



Senior

Moments



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

Issue 53

February 2017



*photos taken by David Middleton at the October Quiz night*



# 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](http://www.bookhamu3a.org.uk)

## The Committee



Chairman  
Lynn Farrell  
01372 451797



Vice Chairman  
Roger Mendham  
01372 459527



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Gillian Arnold  
01372 45204



Treasurer  
Chris Pullan  
01372 454582



Membership  
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Pam Hyde  
01372 454734



Minutes  
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Peter Clarke  
01372450908



Groups Co-  
ordinator  
Mike Farrell  
01372 451797



David Hyde  
01372 454734



Webmaster  
Harold Reglar  
01372 452445



Speaker Secretary  
Frank Cross  
01372 450526



Newsletter  
Maurice Baker  
372147



Social Events  
Jan Dicker  
452251

In this issue of Senior Moments there much to arouse your interest. Apart from the write ups of U3A activities including the quiz evening and a scientific outing and a report on the latest Phoenix production, there is a most fascinating piece on Africans in Georgian England where you can discover intriguing facts in the immediate aftermath of the end of slavery in this country and some of this relates to people and places in Surrey. Marion Kemp has contributed a poem from her collection of works she has yet to publish. We have featured several articles in previous issues from our Gardening Group but this time Lee Saunders is making us think about aspects of gardening many of us don't usually consider. The annual report on the books being read by the Book Group makes good reading. There is a piece on the unsung helpers and heroes of our U3A, together with photos so that we can see who all these valiant members are, but there is always space for many more members to get involved. The Bookham U3A Outings is now open to all members and individual involvement is encouraged. This means you only need to come up with an idea for an outing and Anne Glyn, the Outings Coordinator; will help to get all the administration, involving coaches, tickets etc to get the project underway. In a similar manner, the Social Events that we have throughout the year will no longer fall on the shoulders of just one member. This means individual members can make all the arrangements for just one single event thus easing the load and distributing it to more of the membership that could also well introduce new and innovative ideas. Should you offer to take on an outing or a social event you can be assured of the full support and help from both the committee and other members with particular experience to help get the project underway, so you don't need to feel or even be alone or be unsupported in any venture you agree to undertake.

*Maurice Baker*

*Cover photo—wild crocuses in February by Maurice Baker*

## NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

By the time you read this we will be well into the New Year and looking forward to all it will bring. Just before I sat down to write this I spent some time in the garden doing a bit of tidying up but also taking a “rest” noticing all the bulbs showing through, new buds forming on the shrubs and the smell of winter honeysuckle and Christmas box, yes spring is on the way and so too are the lighter evenings.

The festivities for the U3A got off to a fine start in early December with a talk on “What the Butler Saw”. Our bewigged speaker gave us a splendid introduction to Georgian manners with special reference to



*Petworth House*

Petworth House where Dr Bob France (also known as Stedman the Butler) works as a volunteer. Following this there were, as always, wonderful refreshments provided by our willing volunteers.

I was invited to attend the Sessions for Songsters at their December meeting and had a fun afternoon singing Christmas carols and songs to a delightful piano accompaniment. As one of the members remarked to me “no learning of words, no practising—we just come along and sing for the joy of it” and so it was, a real delight.

The January meeting gave us a fun chemistry lesson on botox, lead and arsenic as deadly ways of “Dying to be Beautiful.” I

I think it was enough to put anyone off too much vanity.

In January I will be visiting the Classical History Group for an afternoon talk on “A Roman Road,” There were so many interesting and varied topics set out for the first few months of the year for me to choose from I decided to go for the first available date.

We are lucky to have so many well supported groups and I hope to be invited to visit a few more. I never know I may find a new interest and a group to join. Last year I managed to get a beginner’s ballroom dancing group going so maybe by next Christmas I will be ready to show off my steps. Everyone should be able to find something that interests them, but don’t forget that if a group you want to join is full or something that really interests you isn’t covered we can always look for like-minded others and set up a new group—there are always people willing to lend a hand. Best wishes,

*Lynn Farrell*



## The Queen's Birthday Parade - Trooping the Colour

Last year Frank and I were lucky enough to win tickets in the ballot for the above occasion. We had a really wonderful time, culminating in everyone attending being ushered down the closed off Mall (if you wanted to!) and having a place at the railings of Buckingham Palace to see the whole of the Royal family on the balcony where we all sang Happy Birthday to the Queen - it seemed very special in her 90th birthday year. If anyone would like to apply this year, it's taking place on 17th June, the website is [www.trooping-the-colour.co.uk](http://www.trooping-the-colour.co.uk) and all the details needed are on there. For those without internet access, the address is: The Brigade Major, Headquarters Household Division, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AX. State how many tickets are required (max 3) and include a stamped addressed envelope for acknowledgement. Applications are open now until the end of February, the ballot is drawn in March and no payment is required until tickets are allocated. Tickets are allocated randomly and therefore this is not suitable for a group outing but if anyone wants to apply individually and then be put in touch with others who may wish to travel in a group, I am happy to be a point of contact (tel: 450526). It's a very memorable day - good luck!

Val Cross



Some of our volunteers

Angie Squires, Diana Jackson, Irene Gawne, Barry Davies, Pauline Bluck, Lesley Davies and Lynn Farrell



Gardening Group Christmas lunch

## Penny Readings, October 2016

The Creative Writing Group of Leatherhead, Bookham and Fetcham U3As contribution to the 2016 Mole Valley Arts Alive Festival.

Programme Devised by Edwina Vardey. Music by Hedley Kay, singer and guitarist. Readings written and performed by the seven members of the U3A Creative Writing Group.

Edwina Vardey welcomed an almost full house in the Green Room of Leatherhead Theatre who were absorbed and enchanted by a nicely balanced programme of writing and poetry created from the challenging, mysterious titles on which the group had worked through the year.

A seasonal cycle was illuminated by Spring Fling, April Fool, Midsummer Nightmare and Autumn Leaves. These were sprinkled among quests such as An Awfully Big Adventure, To the Woods, It Started with a Whimper, Breaking Away, Honeymoon, Marooned, and Never Never Land. The quests were interwoven with explorations of feelings and drifted among thoughts such as Pillow Talk, Who Needs Friends, The Root of the Matter and Fat Chance. These in turn were nestled among notions such as My Turn, Life Skills, Guilty Secrets, and Independence.

Hedley Kay selected and sang folk music inspired by the readings to lead us into an interval of appreciative chatter and then returned us to the second half for more of the creative writings.

This was another triumphant revival of the Victorian tradition of entertainment by locals for locals



*Bill & Gill Whitman, Marian McGee, Diane Reeder, Edwina Vardey, Roy Baxter, Eileen Palmer and Martin Hollins,*

*The Leatherhead, Bookham and Fetcham U3As Creative Writing Group*

*Tim Reeder, November 2016*

## Phoenix Group

Our show this year (which we performed on 4 occasions) was entitled They seek him here - they seek him here or there. The story was of a male star of the show at the

which caused an upset to put it mildly.

It was very well received by the audiences and all asked us to return next year with another show. I have included photos of the set as it was beautifully done by our pianist Janet Meyer, so much so, that some of the audience were worried that we would drop the Clarice Cliff china that she had made and painted.

*Ina Hawes*



end of the pier in a seaside resort called Saltisands and was set in a theatrical boarding house in the 1920s. This Casanova was forced to decamp rather abruptly when three of his fiancées to whom he had given engagement rings and his wife all arrived at the boarding house at the same time



## Meeting of the vegetable gardening group

This month we were looking at Permaculture and Pinterest and bug hotels.

Lee gave an introductory talk on Permaculture which is a way of growing crops to fix nitrogen, provide food, deter pests, create mulch, make shade and prevent erosion. It is a way in which individuals in their gardens or allotments can mimic natural eco systems and create positive outcomes related to climate change.

Across the country and abroad are many LAND projects with these aims in mind and they involve local groups and communities. Nearest to Bookham that can be visited are in Brighton, Woking and London. We are also fortunate in Bookham having a couple of accredited Wildlife gardens, some of which were visited on the Open Gardens in July.

*“Good tip from Graham was if a wasp hibernates in the finger of your glove and it stings you, take an antihistamine tablet as soon as possible”*

We were pleased to see that in small ways most of us were helping the environment by having some of the following: Rockeries which create microclimates, a habitat for a variety of insects and shade; Ponds providing nutrients and a place for different kinds of plants; Insect and Bee hotels – good examples can be found at The Grange if you want to make one. These creatures help pollination and pest control. Good tip from Graham was if a wasp hibernates in the finger of your glove and it stings you, take an antihistamine tablet as soon as possible.

We also looked at crop rotation and companion planting, lots of information on the internet about this and examples were given out. Vermiculture and composting buckets are a good way to compost on a small scale in a garden. This is low maintenance and provides lots of goodness, for instance, drill holes into

the bottom rim of a bucket and bury it about a third of the way down in the soil. You can either put all your raw food in the bucket and let it get juicy which then seeps into the soil around the base of the bucket. Tomatoes grow well with this richness. Alternatively you could slice some tomatoes and bury in compost and worms will help take down any other raw scraps you add. Tomatoes will grow and you can then transplant them.

Mulch at this time of year and composting



were discussed. This protects soil life creating a safe haven for microbes, tiny insects and worms. Nutrition for the soil is created and it helps to control weeds. The soil then becomes full of variation and oxygen.

Another important aspect concerning the plants you grow is to try to use local stock from local seed as plants grown in England from seed will preserve their natural characteristics of the place they have come from.

We also discussed wildlife hedges, tree stumps, rough grass, stone walls, paving stones, green roofs and bird and bat boxes all of which will provide food for birds, hedgehogs, frogs, bats, spiders and beetles, solitary bees and wasps over winter.

Graham went on to tell us about Pinterest which you can log into using your email address and a password, [ukpinterest.com](http://ukpinterest.com). They will then send you regular information about any subject you choose. This information for instance on the best way to grow potatoes can then be stored by you in a folder and kept online or it can be printed out for when you need to refer to it. A useful resource. All in all we had taken in some new information but had also discovered the good practice that is already currently being used by the group.

Lee Saunders



# Do you ever look at the U3A National website?

There is a great deal of information there and one that I have just noticed is the magazine Signpost, items of interest. There are many interesting articles in this monthly newsletter and you can arrange to receive it over the internet if you request the service from: [tom@worldu3a.org](mailto:tom@worldu3a.org) That's the email address of the editor Tom Holloway. There are U3A Groups you can join on line and even get the Signpost newsletter delivered to your own computer.

**U3A Signpost**

**Issue number one hundred and eighty-nine (October 2016) from the World U3A Service, the U3A Asia Pacific Alliance and the UK Third Age Trust International committee.**

Sent on the first day of every month to U3A members and kindred groups anywhere in the world.

- Feel free to copy any or all of this information in your newsletters.
- Please send items of possible interest to the editor, **Tom Holloway**.

**History Groups:** We now know more about the loss of Henry VIII's famous ship the Mary Rose due to some sleuthing. If you look carefully at the picture in the banner above you can see the top of the mainmast with a sailer waving frantically for help. You will see much more at <https://thecoastguard.com/mary-rose-shipwreck-painting-and-tidal-analysis-offer-clue-as-to-why-it-sank-64987>

There are 3,000 UK online centres offering FREE or low cost access to computers and the internet, plus help and support to use them. There are also around 2,000 UK online centre 'Access Points' complementing the work of partners, including centres in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Access Points may not be able to provide dedicated support and may not use our products and services, but are still local places where people can get online.

Since 1999 the UK online centres network has been working towards a world where everyone benefits from digital skills. To learn more and find an online centre [click here >>](#)

**Art Groups:** From John J Jackson - USA Barnsley UK - [JohnnyJohn at mymail.com](#)

For the first time water colour artist to quickly get through the 'pitfalls'. Sometimes, I need a bit of a nudge to motivate myself back to painting and after helping my son erect his art work exhibition, I began to look at some of my old drawings. Using the method I have written about, I was able to work on several paintings at the same time and use the same water colour wash mix.

**Sci/Tech Groups:** American website with huge number of interesting items. It has a tendency to deliver 'gee-whiz' science, but there are many useful links to more rigorous science and technical webs. Worth having a quick look [here >>](#)

**From Sri J R Gupta, President of Indian Society of U3As.**

Vishant Nagrik Gave Samki, Halam, planted sapling of trees, on the occasion of 70 Independence Day, in Dwarka in the presence of Sri Hira Lal Sabharwal (President) and General Secretary Sri Sarjit Singh.

Saplings were arranged by the Secretary, Dr D P Mehra and Organising Secretary Sri R C Sabharwal.

Further information may be seen on the Newsletter of U3A Delhi Senior Citizens website [here >>](#)

**Dementia is a growing global problem**

44 million people worldwide now have dementia, and this figure is expected to triple by 2050, as the global population ages. In the UK alone, dementia currently affects more than 800,000 people, with the annual cost of care per person greater than the average salary.

The map on the left shows the scale of the problem and you can get a clearer view on the BBC [Hinter website](#) if you click on the image of a video you can edit it with Windows Movie Maker afterwards and take the bit you want. [Click here >>](#)

**Download YouTube Videos.** This is the fastest and easiest way to download YouTube videos as MP3 files. As the name implies, it's 100% free. Cuts out ads and other distractions such as 'buffering' if you have a slow connection. If you only want a specific part of a video you can edit it with Windows Movie Maker afterwards and take the bit you want. [Click here >>](#)

**Help for Seniors - the American experience.** We hardly ever hear from the USA, so this list of helpful links from Jasmine Dyco of 'Educators.org' is especially welcome. Some involve buying in a product or service, but all are interesting and useful.

- How Seniors are Designing Social Support Networks [more >>](#)
- The Benefits of Emotional Support Animals [more >>](#)
- Depression in the Elderly: 7 Ways to Help [more >>](#)
- Guide to Addiction Prevention for Seniors [more >>](#)
- Finding a Family: Discovering Your Quaker Community When You're 65 [more >>](#)
- Recognizing and Treating Depression: A Guide for the Elderly & Their Caregivers [more >>](#)

**NHS choices**

NHS choices is the UK's biggest health website, and there are lots of e-newsletters to keep you up-to-date on 106 specialised topics. [Learn more here >>](#)

**GEMS for enquiring minds**

USA Online: A complete GEMs Archive - Rick Swindell's newsletter - pdf printouts of all prior editions can be found at [www.u3aonline.org.au](http://www.u3aonline.org.au)

Do you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter in future? Ask them to email [kum@worldu3a.org](mailto:kum@worldu3a.org) with a request and they will be put on the list. This webpage may be printed onto both sides of an A4 page and distributed to those with no internet.

It is very worth while going onto the National U3A website from time to time to see just what is available in other U3As and also Nationally. You may even get an idea to form a new group for Bookham U3A!



## Science & Technology Group 2 Visit to Culham Centre for Fusion Energy

**O**n a cold Saturday in November, 5 members of the Science & Technology Group 2 visited Culham in Oxfordshire to take part in their Open Day. They were amongst a party of about 100 people who had travelled to this UK Atomic Energy site just south of Oxford to learn what the UK is doing to develop nuclear fusion. Nuclear fusion is claimed to be the safer, lower radiation and waste sequel to the currently used nuclear fission, which provides some 20% of the UK's electricity needs.

After a security check we were allowed on site to gather in a lecture theatre for a safety briefing followed by a general introduction to the physics of nuclear fusion. It was here that we first learnt about a tokamak (from the Russian *токамак*) and which is a toroidal or ring shaped vessel that provides the most efficient way of creating the right conditions for fusion. The Culham Centre for Fusion Energy describes the fusion reaction as: ..... energy produced when light atoms are fused together to form heavier atoms. This is the same process that provides the energy in the sun and other stars.

To utilise fusion reactions as an energy source on earth, gaseous hydrogen must be heated to temperatures in excess of 100 million degrees – ten times hotter than the centre of the sun. At these temperatures, the gas becomes a plasma. (Plasma is common on earth – for example in neon signs, flames and lightning – and in the form of stars and interstellar material it makes up 99% of the universe.)

At these temperatures, deuterium and tritium nuclei – both heavy forms of hydrogen – will fuse together to form helium and high-speed neutrons, carrying significant amounts of energy. A commercial power station will use the kinetic energy carried by the neutrons, as they are slowed down by a blanket of denser material (for example lithium), to generate electricity.

The plasma must be kept away from material surfaces to avoid it being cooled and contaminated; strong magnetic fields are used for this purpose.

The most promising magnetic confinement systems are toroidal devices called tokamaks.

We then were split into groups of 10 to take conducted tours with our informative guides to see the MAST (Mega-Amp Spherical Tokamak) and the most powerful tokamak in the world called the Joint European Torus (JET).

JET was designed to study fusion in conditions approaching those needed for a power plant. Construction began in 1978 and operations started in 1983. In 1997, JET experiments with deuterium and tritium observed a record 16 megawatts of fusion power (some 67% of the power needed to heat the plasma). After 30 years, JET is still playing a crucial role as a test bed for ITER, its international successor, which is being built in Cadarache, southern France. ITER will be a scaled-up version of JET as the forerunner to a demonstration power plant, with linear dimensions twice the size, but also using more advanced technologies to prove the feasibility of electricity from fusion by routinely releasing some 500 megawatts of fusion power. Whereas JET operations require close cooperation with the National Grid to utilise some 1% of the UK's electricity supply, it is expected that a larger version will be able to generate power for longer periods and so sustainably supply its own needs.

Whilst JET has utilised a conventional tokamak with a D-shaped plasma, MAST as a solely UK funded project is investigating a spherical tokamak. This is a more compact device to hold the plasma in a much tighter configuration; more like a cored apple than the car tyre shape of a conventional tokamak. One of the chief advantages is that the magnetic field needed to hold the plasma and keep it stable (essential for an efficient fusion power plant) is much less in a spherical tokamak. This means a substantial gain in

efficiency and better plasma performance for the engineering cost.

Whilst the first fusion power stations will probably be based on the more mature conventional tokamak design, spherical devices could well provide an alternative for the second generation of plants. MAST is currently receiving a substantial upgrade to help it continue to explore the route to spherical tokamak power plants, test reactor design concepts, address physics issues for

conditions.

Our thanks go to the informative guides who answered our sometimes challenging questions with patience and good humour. We came away from Culham with just a little more appreciation of nuclear fusion and wondering whether a technology which started in the 1950s will get to commercial realisation in our lifetimes. The consensus was that the



*Our visitors with their guide Sarah in front of a partly rebuilt MAST tokamak.*

ITER and keep the UK at the forefront of fusion research.

That research is not only continuing to develop our understanding of the fusion process but also developing materials that will be needed in the development of fusion power plants. The options include special steels and more advanced materials, such as silicon carbide composites and lithium-based tritium generating materials. All of these materials have to be developed for use in the challenging environment within a power plant, which will impose a unique combination of temperature, neutron bombardment and stress

technology has progressed slowly and there appears to be a long way to go to confidently build and produce electricity using nuclear fusion in an economically sized power plant. The experts were saying in the 2030s but ...?

Acknowledgements to the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy for the technical descriptions in this article.  
*Chris Middleton*



## Quiz night

Who was the second man to walk on the moon? Did you know that Pongo and Perdita were the two

A marathon round posed a series of questions where we had list 5 answers, and remembering 5 of the Ancient Wonders of the World proved a challenge too far for



Dalmatians in the film '101 Dalmatians', and can you name 5 professional football clubs beginning with the letter C?

These were just a few of the questions faced by the teams on the highly successful quiz night on Wednesday 26th October.

many of the teams.

Over a series of 8 rounds covering subjects as diverse as Seconds, Cats and Dogs and Liverpool the teams battled it out and had the opportunity to play their Joker once to double the score for that round.



Nearly 100 members gathered in the Barn Hall and in teams of up to 8 people they faced a fascinating series of questions that covered a very wide range of general knowledge.

The evening started with a picture round, and there were some challenging images of well-known individuals including Anita Dobson and Al Capone

The whole evening was run with great style by our question master Paul. The level of questions was absolutely right for a U3A audience, testing the breadth of our knowledge whilst thankfully avoiding modern pop music or soap operas!

Jan Dicker did a brilliant job organising



the event and the excellent 'Fish and Chip' supper, freshly prepared in the van outside the Barn Hall was the perfect accompaniment for the evening.

After a closely fought contest the Premier Crew, the team from Wine Appreciation

*Roger Mendham*



Group 4, were declared the winners – well done to them.

It was a lovely evening and one we may well repeat in the future.

*Photographs by David Middleton*

## Passing Friends



Were you, like me, shocked one day  
To learn "someone you knew" had passed away?  
Were you stunned by the news, the dawning thought  
That life so abruptly could come to a halt.  
Did the words, "Why her?" go round in your brain.  
And the reply, "Why not?" be the mocking refrain.

It wasn't often that you used to meet,  
Just accidentally in the street,  
But though it was only once in a while,  
You were warmed by her interest, her lovely smile,  
But also felt a certain unease  
As she chatted frankly about her disease.

We all zoom along at a reckless rate,  
Breathlessly busy, afraid to be late.  
So do find time to enjoy your friends  
For suddenly it's too late to make amends  
For contacts lost and calls not made,  
And the memories you have soon start to fade  
With time, till it almost seems  
That what friendship you had was the stuff of dreams.

Marion Kemp



# Out & About with Bookham U3A

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

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## The new arrangements for organising outings in Bookham U3A

As your outings co-ordinator I hope that you will support me in my efforts to deliver a varied programme of trips to appeal to all members. To do this, of course, I will need members to help with the organisation. If you feel that you could arrange a "one-off" trip, please approach me at the meeting to discuss and I will assist in any way that I can. I want to make it as straightforward as possible for anyone who volunteers. You would be required to book the venue and the coach, then after giving me the details, I will deal with the booking forms, payments and receipts at the monthly meetings and list all those who have booked. The outings can be for any number and not necessarily a large coach load. We are hoping to offer varied trips with smaller numbers and all ideas and suggestions are welcome.

I would like to thank John Dicker for being first "off the blocks" with his successful trip to the "Wetlands" and thanks to Pippa Carter who has arranged the forthcoming visit to Bletchley Park in February.

Thanking you all in anticipation!

Anne Glyn—Outings Co-ordinator

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## U3A SURREY NETWORK STUDY DAYS

February 17th My Life in Crime - Presented by Richard Hawkins, Kingston U3A  
The Surrey Poet - Presented by John Griffin

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### Surrey Network

Universities of the Third Age  
Affiliated to the Third Age Trust

### One Hundredth Surrey Study Day in March 2017

Dear U3A Chairman,

20th December 2016

To encourage the success of our One Hundredth U3A Study Day, "Celebrating Surrey", which is on Friday 17th March 2017, we hope that you will not only publicise the study day as broadly as possible but also take the opportunity of emphasising the value that U3A membership brings to our communities across Surrey. It would help considerably if you could let your local media outlets know about the Study Day and the opportunities that joining U3A brings. Guests as well as members will be very welcome to attend the Study Day.

Ian Funnell – Study Day Committee Chairman

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## U3A Tuesday Monthly Meetings

7th February 2017 Lucy Allen Highs and lows of a stuntwoman's life

7 March 2017 Janet Diamond The History of Egypt in 12 Objects

04 April 2017 Carole Maddern Social History of the English Language

## Africans in Georgian England

The Georgian period was the peak of British involvement in the slave trade. Between 1715-1830 there were 10,000 slave voyages. At its peak the British were transporting 40,000 slaves across the Atlantic per year. The movement across the Atlantic was in both directions with families returning to Britain bringing a number of their slaves with them. The abolition of the slave trade did not come until 1807 and abolition of slavery was not until 1833.

The American Revolutionary Wars brought about a big influx of Africans into Britain particularly after 1783 but many of them found themselves on the street and very poor. The British were fighting in these wars in America, and John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore, said to the enslaved Africans if you come and fight for us you could have your freedom. The slaves formed the Royal Ethiopian Regiment

The Gentleman's magazine in October 1764 said that 20,000 Africans were in London in the Georgian period, but today this figure is considered an overestimate. It is more likely there were 10,000 for the whole of England and Wales in the whole of the Georgian period and there were probably 5,000 in London at that time.

There are official documents that can be researched to reveal the presence of black people in the population. Parish registers show that some slaves were baptized and there is evidence of Africans in wills, letters and criminal records such as those of the Old Bailey. Recorders frequently did not record the fact that the person being recorded was black, which makes estimating numbers difficult.

Today black people of the Georgian period are most visible in paintings as servants to the aristocracy. This is because the biggest area of employment was as servants but it is probable that many of these black workers were unpaid and unable to leave voluntarily. Black servants appeared in art but were rarely in the centre of the picture. Black servants were pictured on ceramics such as tea bowls and saucers and other domestic wares, which would have been in many of the wealthier households. They also appear in Hogarth's engravings. Hogarth prints show Black people – in Harlot's Progress, Southwark Fair and the Four Times of Day – Noon.

In Hogarth's oil painting of 'Marriage a la Mode' 'La Toilette' Hogarth shows a group of aristocrats being entertained by an opera singer. In the centre there is a black servant serving

sugared chocolates. This is considered to symbolize colonial wealth from exploitation. There is a little black boy kneeling with bric a brac and an auction catalogue near by. This alludes to the term 'patron' which at the time had two meanings, that of owner of slaves and supporter of the arts.

Confusion about slaves' status started to occur in England when Englishmen started to bring their African slaves that they had legally bought in the British colonies back to England. There were no statutes passed in England that codified the status of slaves unlike in France, the American colonies, Portugal and other countries. The only forced labour recognized in English law was feudal villeinage, which had died out in the 17th century. The colonies did have laws that defined slaves but these same laws did not exist in England. In the late 17th century the King's Bench in England had ruled that as slaves were bought and sold they were merchandise and as they were not baptised they were non-men. This mention of baptism became an important belief that baptism defined whether a person could be described as free or not. This was not actually true.

The most important case in the eighteenth century was brought before Lord Mansfield, when he was the Lord Chief Justice. This is the Somerset case of 1772. Somerset, a black slave came to London in 1769, brought by his owner, Stewart. In 1771 James Somerset was baptised at St. Andrew Holborn and had three godparents, Thomas Walklin, Elizabeth Cade and John Marlow. Later in 1771, Somerset left Stewart's service, but Stewart hunted him, seized him and confined him in arms in a ship bound for Jamaica.

Somerset's godparents applied for a writ of Habeas Corpus in order to prevent his removal and paid for his bail. Somerset visited Granville Sharp. Sharp could not tolerate slavery and had been involved in other slave cases. Somerset succeeded in persuading Sharp to become involved and Sharp organized counsel to argue the case and got Somerset to deliver a copy of Sharp's "The Injustice of Tolerating Slavery" to Lord Mansfield.

This became thought of as a test case with West Indian planters supporting Stewart and 17 saying "negro slaves" were chattel goods.



They argued that Somerset was a slave in the laws of Virginia and Africa and Stewart, his Master, had detained Somerset to send him to Jamaica for sale. West Indian planters paid Stewart's costs and anti-slavery supporters donated money to pay counsel for Somerset.

The case came to court in February 1772 before Lord Mansfield. The press and public viewed the case with great interest. Arguments were made on both sides, but the case centred on whether slavery was legal in England and whether an English court should uphold colonial laws, which had no English equivalent.

Lord Mansfield was well aware of the wider issues involved. Colonial slavery provided huge financial income to the aristocracy and many other investors in England. He tried to persuade Elizabeth Cade to buy Somerset and to persuade Stewart to set Somerset free. Neither would do so as they both wanted the law to be made clear.

Mansfield repeatedly adjourned the case to delay proceedings, but this allowed Sharp's legal team to expand the scope of the case. Regular reports in the press increased public interest. In addition Sharp employed a shorthand writer to record the speeches in court, which he had printed and distributed around the country.

Lord Mansfield delivered his judgement in June 1772. He focused on the legality of forcible deportation. Although laws in Virginia supported slavery, there was no law in England that did. 'In a case so odious as the condition of slaves' there must be a positive law. As Mansfield could not say that the case was allowed or approved by the law of England he ruled that Somerset must be discharged.

The press reported the case in two ways. Some said Mansfield had ruled slaves in England ought to be free. Others more accurately reported that black slaves in England could not be forcibly removed from England.

This did not end slavery in England. Adverts for finding and returning runaway slaves could still be seen in English newspapers. However, the interest the public had had in this case meant that public opinion had changed. The idea of black people being considered chattels was no longer tolerated, particularly in London, where a free but poor black community developed in the late eighteenth century.

The black Georgians who were servants in aristocratic households and were educated there gained some independence particularly if they were left money in a will, which allowed them

to set up in a business. Among those who gained independence are Ignatius Sancho, (the first African to have an obituary in the British press), Francis Barber (Dr Johnson's servant), and Olaudah Equiano who bought his own freedom and wrote an abolitionist autobiography 'The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano'.



Francis Barber  
att to Joshua Reynolds

A local man who was also successful was Caesar Picton (1755-1836). Captain Parr, who may have bought Picton in a slave market, brought him to England from Senegal. In 1761 Parr gave Picton to Sir John Phillips of Kingston upon Thames along with a parakeet and a duck. The Phillips family had Picton baptised on 6th December 1761. Picton was to become their servant and he was sent to Picton Castle to learn household tasks. However, the Phillips family were very interested in missionary work and they ensured Picton was educated. When Lady Phillips died in 1788 she left Caesar £100. Later when her daughters died they also left him money.

Picton used the money he inherited to set himself up in business as a coal merchant. Sir John Phillips had had interests and connections in the coal industry, which may have been why Picton became a coal merchant. Aged 33 he began by renting a coach house and stables on Kingston High Street. In 1795 he had enough money to buy a house (today called Picton House in Kingston). The premises by then had a wharf for coal barges and a malt house. Picton was at this point living the life of a gentleman. In 1807 he moved to Tolworth and let his Kingston properties. In 1816 he bought a large house in Thames Ditton for £400. He died in 1836 aged 81. He had had gout and was very heavy so a four-wheeled trolley had to be used for his funeral. In his will he left money to his goddaughter Sarah Lock Pinner who married William Pamphillion who in 1850s was mayor of Kingston. His will records a tortoiseshell tea caddy, two watches, jewellery and a horse and chaise. It is believed his estate was worth £5,000-£10,000. He was one of the most successful Black Africans of his time.



Caesar Picton



Judith Witter (Article based on a talk given to Bookham U3A Social History Group Nov 2016)



Ignatius Sancho  
painted in 1768 by  
Thomas Gainsborough

## The helpers & unsung heroes of Bookham U3A

We are very lucky to have so many people willing to help out on a one off or more regular basis without whom so many of our activities would not run so smoothly or indeed run at all. Angie Squires has, for many years, bagged up the Senior Moments for us to collect at the monthly meeting and those that are not collected Angie posts to the members. We all benefit from this service and it is very much appreciated. The tea, at the Tuesday meetings wouldn't be provided if it wasn't for volunteer helpers and the catering for the Christmas social would not happen. Also those volunteers who come along to every monthly meetings to help anyone taken ill (we cannot say first aiders anymore!).



Angie Squires



Anne Glyn

At these meetings Margaret New generally helps and supervises the teas while Diana Jackson organizes the rota. Alan Emsley helps Harold Reglar with the website and another annual job taken on by Irene Gawne is our auditor.



Diana Jackson



Lesley & Barry Davies



The newsletter, Senior Moments, is checked and scrutinized by Lesley and Barry Davies so that all the typos, spellings and punctuation are corrected before publication.

Much of the future success of Bookham U3A depends on the involvement of individual members. The U3A generally, has always been an organization where each and every member can and should contribute to the efficient good running of its branch and we should never get to the point of relying to heavily on the same individuals for all that our U3A can provide. Right from the very beginning of Bookham U3A, Cassie Walters our founder, insisted on the position of Chairman of this branch should be in office for no longer than two years. Too many organisations had been seen to become far too static when the officers remained in place for too long. Now your committee have taken significant steps to involve more members by opening up the Outings and also the Social Events to every individual member so they can become active in initiating outings and events with the help and support of both the committee and specialists in any particular field.

*“Right from the very beginning of Bookham U3A, Cassie Walters our founder, insisted on the position of Chairman of this branch should be in office for no longer than two years”.*

This will get many more members involved in our activities to the greater benefit of us all with the hope of opening up many new and original ideas for our collective participation and the enjoyment of everybody

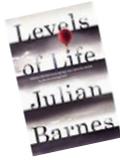
Lynn Farrell and Maurice Baker



Irene Gawne

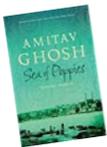
# U3A Book Group 2 Average Voting Scores for books read in 2016

All the books we read this year were written in the last thirty years, most of them in the last decade. Apart from Levels of Life, (which was a mixture of essay, short story and grief memoir), they were all novels but Empire of the Sun had autobiographical



Book Title	Author	Style	Content	Enjoyment/ Interest	Range
Mr Mac and Me (2014)	Esther Freud	6.7	7.1	6.7	5-8
The Rosie Project (2013)	Graeme Simsion	6.8	6.3	6.6	5-8
The Sunrise (2014)	Victoria Hislop	5.8	6.0	5.8	2-8
Empire of the Sun (1994)	J.G. Ballard	6.4	6.7	6.6	5-8
The Housemaid's Daughter(2012)	Barbara Mutch	7.1	7.9	7.8	6-8
Sea of Poppies (2008)	Amitav Ghosh	7.6	8.6	8.6	6-10
The Secret Life of Bees (2001)	Sue Monk Kidd	6	5.7	5.7	0-7
The Whole Day Through (2009)	Patrick Gale	6.6	6.6	6.1	4-9
Levels of Life (2013)	Julian Barnes	5.6	5.1	5.4	3-7
The Poisonwood Bible (1998)	Barbara Kingsolver	8.4	8.2	8.3	5-10
A Patchwork Planet (1992)	Anne Tyler	5.6	5.3	4.9	0-8

elements. Seven of them gave historical background, including the three most popular choices:



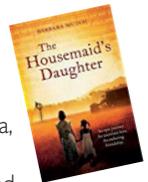
Sea of Poppies was set in nineteenth century India, bringing together characters from various castes and backgrounds who were travelling on an old slaving ship. It was news to some of us that the British East India Company forced Indian farmers to grow poppies then fought the Opium Wars against China to make them legalise opium, which could pay for Britain's imports of tea, silk and porcelain from China. Hong Kong was given to Britain as part of this insalubrious deal. The often grim historical facts were made more palatable by the great interest we felt in the characters and occasional touches of humour.



The Poisonwood Bible, set around 1960 in the Belgian Congo, again combined historical facts and information about the way of life with interesting characters. It was narrated

by the wife and 4 daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce evangelical Baptist who took his family from America on a mission to convert the Congolese. The poisonwood plant, which gave him a rash, symbolised his attempt to impose his beliefs and way of life without any attempt to understand local culture. When Nathan tried to use a local word to say 'Jesus was precious' his pronunciation made it mean poisonwood. Humour in some of the language and

situations contrasted with the sadness at a personal and political level.



The Housemaid's Daughter, set in South Africa, explored the relationship between an Irish woman and her black maid in the context of historical events, including the formalisation of the apartheid laws. This book received the



most consistent votes with an almost unanimous 8 for enjoyment, in contrast to A Patchwork Planet which had the widest range of votes from 0 to 8



Anne Eagle





*photos taken by David Middleton at the October Quiz night*

