

Senior

Moments

*It's time again to renew your membership
Please remember to renew your U3A membership before 31 August*



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

Issue 51

July 2016





From a watercolour painting by Peter Brazier (one time editor of SM)



Monday morning Painting Workshop in action!

Bookham and District U3A

Registered Charity No 103686 U3A Membership No 4/239/93

Registered Address: 20 Church Close Fetcham KT22 9BQ

www.bookhamu3a.org.uk

The Committee



Chairman
Neil Carter
01372 386048



Vice Chairman
Lynn Farrell
01372 451797



Secretary
Gillian Arnold
01372 45204



Treasurer
Chris Pullan
01372 454582



Minutes
Secretary
David Hyde
01372



Groups
Co-ordinator
Peter Clarke
01372450908



Outings
Co-ordinator
Sheila Pomfret
01372 454706



Membership
Secretary
Pam Hyde
01372 454734



Webmaster
Harold Reglar
01372 452445



Speaker Secretary
Lynn Farrell
01372 451797



Newsletter
Maurice
Baker
372147



Social
Events
Jan Dicker
452251



Mike Farrell
Groups Co-
ordinator
Assistant
451797

The July issue of Senior Moments is always a bit rushed because it is published just two months after the previous issue. The reason for this is because we do not have a monthly meeting in August and the saving in postage costs is considerable.

There are many interesting articles this time, including four by the 'Farrell' team and two by Anita Laycock, another regular contributor; but we also have two members new to contributing to your magazine. I found Cynthia Watson's piece on architecture particularly pleasing, but it is an interest of mine. I was also very pleased to reproduce a painting by Peter Brazier who apart from being a good watercolour painter is a previous editor of Senior Moments. Lynn and Mike Farrell's piece on Crete interested me not just for the content of an island they know well, but it reminded me of the middle book (Officers and Gentlemen) of Evelyn Waugh's War Trilogy,— Sword of Honour; where he gives a very good insight into the chaos and muddle that must accompany many military operations.

This issue also has the reminder of our membership renewal that is so important to the good administration of our U3A.

Maurice Baker
Editor

FETCHAM U3A

STAYING CONNECTED

LIVING WITH HEARING LOSS – YOURS OR MINE

WEDNESDAY, 27 JULY 2016

The Barn Hall, Great Bookham KT23 3PQ

10.00 – 16.00

Sessions with qualified Audiologists and others

specialising in hearing problems will include:

Hearing Loss explained Conservation of speech Tinnitus explained

Effect of hearing loss on relationships Coping mechanisms Lip reading explained and demonstrated

Cost £10.00 – coffee/tea provided, bring your own lunch

This is open to all U3A members experiencing hearing loss and those with relatives and friends who do – the aim is to raise awareness

Any queries to Mary Houghton: houghtonmary@hotmail.com

NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

It only seems like last week that I was writing my report for Senior Moments and heralding in our Spring. It is now the beginning of June and we are supposed to be in our Summer but the weather and the temperatures are saying something else!!

However, U3A is still functioning as it should and your Committee has been working as hard as ever. Your web master, Harold Reglar, is ensuring that all the latest news is recorded on the web-site, Sheila Pomfret is, as always, ensuring that all our Outings and holidays are fully booked and paid. Jan Dicker, Social Secretary, has organised a most enjoyable, if not tiring, Barn Dance which was very much appreciated by those attending. Gillian Arnold, our hard working Secretary, has been organising along with Margaret New, our Stand at this year's Village Day. Peter Clarke, Groups Co-ordinator, has been making sure that all of our current Groups are operating properly and there are new Groups shortly to be formed, details of which will be released soon.

Our Speaker's Secretary, Lynn Farrell has ensured that all our Speakers are in place for 2016 and several booked for 2017. Our Treasurer, Chris Pullan, as always makes sure that our finances are in order despite the effort of banks to make his life difficult. Finally, Maurice Baker the editor of Senior Moments has needed to prepare this edition soon after the last as we are approaching renewal time. May I just remind readers that your Membership will expire on the 31st July and your renewal subscription of £12

(no increase again this year) is due no later than the 31st August.

As for myself, I have been delighted to attend an outing of the Metal Detecting Group, a trip to the Hogs Back Brewery with the newly formed Beer Appreciation Group and attended the Play Reading Group. On your behalf, Lynn Farrell, Gillian Arnold, Sheila Pomfret and I attended the South East Forum on the 20th April at East Grinstead, where we learnt how other U3A's operated and the success of "On-line Learning" – more of which will be announced later.

So – you can see that in Bookham U3A there are a wide variety of past-times to keep us occupied and amused and no time to get bored. Please make full use of your U3A – it will help to keep you younger and fitter both physically and mentally.

Neil Carter



VEGETABLE GARDENING

In April our group went to Wisley to visit their vegetable and fruit plots. Half of the vegetable garden has now been given over to the trend of growing crops in raised beds. Early sowings of spinach, beetroot and carrots were emerging but with winter crops such as leeks still waiting to be harvested. They

sculpture depicting a wine bottle and grapes. We enjoyed visiting Mr Hamilton's Tea Room for our refreshments and there is the Painshill Shop where you can purchase their own Painshill Sparkling Wine. Why not take a trip as entry is free to the Car Park, Walled Garden, Tea Room and Shop. You will need to



also had a large amount of herbs both in the beds and in the greenhouse. The blossom on the fruit espaliers were a delight to behold – picture perfect. We enjoyed our morning coffee and cake in the new cafe next to these two gardens and then looked round the Plant Shop on our way out.

Our May meeting was at the newly renovated Walled Kitchen Garden at Painshill Park in Cobham. It was like stepping back in time. Small raised beds with early crops and markers ready for the tender crops to be planted in late spring and early summer. In the middle of the garden is a wooden

pay to enter the main 18th century landscape gardens created by The Hon. Charles Hamilton between 1738-1773. The visitor entrance and car park is off Between Streets, Cobham (just past the Cobham Waitrose)

In June we are joining with Fetcham U3A Vegetable Gardening Group 1 to hear a talk about an Italian seed company called Franchi Seeds and the following week we are having a tour of the Vineries.

Anita Laycock

Inside a Nuclear Power Plant

Eight members of Bookham's U3A Science & Technology group were joined by ten members from the Horsley,

small. All that can be seen is a pattern of access ports which allow the fuel rods to be withdrawn and replaced and the boron enhanced steel control rods to be adjusted



Fetcham and Dorking groups on a visit to the EDF Nuclear Generating Station B at Dungeness. The buildings sit in stark contrast to the flat Kent coast landscape enjoyed by a rich variety of bird life in the Nature Reserve, the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch narrow gauge railway, and the converted railway carriage houses that contribute to one of Europe's most beautiful seascapes.

This Advanced Gas-Cooled Reactor (AGR) started generation in 1983; provides 1,040MW electricity output to the national grid and employs 500 people. The science and engineering aspects of the generation of electricity using nuclear energy are well known but it was good to hear about and observe the technicalities of a commercial operation.

Much of the interest centred on the safety and security needed for such a site. No mobile phones, no cameras, no drugs, and no shorts! We all donned hard hats, ear protectors, eye shields, and orange tabards. After being frisked for any hidden weapons we headed for the reactor:

Seen from above, the reactor cores (there are two) surrounded by a graphite moderator that acts as a 'catalyst' for the uranium fission process are surprisingly

using a massive remote controlled overhead gantry. The heat generated by the fission process is extracted using high pressure (580 psi) CO₂ and converted into steam that drives a multi-phase turbine connected to a hydrogen cooled three phase electricity generator. We also saw the tanks used to store the hot and still active spent fuel rods. Being near the coast sea water can be used which is returned to the English Channel only a degree or so above normal.

The site is protected by a high wall that would withstand even the highest possible tide and a separation zone which is constantly monitored. There is no risk of visitors being irradiated. The pile is protected by a shell of stainless steel and reinforced concrete over 5 metres thick. An interesting and informative visit much enjoyed by all on a bright sunny April day with excellent portions of fish and chips for lunch at the Britannia Inn.

For more information see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_gas-cooled_reactor and http://www.iaea.org/inis/collection/NCLCollectionStore/_Public/28/028/28028509.pdf

Brian Chapman

Visit to the Hogs Back Brewery by the Beer Appreciation Group

We all congregated at Lower Shott car park where our coach picked us up for the short journey to the Hogs Back. As

with great satisfaction all round. The tour lasts about 2 hours and concludes in the brewery shop where it is hoped you may buy some of the beers tasted and being true connoisseurs a number of purchases were made.



it was we had left plenty of time for the journey and arrived somewhat early for our 6:30pm tour. Not to worry as we were told of a public house just down the road where the coach driver took us. Luckily it had Hogs back beer and we were able to start our evening earlier.

The appointed time for our tour was coming up so we returned to the Brewery where we were met by Noel our guide for the evening. We were taken around the building where we saw the water boiler; mash tun and mixing tank where the wort was made before transferring into the fermentation tanks where the yeast was added to perform its miraculous task of producing exceedingly good beers.

During the tour we were supplied with numerous samples of the different types of beer the brewery produces including the well known TEA (Traditional English Ale) and which went down

We all enjoyed our visit to the brewery and thank Neil Carter for organising the event and thanks also to John Cross who remembered to bring his camera.



Mike Farrell

Do ducklings bounce?

As naïve London dwellers, moving to Bookham was an interesting experience. We vowed never to live



by any large trees again having had problems with street trees before, but we bought a house with a huge oak tree in next door's garden but right on the boundary fence. It's a beautiful and majestic tree but one of its greatest attractions is that a mallard duck regularly nests in a hole about 15 feet above the ground. We've seen the phenomenon

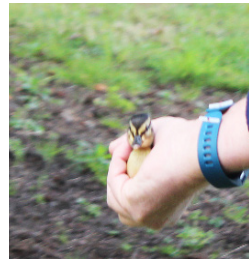


in previous years but this year on 26 April mother duck herded her ducklings to the edge of the hole and pushed them out. The first time we saw this we imagined having injured ducks everywhere but they do bounce about two foot of the ground before settling and waddling off to wait for mum. This year eleven ducklings fell to the ground. Catastrophe! Mother duck set off with eight

of them through our neighbour's garden across our drive, into our garden and into the pond. There they swam about happily eating the weed and jumping on mum's back. Off we went on a duckling hunt. A further two were found placed by the edge of the pond where they scurried in and joined the rest. We couldn't find the eleventh. A little later they all got out onto the bank and nestled in mum's feathers for a rest.

Our neighbours rang to say they could hear the last duckling on our side of the fence – off we went for another search. We found it, it had got itself struck. We managed to get it out and reunite the family which were all back swimming. We went the long way round the house so as not to disturb them, through the kitchen and hall into the sitting room to peer out of the window. Nothing; the pond was empty – nothing in the undergrowth. We went to look for them, as one year they had decided to cross Church Road to get onto the common and the traffic had to be held up for the crossing and assistance given to the ducklings to get up the bank. There was no sight of them - we walked along the road and spotted mother duck with a line of ducklings following crossing Fiona Close. Once on the far side she checked them all by a garden wall before setting off again along the grassy embankment heading towards the village. We've no idea where they were heading but hope that despite the traffic, foxes and cats there will be more young ones next year.

Lynn & Mike Farrell



Wine Group 03 Trip to Ardres

In April, Wine Group 03 decided that they would follow in the footsteps of a number of other groups and go to France for lunch along with a visit to a local market and a wine shop. It was the first visit of this kind for a number of the group but for others they had been lucky enough



to be invited along to previous trips to make up the numbers. We duly invited five additional U3A members to come with us to fill the coach. An early start (6:45am) meant that various strategies were used to ensure that people were up and ready on time – additional alarm clocks, alarms on 'phones were set. This worked because we were able to set off two minutes early. The weather forecast was for a bright but cloudy spring day with no rain. This proved to be accurate and not only was the weather kind but so was the traffic to the Channel Tunnel. A quick break before boarding the train meant that any missed breakfasts or caffeine top ups could be had.



Moving the clocks forward to match French time meant that we arrived in Ardres about 11:00am. We had a leisurely stroll around the outside market checking out the fish, meat, bread and cheese as well as all the other sundries on sale. Having parted with some euros mainly on some really nice smelly cheese it was back on the coach for a short drive to the restaurant. Guy Bourset was our host. He is English but of French extraction (one of his grandfathers (I'm not too sure how many greats he put in front

of it) was appointed by Napoleon to procure the wine for the soldiers. Guy now resides in France and has two wine shops. He arranges for a lunch at a local restaurant and brings along wine to complement the food. Introductions were made over a sparkling wine. Two white wines accompanied our starters, then followed our main and cheese courses accompanied by two red wines and finally our desert with a sweet red wine – quite unusual but very delicious. Coffee was served while we finished up the wines. A short drive to Guy's shop in Ardres saw us form an orderly queue to select from his many goodies. The boot of the coach



soon filled up. Then we had time for a walk around the town, visit the church with wonderful stained glass windows and pop



into a few shops. We set off for home. Where the trip out had been talkative, there were a few nodding heads and quiet descended for a peaceful and uneventful trip home. We came home with our pockets a little lighter, a feast of wine, cheese and bread in our bags, and replete from an excellent lunch. We are all looking forward to the next time.

Mike Farrell

Something Medical

After the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VII the sick were largely ignored. The care and shelter provided by the monks were forgotten.

In 1740 many towns, cities and other areas i.e. Exeter; Glasgow, Liverpool, Edinburgh, the Midlands began to provide care for the sick and infirm. This was due to the philanthropy of men of means.

In London, Guys, Westminster, St Bartholomews, the London and the Middlesex were founded between 1720-1746.



The Middlesex Infirmary was founded in 1746 in two houses in Windmill Street in Soho. The houses were rented from Mr Goodge for £30 per annum and provided 15 beds for the sick and lame of Soho plus three beds for accidents.

Soho was a thickly populated poor area and most people lived in squalor.

Mr Goodge became a governor of the infirmary and has a street and tube station named after him.

Its beginnings were far from prosperous and in 1746 drastic action was taken. A new constitution was instigated. A new physician, three surgeons, a door keeper, a messenger, Matron and a nurse were appointed. Money was collected from the nobility by several of the governors and they also kept an eye on the tradesmen's bills (allotments)

About this time, 1746-47, the Middlesex Infirmary became known as the Middlesex Hospital.

In 1747 Dr Layard was appointed as man midwife in-ordinary and Dr Sandys as man midwife extra ordinary in charge of 5 lying in beds. A nurse was hired and the department provided with 11b of pins, 2 pin cushions and 2 child bed baskets.

No woman was allowed to leave her bed without her child for obvious reasons.

Middlesex Hospital became the first lying-in hospital in England. The board increased the number of beds from 18 to 24 and 10 were set aside for maternity cases. Extra rooms were often hired to accommodate those who needed help which only the Middlesex could provide. Often there were 2 patients to a bed.

It was decided to build a new hospital. The present site was acquired from a Mr Berners on a 999 year lease. The site had previously been a leper hospital of St Giles founded by Matilda, the wife of Henry I, in 1101, so for four and a half centuries there had been a hospital until the dissolution of the monasteries.

At that time the ground was on the outskirts of London and was separated from Tottenham Court Road by ponds and marshlands. Mr Berners has a road named after him. It runs from Tottenham Court Road to the Middlesex.

The foundation stone was laid by the Earl of Northumberland in 1755 and the hospital was completed in 1757. It had 64 beds and the lying-in women were placed in a separate department. The architect forgot to include an operating theatre but this was installed four years later.

Money, as always was a problem but was helped by benefactors including Mr Whitbread the brewer, proprietors of Ranleigh Gardens, the choir and orchestra of Westminster Abbey and Balls, Dr Thomas Arne, composer of Rule Britannia, wrote an oratorio and David Garret gave two performances, one being 'Much ado about Nothing.' This meant money problems for the moment were solved.

Students were allowed to walk the wards in 1746 but few applied. However, when the new hospital opened their numbers increased. The board of governors had to approve the applicants' application. The pupils or dressers were attached to the surgeons for 15 guineas per year.

Their apprenticeship lasted 5 years and they were the forerunners of today's junior doctors or house surgeons.

There were few rules: they were forbidden to reduce fractures and perform major surgery, forbidden to enter the apothecary's shop and not allowed in the women's wards, except when they were being dressed. i.e. their wounds being dressed. In 1766 pupil physicians were admitted. They followed the physicians around the wards and picked up knowledge that the doctors chose to impart.

This method was seen to be inadequate and the surgeons and physicians were allowed to give lectures to the students.

In 1774, their numbers were so large they formed themselves into a medical society and met two nights every week in the physician's room. Apart from the medical society of London it was the oldest in the country.

A new ward was endowed in 1791 for cancer patients where patients remained until relieved by art or released by death. Thus began a long period of cancer research and treatment. One of the first hospitals that cared for cancer care, it was Mr Whitbread, the brewer, who provided the endowment.

Hospital people



William Smellie 1741
First obstetrician to make physical study of childbirth by observation and post mortem examination. He gave lectures in London to midwives and medical students. He offered his services to the poor on condition his students could attend the birth.

Thus they obtained knowledge of the mechanisms of labour and what could go wrong. He published his findings which provided a new basis for the ancient skills of midwifery.

Presidents of the Royal College of Physicians
The Middlesex produced four;



John Hunter
Famous anatomist who devised new procedures i.e. tracheotomy to aid breathing. In 1747 he took over from Dr Hagar and was in charge during his absence.

Florence Nightingale
Florence Nightingale nursed at the Middlesex before the Crimean War. It is the only hospital in England that she nursed in. She Founded Florence Nightingale School of Nursing at St Thomas's



Elizabeth Garret Anderson
1861-1947
Allowed to visit the wards whilst working for her medical degree whilst pretending to be a nurse. In 1947 female medical students were

admitted to the Middlesex.
*This was a talk given to the Social History Group,
Kate Martin*

Architectural History Group

The rather pompously, or intimidatingly, named Architectural History Group started life in 2006 as the plain 'Architecture Group'. We were subsequently obliged by 'the powers that be' to change our name, presumably on the assumption that there might be some confusion about our activities; as though a small group (currently eight) of ladies of a certain age, and no architectural knowledge, might be engaged in producing original architectural drawings for high-rise apartments that might undermine the integrity of the village of Bookham!

The study of architecture is hardly a popular subject in the U3A movement, despite buildings of every sort, from domestic to municipal and cultural, featuring so importantly in our lives. A journey by train from Bookham to Waterloo reveals before our eyes the history of architecture, like it or loathe it, with the ever-changing rebuilding around the Battersea Power Station (Giles Gilbert Scott 1929-1935) unfolding as the 'Big Beasts' of contemporary architecture throw up ever more high-rise blocks. Elsewhere, of course, earlier high-rise blocks, admittedly of social housing schemes of the 1960's and 1970's are being demolished as failed experiments unfit for purpose. All such features are food for our studies.

Interestingly, while Bookham U3A can produce four London Walks Groups, for whom the discussion of architecture must inevitably feature as we wander around the Capital, the whole of Surrey U3A has only three Architecture Groups on the register of the National U3A Network. Our Bookham Group, which has two vacancies, meets monthly in members' houses and is working its way along a time-line of the architecture of Great Britain having started at a notional IAD. Members volunteer to take it in turns to research and present a short talk on an architect, building or architectural movement, supported by illustrations projected via iPad or laptop onto our TV screens. Recorded TV programmes or videos from the internet are also used so that can we get expert back-up to our amateur interpretations of our subject. In

addition, we try to arrange one visit a year to a building relevant to our studies. Our most recent visit was to Guildford Cathedral (1936-61) where we benefited from a tour geared to its architecture.

Having acquainted ourselves over the years with the hitherto unknown subjects of Palladianism and the Greek and Gothic Revival Movements, we have now progressed to the Twentieth Century and have added an international element while encountering Modernism, with US skyscrapers and the all-important work of Le Corbusier; Mies van der Rohe and the Bauhaus. All fascinating subjects, if not to the liking of everyone, but it is not necessary to consider a building to be beautiful in order to find it interesting and to understand the concepts and problems facing the architect and his use of materials. In other words, Modern Architecture is not for the faint-hearted as our programme approaches Brutalism with its stark use of bare concrete, origins of which can be seen in the bunkers of two World Wars and subsequent development to become the now increasingly fashionable architecture of the stained concrete walls of London's South Bank and the Barbican. It is part of our mission to understand and, hopefully, appreciate the contribution of such buildings to architectural history as we work our way through our current programme which will also be taking-in New Towns from Post-War Construction to the Prince of Wales's Poundbury. Ahead of us there await the lives and work of Niemeyer, Gehry, Foster and Rogers, plus the Skylines of Modern London.

In case this is found to be intimidating, members are assured of a plentiful supply of tea and chocolate biscuits at the end of each session in order to ensure loyal attendance at future meetings.

Cynthia Watson



DESIGNED FOR SUCCESS

After 20 years or so the members of the U3A's first Art Appreciation group still have the ability to surprise us, and this was the case when Joan Stammers, one of our Bookham U3A founder members, offered to give us a presentation about the careers of her brother and sister-in-law, Malcolm and



Joy Wilcox, who in the 1960's turned a home industry into a multi-million pound business.



They were both Art Graduates, and one of Joy's early designs was a cut-out-and-sew doll, known as Pollyanna, which she developed at her kitchen table.

The huge success of this doll resulted in a Duke of Edinburgh Design Award, the first ever given to a toy. Another similar idea produced an order for several hundred stuffed Guardsman which involved nearly every house in the road cutting and stuffing, with kapok blowing everywhere! The neighbours accepted the arrival of large lorries to collect thousands of floppy rag dolls and other cuddly toys.

A visit to the Tate Gallery in the late 1960's gave them further inspiration when they saw an exhibition of Andy Warhol's stylised American images such as Campbell's Soup Cans. This inspired them to find British advertising labels and print them on everyday household objects like aprons, oven gloves, shopping bags etc. Until then, ordinary household accessories were fairly plain. For example, an apron may have had stripes,

spots or a floral design but nothing more original. Nowadays we are surrounded by designer ranges for every conceivable item but at this time Joy and Malcolm were breaking new ground. The firm by then was trading as SARI Fabrics ('Sari' being Joy's middle name) and they had a factory in Leamington Spa.

In order to expand, they exhibited in all the main Gift Trade Fairs in this country and Europe

and their very distinctive invitations to customers set them apart from their competitors.

They approached and commissioned Zandra Rhodes, the textile and fashion designer whose co-ordinating kitchen accessories of the lily and shell designs were very popular, as were the designs of Kasse Fassett another famous textile artist. Many ranges were manufactured under licence such as Snoopy, Peter Rabbit, the Mr. Men and Paddington Bear. These appealed to a wider age group and once again the Wilcoxes were ahead of the market. Their breakthrough into the US market was initially unsuccessful as bags and aprons based on old American song titles failed to take off but their preference for traditional British emblems like the Union Jack and Pears Soap soon led to a lucrative business. At the peak of their trading they were handling over 3000 accounts in the UK and over 30 worldwide.



Joan concluded this interesting and nostalgic meeting with a raffle so we were all able to choose a small item from the Sari range. Such was the success of her presentation that she followed it up two days later with a repeat performance with another group of friends (who were offered a glass of wine, not the usual cup of tea!)

Could it just be that an item from this inspirational couples business is either still in use in your home or perhaps lurking in the cupboard? If so, I am sure Joan would love to hear from you.

Jean Parker

(with thanks to Joan and Joy for their editorial skills)



75th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete

Crete is the largest and most populous of the Greek islands, and the fifth-largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. It is long and narrow 275 km (159 mi) from east to west, 62 km (38 mi) at its widest point, and narrows to 12 km (7.5 mi). To the north there is the Sea of Crete, to the south, the Libyan Sea and it lies approximately 160 km (99 mi) south of the Greek mainland. Crete has three high mountain ranges crossing from east to west. Its highest point is 2456m or 8045ft which in turn give rise to many gorges including the famous Samaria Gorge. Even today there is only one main road running from east to west across the north side of the island, with side roads running down to the north and south coasts.

Crete has always had a desirable location which is why it has been invaded so often and, during World War II, it had strategic importance in the Mediterranean. The harbour at Suda Bay was the largest in the Mediterranean Sea and an ideal base for naval operations. Both the British and Germans wanted control of the island. For the British, it would give better control of the Mediterranean and northern end of the Suez Canal and the air force could use the airfields to bomb oil plants in Romania. The Germans could use the base to attack British shipping in the area and disrupt the use of the Suez. Crete could also be used as a stopping off point for men heading to the war in north Africa. In 1941 the main east-west road could only take single line traffic and the 'roads' that ran north to south off of this road were dirt tracks. The bridges could only take vehicles that weighed less than seven tons. The three main ports and airports were all in the north. An attack on the island would be dangerous as the terrain inland was extremely rugged and elsewhere there were olive groves which would give troops many places to hide in.

After Italy had invaded Greece, Britain occupied Crete with a small number of troops and in April 1941 was considered a prime target for a German invasion. Freyberg, the New Zealand commander had less than 30,000 Allied and about 11,000 Greek troops under his

command many of whom only had access to their personal weapons that they brought with them. He also had to look after 15,000 Italian prisoners-of-war. It is estimated that 30,000 tons of supplies were needed each month that had to be shipped in. We are now told that Enigma intercepts made the allies aware that the Germans were planning an attack

The Germans committed a large force to attack Crete, who could be parachuted in and had at their disposal 500 transport planes, 75 gliders, 280 bombers, 150 dive-bombers, 180 fighters and 40 reconnaissance planes. In total, they had 10,000 men who could be dropped by parachute the total attack force was 22,500 men.

On the 20th May the attack started with paratroopers being dropped at the Heraklion, Rethymno, Chania and the Maleme airfield which was considered a vital target to control. At the end of the day the German's had not had the success that they had expected and had lost many men. However, the Allied troops had little equipment and very poor communications and they were unaware of the German success at Maleme with the airfield being taken on 21 May. This allowed German planes to land.

By the end of May 24th, the allies were contemplating defeat. The men were without transport and artillery and the Germans were making relentless progress. At Galatas, for example, the allies had 400 men who, at one point, only had 10 mortar bombs to face the Germans. In comparison, the Germans had six battalions of mountain infantry with as much air and artillery support as was needed in the area. By 27th May many allied troops were being sent to the south coast (Sfakia) over the mountainous dirt tracks for evacuation. Some 15,000 were evacuated, and on 1 June the evacuation was complete and the battle was over.

The Crete resistance went on to harass the German troops, mainly armed with

their personal hunting rifles, pitch forks and home-made clubs. This dogged resistance led to many harsh and bloody reprisals, with reports of firing squads and of villages where every male (man and child) were executed being recorded, including the Kondomari and Viannos massacres. Two German generals were later tried and executed for their roles in the killing of 3,000 of the island's inhabitants. For many years the antipathy to the Germans by the Cretans was very strong.

The allied casualties were 1,742 killed, 1,737 wounded and nearly 12,000 prisoners taken. Despite their victory the German losses had been great, particularly amongst the paratroopers – out of 22,500 in the attack nearly a third, 7,000, had been killed. Hitler was shocked by the losses and he ordered that paratroopers should no longer be used to spearhead an attack on a major target.

On Crete there is a German war cemetery



at Maleme with an RAF commemoration area nearby and at Suda Bay just outside of Chania there is the allied War Cemetery which is looked after by the

Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).



There are 1,500 graves, half of which are unidentified and many countries are represented including the British Isles, Australia, New

Zealand, Canada and South Africa. The cemetery was built and is maintained by the CWGC. It was designed



by Louis de Soissons (1890-1962), who designed many of the

Commission's cemeteries around Italy, Greece and Australia. He lost one of his sons, Philip, during the Battle of Crete and it is often wondered, as his body was never identified, if he lies in one of the cemeteries designed by his father in a grave with the inscription "known unto God".

On 26th May this year at 6pm a Service of Remembrance was held to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete. The evening was sunny, albeit with a fairly stiff breeze. The site looks out across Suda Bay and is surrounded by hills. It is considered one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the Mediterranean area. The service was followed by the laying of wreaths, from the government (Michael Fallon), Commonwealth dignitaries, veterans, on behalf of various groups including war widows and the Cretan Resistance, and finally by members of the families whose loved ones are buried there. This service had been preceded by a service at the RAF War Memorial in the morning and the following day the Greeks held a similar service on the Maleme airfield which was followed by



an air display by an F16 fighter bomber from the Hellenic Air Force.

When you go home tell them of us and say;

"For your tomorrow, we gave our today". (The Kohima Epitaph)

Lynn & Mike Farrell

Social History Group Fanny Burney

In the May issue Lynn Farrell told us that members of the Social History group take it in turns to research and present something from British Social History from 1700 to 1920. As a member of this group my turn came in



May and I decided to give my talk on Fanny Burney (1752-1840) She was a writer of novels, plays and journals who visited Bookham and the surrounding countryside and lived for a few years with her husband and son in a house they built called Camilla Cottage in Westhumble.

Frances (Fanny) Burney was born in 1752 in King's Lynn, Norfolk the

second daughter of the musician Dr Charles Burney and his first wife Esther. With her two brothers James and Charles and her sisters Hetty, Susan and Charlotte, the Burneys were a close-knit family of talented musicians and scholars. She didn't go to school but had an enquiring mind and taught herself French and Italian. The family moved back to London but after her mother gave birth to her ninth child in 13 years she became dangerously ill and died in 1762. Charles was inconsolable and married an old family friend Mrs Allen who the family knew from their time in King's Lynn. Fanny never got on with her stepmother.

Fanny began to scribble secretly 'little works of invention' shortly after her mother's death. Sadly her stepmother discovered these writings and burnt her work. However, she couldn't stop writing and nine months later started writing her journal which she continued doing for the next 70 years.

She wrote her first novel, *Evelina or The History of a Young Lady's Entrance into the World*, anonymously in 1778 without the permission of her father. She was only paid 20 guineas but luckily her father was impressed that there was now a successful novelist in the family. A dramatic comedy called *The Witlings* followed and then *Cecilia or Memoirs of an Heiress*.

She was now a wildly acclaimed novelist and was introduced to King George III and Queen Charlotte who offered her the

post of Assistant Keeper of the Robes with a salary of £200 per year. This position left her with little time for writing and exhausted her. After 5 years in Court she was released after becoming ill with a pension of £100 a year.

Fanny's sister Susanna lived at

Juniper Hall in Mickleham and one of the French exiles living there was General d'Arblay who was to become her husband. Her father disapproved of him because of his poverty and that he was a Catholic. They married in 1793 in Mickleham Church and she gave birth to their son Alexandre in 1794.

Fanny then wrote *Camilla* earning her over £2,000 which enabled them to build their cottage in Westhumble.

In 1801 Monsieur d'Arblay was offered service with Napoleon's government and he returned to France. Fanny and Alexandre followed in 1802. They originally planned to stay for a year but it turned out to be ten years.

In August 1810 Fanny developed pains in her chest which her husband suspected was breast cancer. Through her royal connections she underwent a mastectomy 'performed by 7 men in black' in a battlefield scenario led by Dr Larrey considered to be the best doctor in France. Fanny was later able to describe the operation as she was conscious throughout because it took place before the development of anaesthetics. It remains one of the most compelling first accounts of a mastectomy.

She witnessed the continuing procession of troops on their way to the Battle of Waterloo and then escaped Paris meeting up with her husband in Brussels. They settled back to life in England but he died of cancer in 1818. Her son died in 1837 and she herself in January 1840. They are all buried together in Walcot, Bath.



Anita Laycock

GOLF CROQUET TOURNAMENT

The 31st March was a very wet Tuesday indeed. It was also the Croquet Group's yearly Golf Croquet Tournament and the



weather forecast had not augered well. Our intrepid leader Martin Pulsford had emailed the entrants to say that he would send an email at 9.30am to tell us the state of play literally! As we watched the rain coming down in torrents we feared the worst and sure enough the start was postponed until a review of the weather at 1pm. Very disappointing for all concerned.

Promptly at 1pm the email pinged in to say anyone who wished to should turn up and play would commence—hurray! Eight intrepid souls made their way to Polesden Lacey and for the rest of the afternoon the odd little shower did nothing to spoil our enjoyment. Singles were played, winners played winners and losers played losers and the afternoon flashed past. After all Martin's planning for the event it was a shame that it had to be so curtailed but was very enjoyable none the less.

The eventual winner, albeit from the reduced numbers? I'm very happy to report it was one Frank Cross!

BOOKHAM U3A CLUB DAY AT SURBITON CROQUET CLUB

Members of the Croquet Group enjoyed the annual away day at Surbiton Croquet Club, organised by Martin. This is a relaxed event, no competition involved, just a chance to socialise and play on the club's superb lawns. It was a chilly but thankfully dry day and great croquet was enjoyed by all, with Martin mixing and matching the players very well. After arriving early for our session, a couple of us used a spare lawn for practice, then watched club members perform their magic, or so it seems to us. Most of us had our picnic lunch in the club house, where much discussion about the referendum took place—fortunately we're all still friends! Martin presented Frank Cross with a trophy for winning the Golf Croquet Competition—the first time this has been awarded.

An afternoon of croquet followed, with the odd glimmer of sun showing now and then, before we made our way home following an excellent day.

As ever we sincerely thank Martin for organising the day and for the members of Surbiton Croquet Club for allowing us the use of all their excellent facilities, it is very much appreciated.

Val Cross



Tai Chi Group

Tai Chi is an art that has many health benefits, both physical and mental. It is mentally challenging to learn, and practice,

exactly a common sight in Bookham!

Autumn then winter came and the group wasn't getting plumper; just more and more clothes were being worn. Gloves



as they say, makes perfect - however we are realising that it will take many years - if ever - to be perfect but trying to get there is fun and so good for us.

Tai Chi group I will celebrate its first birthday in April and it was a journey into the unknown when we first met last year in the Tithe Barn. We had little idea what we were about to do so it was an adventurous group who met and happily most of us are still together:

The summer months were delightful and we practiced outside, warm under sunny blue skies and watched by doves and a curious cat - not to mention sideways glances from the postman and visitors to the main house who must have wondered what on earth was going on. A group of - well let's face it - not so young people following Tai Chi instructions is not

then hats were donned as we tried to keep the chill at bay, the Christmas celebrations of mince pies and mulled wine helped. On one particularly cold day we enjoyed toasted crumpets afterwards as a treat. Sometimes, on clear sunny days, we ventured outside again and enjoyed exercise under cold blue skies and realised that yes, we could keep going despite the weather (however, roll on summer!).

Word spread and eventually a second (beginners') group was started. Details of both groups are on the U3A website. We would like to acknowledge the generosity of the owners of the Tithe Barn in Manor House Lane who allow us to use it, a perfect venue for Tai Chi.

Val Cross

Yeah Ha!! Barn Dance



n Friday 20th May, Jan Dicker our Social Secretary arranged for a Barn Dance to be held at the Barn Hall. Fifty eight

number of gentlemen managed to lose their partners and three men ended up together in the middle of the set looking confused. Perhaps it was the warm hall or



participants took part and when dancing in sets

that glass of wine?



or circles filled the main hall. The 'Knock-kneed Bumblebees' fiddlers and caller were excellent,

Unfortunately the very



enjoyable evening ended too soon and we went home weary but fitter! Well done Jan.

explaining, encouraging and cajoling! Elizabeth our local caterer provided a very tasty meat salad before the dancing commenced.

The instructions and dancing started and as usual we forgot our lefts and rights and what came next! Trying to remember which way did the circle, star or the do-si-do go caused some merriment! A



David Middleton

Out & About with Bookham U3A

OUTINGS & THEATRE VISITS from April 2016
To book telephone Sheila Pomfret — 01372 454706
Theatre Matinees (by coach)

- 11 August Sheila is planning a visit to Chichester Theatre in August. More details in due course. Please contact her if you are interested in the outing.
- 24 August The visit to Highgrove Gardens is proving very popular, but the bookings Sheila has managed to make mean leaving Bookham at 7.15am There will be a comfort break en route and Sheila is trying to book a group lunch before leaving Highgrove. She will circulate menus in due course. Taking your own food into Highgrove is not an option. The visit has proved very popular and Sheila is in the process of contacting those members who were successful in the ballot. .
- 25 September 6 days' stay half-board at the Jury Hotel in Plymouth. Our daily itinerary is currently being confirmed - and will certainly include a number of National Trust properties. If you are interested please contact me to be listed and receive more info regarding costs etc. as soon as they are confirmed.
- 6 October Sheila is organising a visit to Woking to see the Northern Ballet's performance of Romeo and Juliet inspired by Les Ballets de Monte Carlo's production. Please let her know if you are interested in going. The price is £31.50 which includes the coach and Royal Circle seats.
-

U3A SURREY NETWORK STUDY DAYS

- August 8th-11th The National Summer School will be held at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester
- August 15th-18th Full details can be found on the Bookham U3A web page
-

U3A Tuesday Monthly Meetings

- August 2nd No meeting
- September 6th The Portsmouth Road— Jennifer Goldsmith
- October 4th AGM and talk on CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau)
- November 1st The British are coming—Roger Mendham