

Senior

Moments



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

Issue 52

November 2016



photos taken on David Middleton's Richmond river walk in October at York House



Bookham and District U3A

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

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This issue heralds the new Chairman and Committee for Bookham U3A that was founded by Cassie Waters over 25 years ago, so it's appropriate now to have another lady in charge of our activities. Lynn comes to the post not only with two years' experience as Vice Chair but she combined that post with Speaker's Secretary whose job is not only to find the speakers for a year in advance but to ensure that they arrive on the day.

This is, I think, the first issue where I have received so many text and photo entries without asking for them and long may it continue, because it makes a far more interesting Senior Moments for you to read.

Amongst the pieces to read this time are a visit to the Army Museum of Flying, a trip to the Wetlands Centre at Barnes, an interesting piece on banking in London and it's connection with Stourhead and Painshill Park. There is a very gory piece on medical treatment in the early 1800s (how fortunate we are not to be living under the medical services that prevailed then). There are lots of photographs and an article on a recent walk by the Thames at Richmond. I had written a piece about the U3A National website but that will have to wait for a future publication. Don't forget, if you have something that you think will be of interest to other members please let me know even if you can't write it up and supply the photos. I will have the outline of an idea with which to construct a full article.

Maurice Baker

Cover photo at Winkworth Arboretum by Patricia Stevens

NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

This is my first "Chairman's notes" since taking over from Neil Carter.

My first job must be to say a very big "thank you" for electing me.

My second must be a huge thank you to Neil for the enthusiasm and work he has put into being the Chairman and his previous work on the committee.

During his time he has seen the U3A go from strength to strength: more members, no waiting list, additional groups, new activity groups, new events and a full range of outings. His legacy is a vibrant organisation. Not only did he deal with the day to day organisation of our U3A he was also very active in the U3A network and keeping in touch with other local U3A's. He has left me some very big shoes to fill. For me personally he has been very supportive and has tried to make sure that I am equipped to deal with my time in office. I know he will still be very active in the U3A but is looking forward to having more time to concentrate on his own pastimes.

I must also mention another very long standing member of the committee who has now stepped down—Sheila Pomfret. Sheila has been working hard at producing outings, theatre trips and holidays for many years and it is time that she takes a well-earned rest and makes way for others to learn and to take on her mantle. "Thank you", we appreciate all that you have done.

I then have to welcome some new names to the committee—Roger Mendham has become the Vice-chairman and Frank Cross has joined as the Speaker Secretary, well done, we need "new blood" on the committee to bring

in new ideas. Others have changed roles, Peter Clarke: Minutes Secretary, Mike Farrell: Groups Co-ordinator and David Hyde: Assistant Groups Co-ordinator. Anne Glyn has become the administrator for the outings and Pauline Bluck is looking after Registration.

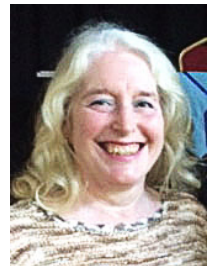
The first of our new regime for outings took place in September—John Dicker, Group Leader of the Ornithology and Botany Group, decided to organise a trip to the Wetlands Trust at Barnes (thank you for being the first to get the new outings underway). In February 2017 Pippa Carter has organised a trip to Bletchley Park and this was nearly sold out at the October meeting. Others are in the pipeline. If you lead a group and think that one of your outings would be of interest to other members of the U3A please make the trip available to a wider group. Alternatively if you have a real desire like Pippa to visit somewhere make it happen!

This is a wonderful organisation and I will do my best to ensure that it stays in safe hands and continues to thrive. Like previous Chairman I would be very happy to be invited to visit your group so that I am aware of everything our U3A groups have to offer.

I hope to see many of you over the coming months.

With best wishes for the coming holiday season,

Lynn Farrell



The 23rd AGM of Bookham and District U3A

On Tuesday 4th October in front of a packed Old Barn Hall, the Chairman, Neil Carter, opened the proceedings. After welcoming everyone and signing last year's minutes, he asked the Treasurer, Chris Pullan, to present the Accounts. These had been



Neil Carter handed over the Chairmanship of Bookham to Lynn Farrell

previously audited by Irene Gawne and were adopted from the floor.

Neil gave the Chairman's report. He was pleased to announce that during his term of office he had achieved his objective of eliminating a waiting list. Numbers had risen from 460 members in 2014 to 546 in 2016. Neil thanked the various committee members for all their hard work in the last year, which had helped to make the U3A so successful. He also thanked those who held positions not on the committee, but who made such a difference to the smooth running of the monthly meetings. Neil paid special tribute to Sheila Pomfret, who has organised outings and holidays for many years and has been persuaded to take a well earned rest. Neil made a presentation to Sheila on behalf of the Committee, and said that in the future, members will be asked to organise "one off" events, with Anne Glyn assisting in her role as outings administrator.

This was followed by the Election of Officers and Committee.

Chairman	Lynn Farrell
Vice-Chairman	Roger Mendham
Secretary	Gillian Arnold
Treasurer	Chris Pullan
Minutes Sec.	Peter Clarke
Membership Sec.	Pam Hyde
Groups Co-ord.	Mike Farrell
Webmaster	Harold Reglar
Speakers Sec.	Frank Cross
Social Sec.	Jan Dicker
Assistant Groups Co-ord	David Hyde
Newsletter	Maurice Baker
Outings Administrator	Anne Glyn

There being no other business John Dicker thanked the Committee on behalf of the members for their continued hard work throughout the year and the meeting closed at 2.53pm.

Bookham And District U3a Military History Group Visit To The Museum Of Army Flying At Middle Wallop, Hampshire



On Thursday 21st July'16, Margaret and Tom Adam organised a truly superb group visit to the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop in Hampshire.

A well chosen 25 seater air conditioned coach gave us a nimble and precisely timed programme. On arrival we had coffee and a preliminary talk on the museum, the history, the training and operational activities of army flying in the Glider Pilot Regiment and The Army Air Corps.

After an excellent introductory film in the Museum Cinema we were arranged into two groups, each led by expert Museum Guides Dick Oldfield and Derek Armitage. Both guides admitted concern about talking to a specialist military history

group, which proved justified as questions were many and searching. This led to a great deal of fun and banter and a thoroughly enjoyable visit.

Margaret had organised an outstanding and delicious lunch with wine in a private museum dining room and Tom arranged a surprise afternoon film show of a talk by Bookham's own Pegasus Bridge veteran Geoff Barkway on his experiences as a glider pilot in 1944. A most appropriate, humorous and moving choice

of film for the occasion.

In the afternoon the group were free to roam this extremely well presented museum. With over 50 gliders, light fixed wing and helicopter aircraft as well as numerous galleries of uniforms, smaller exhibits and artefacts, from Balloons in the Boer War to Apache Helicopters of the present day. The day was completed by a fly past of helicopters and light aircraft which was viewed by some of us from the balcony of the museum.

All thanks to Margaret and Tom for a fabulous day out. They even organised glorious weather for this splendid visit.

*Margaret Adam
photo by Steve Lewis*

FRIENDS OF LITTLE BOOKHAM CHURCH

Back in July Bookham U3A Songsters were approached by the Friends of All Saints Church, Little Bookham to have a Sing-a Long evening for their fund raising event in August. We were very pleased to accept.

We got together a group of Songsters and with our pianist for the occasion, the Church's Organist Tony Kemp, we were able to rehearse in this delightful little Church.

Thankfully it all worked out very well and a good time was had by all. Audrey Ward

What a delightful evening of nostalgia. On August 20th Audrey Ward brought her troupe of singers, aptly named The Songsters, to All Saints Church and, ably

accompanied by our own Tony Kemp, they treated us to a medley of songs of the past. Not so far back to the past that we did not know them, but songs from the shows ("I'm Getting Married in the Morning" proved to be a hit), beautiful romantic songs, "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" was another obviously known and loved by us all, and many, many others, most of which had our feet tapping and our brains regretting that we had forgotten the words that we knew so well a long time ago.

The Songsters is a group formed of members of Bookham U3A who meet monthly to sing purely for pleasure. This showed in the performance – they seemed to be enjoying themselves as much as their audience. The friends provided excellent

refreshments as always and a handsome profit of £430 was made. This included a very generous donation from The Songsters themselves, which was much appreciated.

I, for one, went home with those lovely old melodies still in my head. They don't write songs like that anymore, even if one does have to admit that some of the words are a bit corny!

Barbara Henry (Friends of Little Bookham Church)



Trip to London Wetland Centre, Barnes

13th September 2016

We recently received an invitation from The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) to attend 'A Talk on the Wild Side' which had been



specifically tailored for U3A Groups to celebrate WWT's 70th anniversary. This was a nationwide

initiative involving Wetland Centres in Scotland, Northern Ireland and two in England, one being conveniently close to us at Barnes, and 14 of us took advantage at the rate of £17.50 per head which turned out to be remarkably good value for money on a gorgeous sunny day.



Four of our members were kind enough to drive us there for an 11 am start, when we were welcomed with tea/coffee, buns and biscuits, followed by an illustrated talk entitled 'Sir Peter Scott and his legacy to modern conservation'. This remarkable man, son of course to Robert Falcon Scott

of Antarctic fame, had the vision and determination to save wetlands from extinction, setting up the charity in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire in 1946.



We were brought up to date with details of WWT's present projects, one dealing with the concern about Bewick's Swans which have recently shown a considerable decline in numbers. Why? That is the question receiving much concern and research.

Then came lunch, where we were allowed to sit out in the sunshine to enjoy our sandwiches before being given a tour of the centre. Many species of ducks, geese, cranes etc. were identified and shown to us by one of the centre's experts. Maybe because of the hot weather we didn't see quite as many as we might have done on a cooler day, nonetheless we were all most impressed with what we saw.

Finally we were allowed to explore the centre at our own leisure, but certainly most of us felt that we had already seen an abundance to keep us going for ages, and being pretty warm ourselves, decided to call it a day – and what a great day it was. Well done and thank you WWT.

John Dicker



The Croquet Group 2016

So another season comes to an end, and what a good one we've had, with very few games cancelled due to weather; in fact on



occasion large umbrellas were used as sun shades. Our season started as usual in April, and the first day on those beautiful lawns at

Polesden is an exciting one, looking forward to the season ahead.

In May, coaches from Surbiton Croquet club came for the day and much is learned/remembered. We also had our "away day" to Surbiton in May. It is a treat to be able to play on their beautiful lawns and have the use of the facilities for the day. I even had a quick on the spot lesson from one of their coaching members



while waiting to play - a bonus!

The annual picnic was once again held in Martin and Trudi's garden where the

sun shone and food, drink and croquet were enjoyed by all. Another day the annual Doubles Tournament was won by Iden and Trevor after a close contest.

During August we held "taster" sessions on Saturdays, when any visitors to Polesden could "have a go". One couple, members of another U3A, were so smitten that they were off to investigate croquet and possibly start a group!

The Beginners' Group have had one or two drop out due to ill health but the rest are dedicated to the game and set to continue next year. During the first season croquet shots are

learned, then Golf croquet followed by the basics of Association Croquet. As in every level of the game, it makes the mind tick! There will be a sign up sheet available at the February and March U3A meetings for this group. A "taster" session could possibly



be arranged for U3A members if there is enough interest, so that you won't actually have to sign up to a group until you've given it a try.

Finally, thank you to the National Trust - we are privileged to have such a beautiful setting as Polesden in which to play; to those group members who white line the lawns on a rota basis; to the members of Surbiton Croquet club for opening their facilities to us, and to Martin and Trudi for hosting the summer picnic. The croquet



group is a large one and we thank Martin for running a group which gives so much pleasure to so many.

Val Cross

The Early Days of Hoare's Bank and Stourhead

This article is based on the talk I gave to the Social History Group. Richard Hoare was aged 16 when he was apprenticed to goldsmith Richard Moore of Star Court near Cheapside in 1665 by his yeoman father, Henry Hoare of St. Botolph without Aldgate. Henry would have used social or business contacts and paid a substantial fee to secure Richard's apprenticeship.



Richard Hoare (1648–1719)

Richard's early apprentice days would have been overshadowed by the Plague and the Great Fire of London. However on completing his apprenticeship in 1672, Richard became a goldsmith/banker in a lucrative trade and also a freeman of the Goldsmith's Company.

During Richard's apprenticeship he was turned over to a new master, Robert Tempest, who had been trading at the sign of the Golden Bottle, Cheapside since 1654/5. An inventory of the Golden Bottle in 1675 showed that amongst the stock were plated goods valued at over £2,600 along with jewellery, watches and £800 of loose diamonds. As well as learning how to make and mend, buy and sell these items, Richard Hoare would have learned about banking, taking money on deposit, issuing notes and receipts and administering loans.

In 1672 Richard married Susanna Austen, a goldsmith's daughter. When his father died in 1670, Richard inherited substantial freehold in Swan Alley (St Giles without Cripplegate) plus leasehold properties in Dolphin Yard (West Smithfield), Cock Lane (St Sepulchre) and St. John Street (Clerkenwell). When Susanna's father died around the same time, she inherited £500 in cash and seven Cheapside properties.

On becoming a Freeman in 1672, Richard Hoare decided to stay with Robert Tempest. Sometime after 1675, when Tempest had died Richard Hoare took charge of the business. By 1690 Cheapside had declined in popularity and Richard moved his business to Fleet Street. This area was where the goldsmith-bankers served the merchant population.

Richard Hoare's son and successor, Henry followed his father into the trade and entered the Goldsmith's Company in 1698 by patrimony, which was only available to sons of existing freemen. Goldsmiths needed a head for figures and good handwriting plus an understanding of the financial markets. Richard made sure his sons could all read and write French and placed several of them in European merchant houses to learn Dutch, German, Italian or Portuguese.

In 1700 there were 42 private banks in London but by 1720 few had survived, but Richard Hoare's had. Richard and his son Henry had had to make a substantial personal investment in the Bank in 1710 and for several years took very little income. In 1714 the maximum interest rate allowed on loans was 5% per annum. The Hoares' strategy was to restrict the amount of credit they gave and they eliminated small loans, as these were too expensive to administer. Most of their money was lent to 20 of their top borrowers, who were well heeled. Increasingly their list of customers became blue blooded.

Henry Hoare became a partner in the bank in 1702 and married Jane Benson, the daughter of a wealthy iron merchant. Henry and Jane lived in the banking house in Fleet Street along with their 4 surviving children. Sir Richard

and Lady Hoare also lived there along with 4-5 clerks plus servants. In 1711 Sir Richard renewed his lease on the bank premises and bought the next-door premises. This site later became numbered 35 and 36 Fleet Street. Richard died in 1719 age 70. His wife survived him and six children who were all beneficiaries in his will but had to sign a release to Henry of all claims on Richard's real and personal estate.

Henry succeeded his father at the Bank just before the investment frenzy known as "The South Sea Bubble". However, the Hoare's applied their usual caution and bought South Sea Company shares when stock prices were rising and sold whenever they dipped. After prices peaked in 1720 Hoares' acted quickly and sold 4000 shares making a profit in excess of £19,000.

Henry Hoare became known as "Good Henry" and he was a devout man. He left money in his will to a number of charities including Christ's Hospital, St. Bart's Hospital, Bridewell, Bethlem Hospital, SPCK, Society for Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the Society for the Reform of Manners and the Corporation of Clergymen's Sons. Good Henry purchased his own estate at Stourton in 1717 for £23,000 but did not begin building work until 1721. The purchase propelled the Hoare family from merchant class to landed gentry. His building of the neo-Palladian villa, Stourhead, put the Hoare family at the front of fashionable taste. Henry's son, "Henry the Magnificent", exploited this to create the "paradise" of Stourhead.



Stourhead

Henry the Magnificent married Anne Masham, whose mother was lady in waiting to Queen Anne. Anne died in childbirth in 1727 and in 1728 he married Susan Colt

of Clapham. Henry was a shrewd businessman and the Bank's fortunes flourished under his control. He was a partner in the Bank for 60 years. Henry was keen to furnish Stourhead and between 1726 and 1734 he spent £10,000 on building works and £3,000 on furnishings. He began work on the garden in 1743. Henry decided that his heir to Stourhead, Richard Colt Hoare, must give up his position at the bank. This ensured the financial survival of the Stourhead Estate should the Bank have hit hard times.

The Bank survived and chose not to merge with other banks in the twentieth century. It remains the sole surviving private bank in England and continues business at 37 Fleet Street. There are close ties between the Bank, the Family and Stourhead. It may not be known that Charles Hamilton, who created Painshill Park near Cobham went to Westminster School with Henry Hoare. In 1766 when Charles Hamilton had financial problems he obtained a loan from Hoare, the Banker. Unfortunately



Painshill Park

this was not sufficient to offset Hamilton's other outstanding debts and Painshill was sold at auction in 1773.

Peter Witter



Medical Treatment in a country hospital 1839-41

Today if we are unwell and referred to a hospital by our GP we can expect to be seen by various medical staff including junior doctors and consultants. We are likely to be examined, screened, and receive a variety of tests to decide diagnosis and treatment.

As leader of the U3A Social

At the time to become a junior hospital doctor a middle class boy aged between 14-20 would pay a fee to become apprenticed for five years to a general practitioner. After this time he would go to London to attend lectures at a teaching hospital and after about 18 months he would take an exam at the Apothecaries Hall. If he passed he would become a Licentiate of the



History Group I wondered what medical treatment was like in the early 1800s and I found a very enlightening book "Stutter's Casebook. A Junior Hospital Doctor 1839-1841". William Stutter worked as the resident house apothecary and house surgeon at the first general hospital in Suffolk at Bury St Edmonds from 1839-1841. He was expected to be available all hours of the day and night.

Society of Apothecaries and licensed to practice. This is the qualification of Dr Stutter. If a doctor wanted more qualifications he took the exam of the College of Surgeons and on passing became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS).

Dr Stutter was paid a salary of £70 per annum and was the only paid doctor at the hospital. Dr Stutter

had two pupil doctors for which he was paid £27 10s per half year for their teaching. There were also two physicians and three surgeons who served the hospital but they were unpaid as it was assumed they would earn enough from their private practices. The consultants regularly resigned from the hospital suggesting they were not happy with the arrangement or could not get on with each other or the hospital committee. In general a junior hospital doctor stayed until he could find a better appointment but as there were more doctors than jobs many stayed for years. When Dr Stutter joined the hospital the other medical staff were a matron, three senior nurses and one junior nurse. Other staff were cooks, a kitchen girl, a housemaid, a laundry maid, and a porter. When the hospital was full it had 53 patients. Patients suffering from smallpox, TB, dropsy, venereal diseases, chronic leg ulcers, or dying from cancer were not admitted. Children under the age of 7 and maternity cases were also not admitted. I got the impression that in most cases a patient could be admitted if there was a reasonable chance of cure or relief of symptoms and a low chance of the patient dying whilst in hospital.

In order to be admitted a patient usually had to be recommended by an annual subscriber who paid two guineas per year to recommend two outpatients and one inpatient per year. The hospital was established to care for the deserving poor. The rich paid for their own private physicians and surgeons and many artisans paid into Friendly Societies that looked after them if they were ill. Surgeons at the workhouse treated paupers after the Poor

Law Reform Act of 1834.

The average age of Stutter's patients was 32 years, the youngest being age 10 and the oldest 76 years. The average length of stay was 49 days. Patients were discharged on a Wednesday so carriers who had come into Bury St Edmunds for market day (on a Wednesday) could take patients back to their villages. Before they could be discharged patients had to write a thank you letter to their subscriber. They also had to visit the Chapel to thank God for their cure. At discharge patients were described as 'cured', 'relieved' or 'much relieved'. Some patients died. It is likely that the greatest part in a patient's improvement was to be kept clean, rested, reasonably well fed and possibly prescribed by Dr Stutter beer, porter, or wine. Stutter's time at the hospital was when there were no X rays, scanners, or blood tests. There was a stethoscope but this was the Laennec type and was a simple wooden tube. However, Dr Stutter did listen to the patient's heart and chest and palpated the abdomen looking for masses and tested the urine for albumen. This was compared to earlier in the 1800s when a doctor regarded physical examination of the patient as superfluous, preferring instead to look at the patient's face, look at the patient's tongue and the condition of the sputum, faeces

and urine. No useable thermometer was developed until 1867 when a 6-inch thermometer was invented. Previously the thermometers were about 15 inches long and had to be left in the rectum for 20 minutes to get a reading. It is hardly surprising they were not used. Blood pressure could not be taken until 1896. In the 1830s diabetes was diagnosed by tasting the urine for sweetness. I wonder who did the tasting.

Bleeding a patient was still part of medical practice and it was not until about 1850 that this treatment was in decline. Much medical thinking was that the cause of disease was poison inside the body that had to be forced out. Around 1830 in Great Yarmouth country people still thought it was a good thing twice per year to be bled until they fainted. Dr Stutter's case notes show that he prescribed laxatives for many of his patients regardless of his diagnosis. He had many medications he could use 75% of which were plant based.

Wet and dry cupping was also in use. Wet cupping involved placing a glass jar over the area to be treated. A candle was introduced then removed to create a vacuum and the flesh rose up the jar. Then a scarifier was applied which caused multiple small lacerations. The cup and candle were reintroduced to recreate the vacuum and blood was then collected. Dry cupping produced a blister and was used in the treatment of pneumonia and rheumatic conditions. Leeches were in common use as a cure all. Headaches were treated with a dozen leeches around the temples and tumours

or obesity of the abdomen could be treated with 50 leeches. Leeches could be placed in the mouth or up the nose but it was recommended a thread be attached to the leech's tail to prevent the patient swallowing the leech.

“Leeches were in common use as a cure all. Headaches were treated with a dozen leeches around the temples”

Surgeons would suture wounds and perform operations to set bones or amputations but they would not usually open the abdominal cavity. However, Jefferson (MRCS) of Framlingham in Suffolk did the first ovariectomy in 1836. The patient recovered in 15 days. Jefferson as a country surgeon had the advantage he could perform an operation in his home or the patient's home which reduced the risk of infection compared with a hospital. He went on to perform 4 further ovariectomies.

In 1841 Dr Stutter resigned to become GP in Wickhambrook in Suffolk, where he continued in practice for the next 32 years. He died in 1887.

I am glad I live now and not in 1839. I would not want to be on the receiving end of Dr Stutter's treatments though no doubt he was applying current medical knowledge to help the patient.

Judith Witter



Out & About with Bookham U3A

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

U3A SURREY NETWORK STUDY DAYS

- November 18th THE INCA: CHILDREN OF THE SUN Maria Chester
- February 17th My Life in Crime - Presented by Richard Hawkins, Kingston U3A
The Surrey Poet - Presented by John Griffin
-

U3A Tuesday Monthly Meetings

- 6th December 2016 Bob France What The Butler Saw
- 3rd January 2017 Dr Kathryn Karkup Dying to be beautiful
- 7th February Lucy Allen Highs & lows of a stuntwoman's life
-



photos taken on David Middleton's Richmond river walk in October at Strawberry Hill

Vegetable Gardening

In June Michelle gave us a guided tour of The Vineries Garden Centre in Effingham. Established over 60 years ago they grow

200,000 geraniums every year along with many shrubs and perennials. The vegetable plants are supplied by a local nursery.



most of their plants on site in their nursery glasshouses. This includes growing over

Penny and Gordon Osborne kindly invited us to a barbeque at their home

in Woodlands Road in July. We all brought a plate of food or some drink. Gordon did a splendid job of cooking food on the barbeque and the weather was glorious. We enjoyed the delicious lunch and afternoon tea while exchanging tips and ideas about the growing season. Gordon then gave us



a guided tour of the garden including his vegetable plots and flower borders. They have created the garden from scratch over many years and the trees now provide shade and a



habitat for wildlife. Gordon makes full use of his greenhouses and potting sheds.

In August we made a return trip to the Walled Kitchen Garden at Painshill Park in Cobham. What a difference to our previous visit earlier in the year.

We could see the late summer produce of runner beans, squashes, carrots, beetroot and many other unusual crops ready to be harvested and enjoyed. We also spotted one of the Mole Valley plastic cows!



On a wet and cold morning in September we walked around the Grace & Favour Walled Kitchen Garden in West Horsley. This was again a return visit and interesting to see the garden at the end of the growing season. Their newly renovated potting shed is now finished – well more like a small hall! The fruit trees had been affected by a European virus on the leaves which has swept through the area. Eastwick Allotments haven't

escaped. Interesting to note that they cover their leeks, radishes and greens with a thin layer of fleece to keep out the dreaded flea beetle.

We then decamped to The Vineries for a warming cup of coffee and then stayed for lunch. We talked about our plans for the coming months. In October and November we will meet at Anita's house to debate various topics. Our Christmas lunch is planned to take place at The Anchor and then we will join up with Bookham, Fetcham & District Garden Society for their evening talk on Monday, 27th February 2017 about Franchi Seeds, an Italian seed company. This is an excellent talk and any visitors will be welcome in the Harrison Room at 7.30 pm for refreshments prior to the talk by Paolo Arrigo starting at 7.50 pm. Entrance for visitors is £4 to include

refreshments and you will also be able to purchase packets of seeds. I grew their cut and come again salad leaves and with just a drop of water most days they survived the late hot summer months.

Anita Laycock



Richmond Lock/Weir, Marble Hill House, Orleans House Gallery, York House and Strawberry Hill House Walk

On Thursday 6th October our London Walking Group 4 went for a lovely walk along the south and north banks of the River Thames.

We started from Richmond Station



Memorial to a Naval Hero 7 Titanic survivor

walking to Richmond Bridge for coffee at the Tide Cafe, situated under the bridge, and sat outside overlooking the river. From here we



Sion Road terraces

made our way along the pretty Richmond riverfront past Richmond Palace Lane, under Twickenham Road Bridge and railway bridge to Richmond Lock and Weir. Old Deer Park was on our right where we paused to look at the original Meridian Line and the site of the King's Observatory. The weir, when raised, is used to stop the water escaping from up river and flowing down river with the tide leaving the boats up river stranded. Once the tide flows back the weir is lowered to allow boat movements. We crossed over

the lock and weir footbridge to the north side of the river whilst noting that the water level on one side of the weir was about four foot higher than the other.

We retraced our steps, but on the north side of the river, past the bridges and along the pretty river footpath toward Marble Hill House Gardens. Before we entered the gardens we could see on the opposite side of the river the Star & Garter building and Petersham Meadows. Once in the gardens we passed the Grotto, Ice House and Coach House Cafe to see Marble Hill House itself a lovely small 'Iced White' building. King George II had the house built in 1729 for his mistress the Countess of Suffolk as a refuge from Court and her husband. From here we joined Orleans Road for the Orleans House Gallery.

We had pre-arranged to have our sandwiches in the attractive Orleans stabled cafe with their tea, coffee and cake. After lunch we went around to look at the current exhibition on self portraits. Unfortunately, the main Gallery is currently being restored and the House an 18th century Riverside Mansion has been demolished. Louis Phillippe, King of France, lived here in 1815-17 as the émigré Duc of Orleans and later by his widow and son, when in exile. We walked back to the river



York House garden ponds

to see Ham House on the opposite side and the old Hammond Ferry.

Continuing along the river path we passed the Swan Pub and joined Sion Road with pretty 18th Century terraced houses to enter York

grounds of Strawberry Hill House a riverside mansion built by Horace Walpole, the author of *The Castle of Otranto*, and the son of the Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole. The house 'Iced White' is built in the medieval



Coffee break at Richmond Bridge

House Gardens. York House is over 300 years old and has beautiful gardens consisting of a sunken garden, water garden with nymphs and a balustraded riverside terrace opposite Eel Pie Island. The House was originally occupied by the York family and later by the exiled King of France and his entourage who occupied some seven houses in the area.

We rejoined the river path to see St Mary's Parish Church where Alexander Pope the poet and local resident was buried in 1744, the Local Museum and Church Street the very pretty original old centre of Twickenham. Back along the river and Eel Pie Island we joined Cross Deep and entered Radnor Gardens where the Earl of Radnor had his river mansion and Pope also had his house.

A short walk from here took us into the

Gothic style with turrets, battlements and pointed windows. The building is now part of St Mary's University. We walked across the gardens to enter St Mary's Chapel, a Roman Catholic seminary which had been visited by the Pope in 2010. We left the Chapel and crossed the road to catch the 33 bus back to Richmond Station.

This was a lovely walk along the river, with good company, avoiding road traffic, seeing old mansions and gardens and enjoying life.

David Middleton





photos taken on David Middleton's Richmond river walk in October



York House Garden Nymphs!