

NEWSLETTER



WELCOME BACK EVERYONE

Bookham Village Day, 30 August 2021

Bookham u3a is back and ready for action after the long hibernation of pandemic lockdowns. With crowds returning to the Old Barn Hall field this summer on Village Day, we emerged from our usual hiding place in the Harrison Room to present a more accessible face to the wider Bookham community. It was harder to set up in the field but well worth it.

Chairman Chris Middleton, social secretary Lynn Farrell and her group organiser husband Mike had an immensely successful day, with the u3a stand attracting crowds of passers-by, many of whom showed real interest in becoming members. We are hopeful these will now begin to trickle in as we meet the pent-up demand among older Bookham residents seeking new friendships after so long.

LOOKING BACK ON LOCKDOWN

Jo Livingston, u3a Living History officer, is promoting a new project to show future generations how we coped with a situation that none of us could ever have imagined.

Looking back on Lockdown, written by u3a members nationwide, is available in two versions. The link <https://tinyurl.com/8zr8kh56>

is readable on a phone or tablet. An attachment can be printed out for a hard copy.

Jo says: 'The book is free and totally anonymous but using place names in the titles of the pieces makes it clear this is a national project.'

The chapter *Saved in Surrey by Technology* will be very familiar to many of us.

OUR 28TH AGM

The 28th AGM of Bookham and District u3a will be held at the Old Barn Hall, 2.30pm Tuesday, 5 October.

See the website for the agenda, election of committee members, minutes of the last AGM on Zoom in April, and an amendment to the constitution to allow for virtual AGMs and SGMs.

BARN HALL IN SEPTEMBER: TOOTH, CLAW AND MANE



Wildlife photographer Tom Way gave his third illustrated talk to Bookham u3a on Tuesday, 7 September, the first monthly one back at the Barn Hall after the pandemic.

He explained how he was inspired to become a professional in the field ten years ago. It took four days of patience to get the perfect photo of a water vole, followed by similar waits to capture kingfishers, puffins and foxes. A perfect penguin shot had taken 23 days of waiting. He branched out eventually as a full-time specialist, presenting fantastic photos for sale, guiding groups on photographic safaris and giving presentations after months at a time in India, Africa and elsewhere.

Hardest of all to photograph were tigers in India but he managed it eventually with *The Princess Warrior* tigress. Other masterpieces included a leopard on a tree trunk, cheetahs in the Serengeti, and his favourite

subject, lions. He had once come a little too close to a lioness and had to retreat to his vehicle. Other wonderful shots included baby elephants, zebra, buffalo and the tragically decimated rhino, now critically endangered.

Closer to home were bears on the Finno-Russian border and white horses in the Camargue of France. Both a sheer delight.



CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Welcome to our new-style Newsletter. On 7 September I welcomed some 60 members to the first in-person meeting for 17 months in the Old Barn Hall to cheers signifying relief that at last we were back! The COVID-19 protocol seemed to work well, respected by attendees, albeit with some considerate adaptations to suit individuals. A straw poll at the end of the meeting indicated a roughly 50:50 balance for and against the measures having been set at about the right level. We now look forward to getting on with our lives in a safe manner.

CHRIS MIDDLETON

COMING MONTHLY TALKS AT THE OLD BARN HALL

TUESDAY, 5 OCTOBER

**THE AMAZING
HISTORY OF
LIGHTHOUSES**

MARK LEWIS is a former principal lecturer at the Sir John Case Department of Art Media and design at London Metropolitan University and has been a pharologist since childhood. Member of the Association of Lighthouse Keepers.

His talk is a general introduction to pharology, the study of lighthouses and other navigational aids.

He will discuss the prototype - one of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World - the Pharos of Alexandria, and the evolving history of lighthouse construction since then.

This will cover methods of illumination, operation and maintenance and the lives of keepers, including some of the heroic stories associated with them.

TUESDAY, 2 NOVEMBER

BUMBLEBEES

DR NIKKI GAMMANS is a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society and project manager for the re-introduction of the short haired bumblebee for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

TUESDAY, 7 DECEMBER

**A MISCELLANY OF
POETRY AND PROSE FOR THE FESTIVE
SEASON**

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

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

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

**U3A SOUTH EAST FORUM
SUMMER SCHOOL 2022**

The South East Forum Summer School at the University of Chichester was cancelled in both 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. However, the South East Forum team has made a booking for Summer School 2022 starting Monday, 20 June and running until Thursday, 23 June.

Please put the dates in your diary. The announcement of the programme of courses and arrangements for booking will appear on the Surrey Network website from the start of December at <http://www.u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/>

SURREY U3A NETWORK STUDY DAYS RE-OPEN AT LAST

After an 18 months-long gap, Surrey's u3a study days return this month. They follow the same Covid-secure arrangements used for the Summer Festival run by the Menuhin School through June and July.

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

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

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

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

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

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

For information, a list of [study day titles](#) over 15 seasons is available, together with a poster of a [typical study day](#). When study-day hand-outs or presentations are available for download they will be mounted on the Surrey Network website for a period of at least three months. Surrey Network treats

members' privacy rights seriously and its [Privacy Policy](#) can be found by following the link. [History of Study Days](#).

Coming up are the following study days:

17 SEPTEMBER

Landscapes of South-East England

Presenter: Dr Geoffrey Mead

15 OCTOBER

The Most Famous Pharaoh of Them All: Tutankhamun, The Boy King.

Presenter: Clive Barham Carter.

19 NOVEMBER

The Development of British Style + Life on Antiques Roadshow

Presenter: Paul Atterbury

Dates to be confirmed

Understanding Turner: The Man, His Life & His Work

Presenter: Professor Maria Chester

The Art and Objects of the Mughal Emperors

Presenter: Ursula Weekes

Industrial Archaeology

Presenter: Professor David Perrett

The Art of Drawing

Presenter: Colin Wiggins

Illuminated Manuscripts of the Medieval Period

Presenter: Imogen Corrigan

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

Presenters: Lt Cdr John Ash and Bob Headland

Gravity Wave Astronomy

Presenter: Dr Chris North

SITUATIONS VACANT

We have a number of vacancies just now that might interest you. After the last 18 months, we recognise it may be too early to get on a coach and travel to either a National Trust property or be entertained at the theatre. However, we are planning for increased confidence by spring 2022 when we would like to see these activities restart.

OUTINGS COORDINATOR

Do you like visiting country houses, gardens or venturing further afield for short group holidays? We need someone to organise such events for the benefit of fellow u3a members. If you are interested, please contact Chris Middleton, Bookham u3a Chairman, either at chairman@bookhamu3a.org.uk or on 01372 454107 for more information. You will have the support and guidance of other Committee members to make the events happen.

THEATRE VISITS COORDINATOR

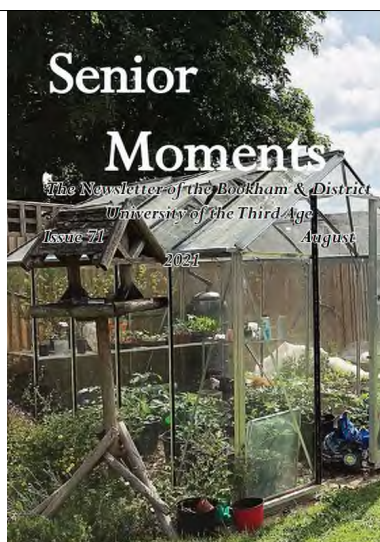
Performers and audiences alike have missed live theatre during the past 18 months. Please help us get back to enjoying good entertainment again by identifying potential shows for u3a group visits in Surrey, Sussex or London's West End. But we also need someone to organise the travel arrangements. If you are willing to fill this role, again please contact Chris Middleton either at chairman@bookhamu3a.org.uk or on 01372 454107 for more information. Further guidance and support will be available for you.

SENIOR MOMENTS

Bookham u3a's house journal, *Senior Moments*, contains longer articles than space allows in this new Newsletter.

The next edition will be published in November. Editor Maurice Baker is currently seeking more contributions from u3a members so if you have something to share, do please put pen to paper and submit your article(s) to seniormoments@bookhamu3a.org.uk by no later than 10 October.

If the words just will not



come together and flow as you would like, Maurice is often happy to help write an article for you.

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Our monthly talk in July on Zoom introduced the Horsley, Bookham and Leatherhead Riding for the Disabled Association, a volunteer-led charity operating for over 30 years.

The audience heard how the RDA has been rising to an almighty challenge, building its new home, and securing its future. It is building a new facility for its riders at Badgers Farm, Effingham, and has been crowd-funding for a new weather-proof indoor arena to allow rides all year round.

It has a long waiting list of children wanting to ride and the new facility will increase capacity. Building started 9 August and the Raise the Roof campaign aims to fund its completion.

More supporters are wanted. If you would like to attend the RDA's 9 October Barn Dance at the Tithe Barn, Little Bookham, starting 7.30pm, email horsleyand-bookhamrda.co.uk or horsleyandbookham-rda@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

CONTACT THE EDITOR

Whether you are an existing group organiser, want to set one up or just make any suggestions for the benefit of our u3a, please email the Editor of this Newsletter at newsletter@bookhamu3a.org.uk