by the members, for the members’ is not always sufficient. Changes in legislation over the past 40 years have led to all voluntary organisations needing to develop new procedures in order to stay legal – and never has this been more true than in the past months of pandemic.

The u3a is fortunate in that we have a small group of staff employed to support our movement. However, at times we need to remember that there are fewer than 20 staff members, not all full-time, supporting a movement of well over 1000 u3as and over 400,000 u3a members.

Those staff have suffered the same restrictions and pressures as the rest of us through the past months, but many of them have worked far more than their contracted hours in order to provide us with information, advice and support.

Sometimes we all get impatient when we do not receive answers to queries as speedily as we would wish. Sometimes we do not like the advice we receive. Sometimes we want to argue and complain that information or advice is inaccurate.

I would urge us all, including me, to remember the staff team are only human. When we feel like complaining about not receiving a response to a query, or difficulty accessing a named member of staff or getting the telephone answered, or not being able to find information on the website, we all need to remember we are dealing with human beings who are doing their best under difficult circumstances.

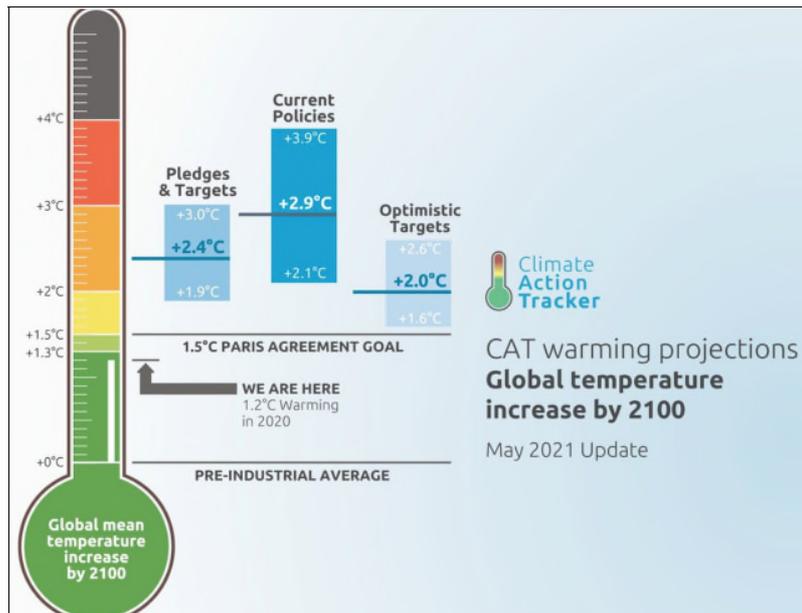
At this time, we all need to be even more kind and considerate to those around us than we might have been previously. We are all feeling the challenges of Covid and we need each other even more as we continue to live, laugh and learn together.

U3A BACKING FOR COP 26

On Friday, 26 November, a ‘fringe’ session involving u3a members who have campaigned in support of COP 26, this month’s global conference on climate change, will have a full debrief.

The u3a members, mainly based in Scotland, have been participating in four ‘fringe’ sessions in central Glasgow on 5 and 9 November. The sessions had a strong inter-generational focus with youngsters involved as well as u3a members.

COP 26 brought representatives from virtually every country on Earth to the UK. For nearly three decades the UN has been bringing the world together for global climate summits called COPs (Conference of the



Parties.) As scientific awareness has developed, climate change has gone from being a fringe issue to a global priority and now seriously threatens our children and grandchildren.

Trust u3a is a working group which followed the run up to COP 26. Its team

prepared advice and information for u3as to inform and encourage everyone to take actions, even in a small way, to help mitigate climate change. Planting trees, helping biodiversity in our gardens, avoiding waste and living more sustainably can all contribute.

BUY YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR 2022 - WHILE STOCKS LAST!

Familiar cottages grace the front of this year's Bookham u3a Painting Workshop calendar for 2022. They cost £6 each from Senior Moments Editor Maurice Baker or £8 with postage.



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SURREY U3A NETWORK UP AND COMING STUDY DAYS

After an 18 months-long gap, Surrey's u3a study days returned in September with Dr Geoffrey Mead's presentation on *Landscapes of South-East England* kicking off the new schedule.

The study days now follow the same Covid-secure arrangements used for the Summer Festival run by the Menuhin School through June and July.

All the speakers now scheduled had postponed their study days and have been offered new dates in 2021 and 2022.

Study days are open to all u3a members and guests are very welcome. They are held in the Yehudi Menuhin Hall at Stoke d'Abernon, starting with registration from 9.30am and running from 10am to 4pm.

Following the successful experience so many people have had during the pandemic of attending events virtually, the organisers have decided to offer Zoom attendance too so that members can view the study days from home if they prefer.

Prior booking is necessary either way. The fee, which includes coffee or tea and biscuits, is £10 for u3a members and £12 for guests but just £5 for attendance by Zoom. Attendees at the hall should bring a packed lunch.

Go to the Surrey Network website at <http://www.u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/> and click on any study day link for a programme and booking form. You can use the on-line form on the Contact page to send a message to John Kennedy, booking secretary.

If you want to comment on the organisation or content of the study day or would like to offer ideas for the future please use the Feedback Form and send it to John Kennedy as an email attachment. Or you can fill in the same form at the hall and hand it to any member of the committee.

For information, a list of study day titles over 15 seasons is available, together with a

poster of a typical study day.

When day hand-outs or presentations are available for download they will be mounted on the Surrey Network website for a period of at least three months. Surrey Network treats members' privacy rights seriously and its Privacy Policy can be found by following the link History of Study Days.

Coming up are the following study days:

19 NOVEMBER

The Development of British Style + Life on Antiques Roadshow

Presenter: Paul Atterbury

Dates to be confirmed

Understanding Turner: The Man, His Life & His Work

Presenter: Professor Maria Chester

The Art and Objects of the Mughal Emperors

Presenter: Ursula Weekes

Industrial Archaeology

Presenter: Professor David Perrett

The Art of Drawing

Presenter: Colin Wiggins

Illuminated Manuscripts of the Medieval Period

Presenter: Imogen Corrigan

The Story of Polar Exploration and the Recent Impact of Security Considerations and Climate Change

Presenters: Lt Cdr John Ash and Bob Headland

Gravity Wave Astronomy

Presenter: Dr Chris North

SURREY U3A NETWORK MARKING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF u3a

Next year will mark two very different anniversaries. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will celebrate her 70 years on the throne - by far the longest reign of any British monarch. But 2022 will also be the 40th birthday of the u3a in Britain, and Surrey Network representatives met last month to discuss the future, hosted by Caroline Sawers of Guildford u3a, Surrey Network chair.

Networks are groups of u3as which choose to work together for mutual benefit. Network Link meetings are held two or three times a year when representatives hear about Third Age Trust developments and share best practice.

Network Link chair Hilary Jones announced the launch of *Network News* this coming January, a three times per annum digital newsletter designed to share ideas, events and news from u3as in Surrey and elsewhere. It will contain links to national mailings and is intended to enhance shared communication.

It will be in addition, of course, to Bookham's own monthly *News Bulletin*. To receive *Network News*, u3a members just have to sign up via the link <http://eepurl.com/hJYFnv>

Bookham u3a itself dates back only to 1993 but the Network Link's vision for

the 40th anniversary year reflects the continuing importance of virtual activities both here and nationwide.

The pandemic has shown how vital online communications and meetings have proved in keeping members in touch with each other. As a result they are clearly here to stay.

The *Network News* is just one of several initiatives to mark the 40th anniversary. u3a members have been invited to create squares for an Anniversary Quilt to be revealed nationally in June. This is seen as demonstrating a positive aspect of ageing.

The High Street Project database has also attracted many members who have spent time surveying their local high streets in detail and assessing recent trends. Results will be announced in 2022.

Other projects include the u3a Wood, launched this September (see October *News Bulletin*). Entitled *Growing the Future*, its success in planting 5000 trees will be assessed next November.

A film project on the u3a vision *Looking Ahead, Not Back* is being discussed for launch in January.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee long weekend in June is planned to see a *Picnic in the Park* theme with u3s teaming up for the

celebrations.

A Science and Sporting Festival is planned for July, including a webinar on the theme *Future Foresight and Horizon Scanning*.

Finally, *One Foot in the Future* will feature stories of the part that older members play in the community and there is even an ambitious plan to enter a short play in the Edinburgh Festival fringe.

Also likely to feature more heavily in future is Third Age Trust Trading Ltd (TATTL), a move to supplement u3a membership fees with a commercial arm to help fund the trust.

The *Third Age Matters* magazine which balances editorial articles with substantial advertising revenue, is one feature of this new commercial approach.

Another are likely to be specially selected clothing and other products for the u3a market, branded and sold to members in much the same way as operated by other charities.

To put Bookham u3a into context, we are one of 26 u3as in the Surrey Network. We are roughly in the middle in terms of membership.

Before the pandemic, Guildford u3a used to have 1800 members but is now believed to be nearer to 1200 whereas we now have 530 members.

YOUR OPTIONS FOR GROUP MEETINGS

CODE	GROUP NAME	WEEK IN MONTH	DAY	TIME
His12	3E London	Fourth	Wednesday	AM
Art06	Architectural History	Fourth	Thursday	PM
Art01	Art Appreciation 1	Second	Thursday	PM
Art02	Art Appreciation 2	Third	Monday	PM
Art05	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	When Required	N/A	AM
Bri08	Bridge Beginners and Improvers	Weekly	Wednesday	AM
Can01	Canasta 1	Second + Fourth	Wednesday	PM
Can02	Canasta 2	Second	Tuesday	PM
Cra07	Card Making	Last	Thursday	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
Fre04	French Back to Basics 2	Second + Fourth	Thursday	AM
Fre01	French Conversation 1	Second + Fourth	Wednesday	AM
Gar03	Gardening 02	Second	Wednesday	PM
His22	History	Second + Fourth	Wednesday	PM
Mus06	Intro To Classical Music	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
His18	London Walks 6	Third	Thursday	AM

YOUR OPTIONS FOR GROUP MEETINGS continued

CODE	GROUP NAME	WEEK IN MONTH	DAY	TIME
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	Wednesday	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
His16	Social History	Second	Monday	AM
His20	Social History 2	First	Monday	PM
Spa02	Spanish Group 2-Basic	First + Third	Monday	PM
Ten01	Table Tennis	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 (Beginners)	First + Second	Thursday	AM
Gar02	Vegetable Gardening	Second	Saturday	AM
Wal02	Walking 12km	First	Friday	AM
Wal01	Walking 7km	Second + Fourth	Friday	AM
Win01	Wine Appreciation 1	Various	N/A	PM
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

28th INTERNATIONAL GILBERT AND SULLIVAN FESTIVAL – 2022

U3As nationwide are being invited to the 28th International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in North Yorkshire next summer. See website at (www.gsfestivals.org).

While it is unclear at present whether this could attract interest from as far away as Surrey, it raises the question of our own need for a Theatre

Visits Coordinator who will organise trips, even those closer to home. See Page 8 **SITUATIONS VACANT.**

The festival itself will take place at Buxton Opera House (30 July-6 August) and then the Royal Hall, Harrogate (10-21 August). Matinees: 2.30 pm, evening performances: 7.30pm.

Bernard Lockett, event contact, says **G&S Opera TV** is also available to enjoy from home at any time via www.gsopera.tv. He can be called on 07776174895 (email lblockett@btinternet.com).

The box office for group bookings is at 01422-323252.

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THE LIFE OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

by MARTIN POWER, KINGSTON U3A

Born in 1706, 26 years before George Washington and 37 years before Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin was more 'founding grand-father' than 'founding father' of the American nation.

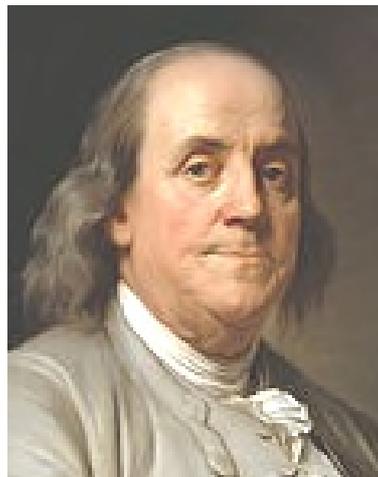
He combined many of the qualities of the Americans at their best - their can do optimism, resourcefulness, willingness to work hard, good humour, sociability, their generosity and their benevolence.

Drawing on the great man's memoirs, Martin gave our monthly Zoom talk on 9 November. He described Franklin's boyhood in Boston, and how he ran away from his tyrannous elder brother, to whom he was apprenticed.

We learned about the young Franklin's adventurous journey to Philadelphia, where the Quaker citizens befriended him. Through sheer hard work and enterprise, he became Philadelphia's leading newspaper editor and printer.

He played a leading part in setting up its public library, university, and first major hospital, and in introducing paving and lighting to its central streets. He also persuaded householders to pay insurance premiums to finance a town fire brigade.

He declined to profit from his inventions, including the energy-conserving stove,



Left: Portrait by Duplessis conveying Franklin's intelligence and humour.

Centre: Print work by Franklin in colonial days.

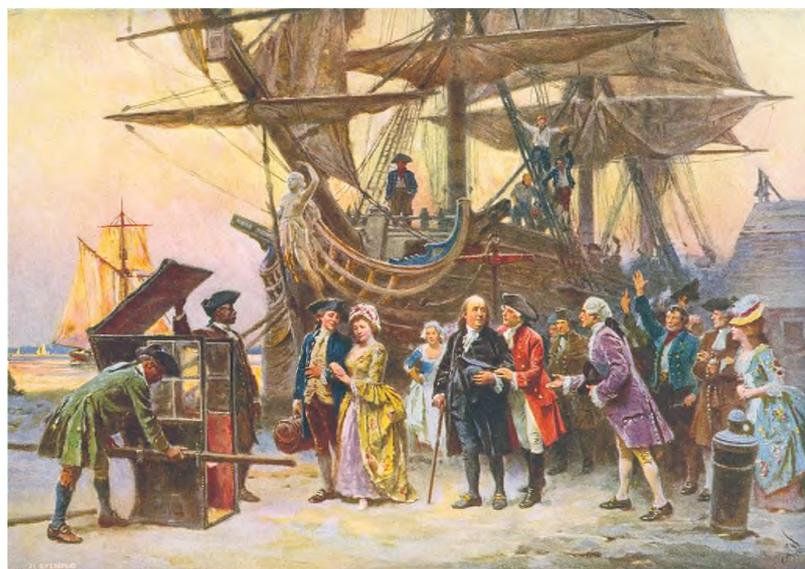
Bottom: Franklin's return to Philadelphia, 1785, by Ferris.



Later in life, Franklin spent many years abroad, first in London and then in Paris, as the Americans' leading diplomat. He secured vital French support for the colonists in their fight for independence from Britain.

As an elderly man, he gracefully urged representatives of the newly independent United States, meeting in Philadelphia, to be ready to compromise to achieve a new federal constitution. He was also president of Pennsylvania's society for the abolition of slavery.

the lightning-conductor, bifocal spectacles, and a flexible form of catheter to ease the release of trapped urine. Nevertheless, his experiments on electricity won him and his city international renown.



Registered Charity No 1036386

MORE NHS VOLUNTEER RESPONDERS NEEDED FOR VACCINATION CENTRES

By TERESA JOSEPH

Have you ever dreamed of standing outside a pharmacy wearing a natty, yellow florescent tabard and handing out masks and hand-sanitiser? It is what I have been doing on a regular basis for the past five months.

Along with thousands of others, I signed up as a steward volunteer to help facilitate the Covid vaccination programme. It now covers flu too. Without this help the rollout would either be much slower or more health workers would have to be diverted from their normal duties – about 2000 people are needed every day.

So what does stewarding involve? I am sure you will have met stewards who directed you around the vaccination site, ensured you have sanitised your hands, and watched while you sat for 15 minutes after your jab, only to leap up and sanitise your chair and anything else you may have touched as soon as you leave.

At times it has been hot, cold, wet and windy but chatting with other volunteers and with people coming in for vaccination, together with the many words of thanks we receive, has made it worthwhile.

It was particularly gratifying recently to hear a nurse say to someone she was vaccinating: ‘I see you live in Bookham. I don’t know that area but it must be a nice village to live in as many of our volunteers come from Bookham and Fetcham.’

Some people may ask whether volunteers are at greater risk of catching Covid. Everyone at any vaccination site has to wear a mask provided free of charge - it is still a legal requirement in health settings. Areas are always well ventilated and constantly sanitised of course, while gloves are also provided if needed. Obviously it is not a role for anyone particularly vulnerable but otherwise any risk is very low.

The number of people now available to volunteer has fallen with students returning to college/university and other people starting to resume their normal lives. So if you have spare time or know anyone else who has, please do visit <https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk/i-want-to-volunteer/volunteer-roles/steward-volunteer> for details of this as well as other volunteering roles.

You only need to sign up to two shifts per month so it is not very onerous. Maybe I will see you outside a pharmacy one day.

SEE THE LONDON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

4.30pm Friday,
10 December 2021



Meet in the Harrison Room at the back of the Old Barn Hall, Bookham.

Afternoon high tea plus raffle and a three-hour coach tour of the lights with commentary.

Price £32.

*For tickets contact
07840 115665*

*Supporting the
Bookham and Horsley
Rotary Club*



THOUGHT PROVOKER

Chairman Chris Middleton was recently in Fountains Abbey near Ripon and came across the term ‘lay-brothers’ for farm helpers to the Cistercian monks. Could the word ‘labourer’ have evolved from that?

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SITUATIONS VACANT

Please contact Chris Middleton at chairman@bookhamu3a.org.uk or call him on 01372 454107 for more information on any of the roles below.

OUTINGS COORDINATOR

Do you like visiting country houses, gardens or venturing further afield for group holidays? We need someone to organise such events for the benefit of fellow u3a members. If you rise to the challenge you will be given support and guidance by other members of the Committee to make the events happen. If this feels too much, then why not share the role with friends so that you each only arrange a few visits each year?

THEATRE VISITS COORDINATOR

Performers and audiences alike have missed live theatre during the past 18 months. Please help us get back to enjoying good entertainment again by identifying potential shows for u3a group visits in Surrey, Sussex or London's West End. But we also need someone to organise the travel arrangements. If you are willing to fill this role, other Committee members will support and guide you. If you don't want to go on a particular theatre trip, then why not share the role with friends and select the performances of your choice?

HYBRID MEETING TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

After the current temporary period of separate live meetings at the Old Barn Hall and those via Zoom, we are looking to reunite our u3a at monthly meetings that can be attended both in person and from home via Zoom. We are looking for someone willing to learn how to run this new form of meeting.

Shared practice guidance is available from the London Region of u3as. You will begin by helping to define the different meeting scenarios with their associated technical requirements and equipment. Following extensive testing, you will manage the hybrid meetings each month with support from the Committee. You will be responsible for:

- *Managing the audio and video streams from within the Old Barn Hall.
- *Managing attendees via Zoom to include their joining, questions and muting as necessary any unintended audio.
- *Ensuring that those at home and the hall audience are visible to each other and can feel part of the same event.
- *Toggling between the speaker and audience in Zoom as appropriate to provide the best experience for all attendees.

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 and ensure that the correct procedure is followed and the 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

BOOKHAM U3A COMMITTEE

Position	November 2021 – October 2022
Honorary Officers	
1 Chairman	Chris Middleton
2 Vice Chairman	Vacant
3 Secretary	Gillian Arnold
4 Treasurer	Chris Pullan
Elected at the AGM	
5a Joint Membership Secretary (Shared)	Liz Looney (top right)
5b Joint Membership Secretary (Shared)	Pam Hyde
6 Minutes Secretary	Peter Clarke
7 Groups Coordinator	Mike Farrell
8 Assistant Groups Coordinator	Brian Williams (second right)
9 Webmaster	Carol Stilwell (third right)
9a Webmaster Assistant	Harold Reglar
10 Speaker Secretary	Frank Cross
11 Online Meetings Organiser	Michelle Howes (bottom right)
12 Senior Moments Editor	Maurice Baker
13 Social Events	Lynn Farrell
14 Outings Coordinator	Vacant
15 Theatre Trip Coordinator	Vacant
Co-Opted as appropriate	
1 News Bulletin Editor	Tony Matthews
2 Hybrid Meeting Technical Coordinator	Vacant

**SOUTH EAST FORUM**

The South East Forum Summer School at Chichester University was cancelled in 2020-21 but the team has made a booking for 2022 from Monday, 20 June, to Thursday, 23 June.

Please put the dates in your diary. The announcement of the programme of courses and arrangements for booking will appear on the Surrey Network website from the start of December at <http://www.u3asites.org.uk>.

Contact the Editor

If you are an existing group organiser, want to set one up or just make suggestions for the benefit of our u3a, do contact Tony Matthews, Editor, Bookham u3a *News Bulletin* at the email address newsletter@bookhamu3a.org.uk

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