



# NEWS BULLETIN

## LOOK INTO MY EYES!

**Guest speaker Alan Jones (below) revealed everything about the mystery of hypnosis at this month's meeting in the Old Barn Hall on 1 March.**

Have no fear! Since ancient times, peoples across the world have been hypnotised without realising it. Greek temples of healing, Australian Aboriginal "dreamtime", Native American chants around campfires before battles - all involved hypnosis without anyone looking into someone else's eyes or at swinging pendulums.

The truth, Alan explained, is that we hypnotise ourselves simply by our brains engaging with particular information to the exclusion of all else. It is usually auto-suggestive, and we do it all the time. It requires simply the intelligence level of a small child and imagination. As no-one can be hypnotised against their will, the concept



of mesmerism - named after 18th century physician Franz Mesmer - or 'animal magnetism' was never more than entertainment without any true scientific basis.

Of course that didn't stop Alan, who has 50 years

professional expertise, from inviting Chris Middleton and Frank Cross on stage to perform some theatrical "hypnotic" activity not founded in the science.

Alan started as a nurse, studying psychology and physiology before using hypnotherapy in a men's hospital ward to relax them for surgery and encourage faster convalescence. Since then he has had a long career using hypnotic techniques for therapeutic rather than fun purposes. Although he has given up his London practice and now works from Hampshire, he still treats clients both in Britain and overseas using Zoom and telephone as well as face to face.

His talk covered the history of hypnosis from 18th century experimentation to the efforts of the 19th century physician

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James Braid to encourage the use of hypnosis before surgery instead of the contemporary anaesthetic ether which had very unpleasant effects both before and after operations.

Surgical 'theatres' were exactly that, said Alan, where helpless patients underwent ghastly experiences knowingly before medical audiences. The efficacy of ether during amputations could have been improved if hypnosis had been used to ensure sleep.

In the 1880s Sigmund Freud used hypnosis in developing his theories of psychoanalysis with the concept of the conscious and subconscious mind. He later moved away from it but Alan explained its relevance today.

It takes 1/15th of a second for information to filter to the brain's 90 billion neurones and trillions of cables. We respond according to our experiences in life with short-term memory affected by past trauma. Our behaviour depends on emotional reactions of which we may not even be conscious.

By reframing thoughts, hypnosis can be used to treat addictions, anxieties, irritable bowel syndrome and even dental conditions, he said.

Alan's clients have included nudists, royalty and bishops. His other talks cover topics as varied as body language, secrets of hair, and new this year, understanding prostate issues.



## **LONDON WALKS 4 IN DORKING**

**by CHRIS MIDDLETON**

As group members remained cautious of travelling around London during the recent Omicron virus wave, with the increase in passenger numbers as some returned to office work, we ventured south to Dorking for our monthly 'fix'.

I always remember being told in a school geography lesson that Dorking was a dormitory town, implying there was not much more to say. It merely housed commuters who travelled up to London each day.

Well, this morning walk was designed to change that image and bring out some of Dorking's interesting past and present. Benita and I were leaders for the day, combining parts of the Dorking Heritage Trail and the Deepdene Trail.

After a revitalising coffee in Dorking Halls, we ventured on to Cotmandene, passing between high brick walls that once enclosed the kitchen garden of the Deepdene estate. This is now common land and proudly shows off its community washing lines as you can see on Page 4.

We walked over to the Almshouses and noted their excellent refurbished condition before walking along the side of the common to the A24. Good visibility and a central reservation helped us safely get across this busy road and enter Deepdene Gardens.

Walking uphill along a wooded pathway brought us to the first display board depicting Deepdene House (above). The Palladian mansion had stood for some 200 years and seen several generations of the Hope family as owners before it was demolished in 1969.

Its final glory, after passing from an occupied house to a hotel, was its adoption as the wartime headquarters of the Southern Railway. The Italianate gardens were repurposed as a communications hub, complete with a telephone exchange secreted into tunnels in the hillside.

Our wooded pathway led across the top of the tunnels but little else remains of this era. The land occupied by the house became the



location of Kuoni Travel offices and more recently luxury flats. However, the gardens remain, albeit still in the process of restoration by the Friends of Deepdene, a voluntary organisation managed by Mole Valley District Council.

We dropped down into the dell containing the gardens to admire the rhododendrons, the partly rescued grotto, the imposing 100+ steps up to a high-level terrace (above) but most of all to enjoy the peace sheltered away from the nearby A24.

Departing the gardens by an uncertain route brought us to the Deepdene roundabout where the five-toed Dorking Cockerel awaited. At this point we re-joined the Heritage Trail to admire the imposing Pippbrook House (right).

Its history has been well documented by Dorking & District u3a and is described as one of only a small proportion of listed properties on which English Heritage has

conferred Grade 2\* status.

The Pippbrook estate dates back to 1378 when a Walter atte Pyppe bought the land. It acquired the name Pippbrook around 1750. A few years later the 14<sup>th</sup> century house was pulled down and replaced with a new one.

This happened again in 1856 when distinguished architect George Gilbert Scott designed the present building for William Henry Forman, whose wealth originated in the ironworks of South Wales.

Apart from the house, this



wealth contributed much to the life of Dorking by enriching its amenities. In more recent times the house enjoyed public access as the offices of Dorking Urban District Council and later the town's library. Now it is empty, its owner challenged as to how constructively to maintain this listed building for the future.

A short turn to the left opens up the view to Ranmore in the background and the site of the former Dorking Magistrates Court in the foreground. This was a two-storey reinforced concrete structure built with high security in mind at the time of the Northern Ireland troubles. The building has now been replaced by expensive apartments overlooking a bowling green.

Over the Old London Road and past converted corn mills, along the banks of the Pippbrook stream led to the mill pond with its large ducks and on this occasion an albino squirrel (left).

Crossing the stream at the first opportunity brought us into Wathen Road where Laurence Olivier was born in 1907. Apparently he was



not especially proud of his birthplace, believing it inconsistent with the image of a successful actor.

At the top of Wathen Road is the late 19<sup>th</sup> century retail heart of Dorking running along the High Street. Right opposite is the Oddfellows Hall, built in 1894 by local architect William Shearburn.

The Oddfellows evolved into a friendly society representing fellow craftsmen from an assortment of trades. They wanted to protect themselves and their families against illness, injury or death.

So sophisticated had they become that in 1912 the Government approved them to administer National Insurance and by 1942 they were helping to establish the welfare state. Now they are largely seen as an insurance provider.

A bit further along one can hardly miss the White Horse Hotel with its long white frontage on to the High Street. It stands as one of England's best known coaching inns with a history dating back as far as 1278.

Most of the hotel we see today was built in the 1700s but parts are probably older. Coaches stopped here on their way from London to Horsham, although sometimes the roads south of the town were so bad that someone going to Horsham might have had to travel via Canterbury!

A look to the right along a passageway, or indeed high



up to the local skyline, revealed St Martin's Church. This is a Grade 2\* listed building designed by Henry Woodyer and built 1868-77.

It is situated in a quiet churchyard within the conservation area next to Dorking High Street. With one of the tallest church spires in England, it is visible for miles around and retains most of the original glass and other features with which the interior was decorated. It is uniquely the home of both Anglican and

Methodist communities.

Leaving by the church's west gate, we walked through the narrow Church and North Streets to reach Pump Corner before heading into South Street. A pale green painted doorway to the left of the War Memorial would have opened into subterranean Dorking or what are known as the South Street Caves, if only we had had a key.

This extensive cave system

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## VOLUNTARY FIREFIGHTERS OVER THE CENTURIES

**JO LIVINGSTON OF Bexley u3a is main subject advisor for Living History. She presented this month's Zoom lecture to Bookham u3a on the history of the volunteer fire brigade.**

There was a strong element of family history as Jo has personal connections with the fire brigade going back four generations. Many of her photographs were of Harmondsworth Fire Brigade in xxxxxxxx.

Her talk mainly covered the long period from the 1820s to World War 2 when firefighting depended on local altruism and commitment by volunteers.

But she also provided background history dating back to the Great Fire of London in 1666 when the lack of an officially organised fire brigade inevitably meant the destruction of much of the entire capital.

From then until the early 19th century all fire engines and crews in Britain were provided by voluntary bodies, parish authorities or insurance companies.

In 1824 Edinburgh's old town suffered its own conflagration and firefighter James Braidwood (1800–1861) founded one of the world's first municipal fire services there as a result.

He later became the first superintendent of the London Fire Engine Establishment



***Statue of James Braidwood  
in Parliament Square,  
Edinburgh.***

which brought together ten independent insurance company brigades in 1833.

In 1836 the Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire was formed to provide ladders. Today it exists to recognise individuals who perform acts

of bravery in rescuing others from fire.

James Braidwood was killed at the Tooley Street fire of 1861 when a wall collapsed on top of him.

This influenced the government to create the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in 1866, publicly funded and controlled by the Metropolitan Board of Works. In 1904 it was renamed the London Fire Brigade.

Elsewhere in the country new local government bodies took over responsibility for fire-fighting.

Jo ended her talk with a brief summary of the structural changes that took place after 1945.



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was excavated into the soft strata of the Lower Greensand in the 17<sup>th</sup> century from several buildings along the High Street. When Sainsbury's was being built, a huge cave was discovered beneath what is now the car park.

The South Street Caves' history is linked to smugglers, wine merchants and secret religious gatherings but that was for another time.

Lunchtime beckoned as we made our way to what has been described as the best pub in Dorking, The Old House in West Street. We were not disappointed! (See below afterwards.)

After a hearty meal we had intended to round off the day by visiting the Dorking Museum & Heritage Centre but its planned re-opening that day had been delayed by a week.

So instead, it was the 465 bus service back to Leatherhead after learning there was a lot more to being a dormitory town.

## **YOUTUBE SHOWS U3A PROMOTIONAL FILM**

'Do Something Brilliant Today' is a new film specially made to introduce the u3a to potential new members. Shown on YouTube, it is a tribute to the dynamic and vibrant things happening at u3as all the time and conveys the positive impact the movement has in communities across the country.

'I hope you get an opportunity to watch this film – perhaps with other u3a members,' says Sam Mauger, Chief Executive.

Lindsay of Ayr u3a Tree Identification Group, says: 'From the outset, I found u3a very friendly and inviting. The u3a tree group has really been wonderful. It's enjoyable in winter as well. You have to try to identify a tree from its bark and its buds as opposed to its leaves. So you're learning all the time.'

David of Dawlish & District u3a Adventure Group, says: 'With the u3a, there's so much under one roof, it's an umbrella of activities. My wife and I came down from the Midlands about three and a half years ago. We didn't know anybody in this area. We thought it's a good way of making friends and meeting people. Importantly, you know you're meeting people with shared interests.'

Christina of Croydon u3a Line Dancing group, says: 'The classes we attend, some just for a pound an hour, you can't get that anywhere. I was lucky enough to get my retirement at 60. I just wanted the time for myself to do what I want, to enjoy my life. u3a came and it was just like a gift from heaven. I'm encouraging everybody that I meet, even if you're not retired, it is an added value to your life.'

Geoffrey of Upholland u3a Musicians group, says: 'I feel more a member of the community by joining u3a and being part of this group has given me an excuse to play guitar more. The group that we've got now just gelled, it evolved into a band. People are always asking us, can you come and perform? If we can, we do.'

Brenda of Trust u3a Online Countdown to COP group says: 'u3a has given me an opportunity to make so many new friends. We are such a good group. We enjoy each other's company and we've all learned such a lot from each other. A lot of us come alive through it.'

Alexander of Ravenshead u3a Calligraphy group says: 'Without u3a, I don't think I would have met so many people, people with a lot of talent which is very good to share. I joined u3a craft group doing calligraphy, teaching to a new pupil, some calligraphy methods. With the u3a, it's sharing a talent, sharing of knowledge.'



## THE BANK OF ENGLAND AND PROVINCIAL BANKING

BRIAN WILLIAMS' talk on banking to Bookham u3a Social History Group 1 has been reported both in *Senior Moments* and by the British Numismatics Society. With recent or imminent closures of almost all of our local bank branches, the subject's topicality remains.

Banking as we understand it has only been available in this country since the founding of the Bank of England - originally a private bank - in 1694 when the country needed finance to pursue war with France.

However, coinage was used in Britain as far back as 2nd century BC through trade between the island's Celtic tribes and Gaul. Prior to that, barter had been the main method of acquiring the necessities for life.

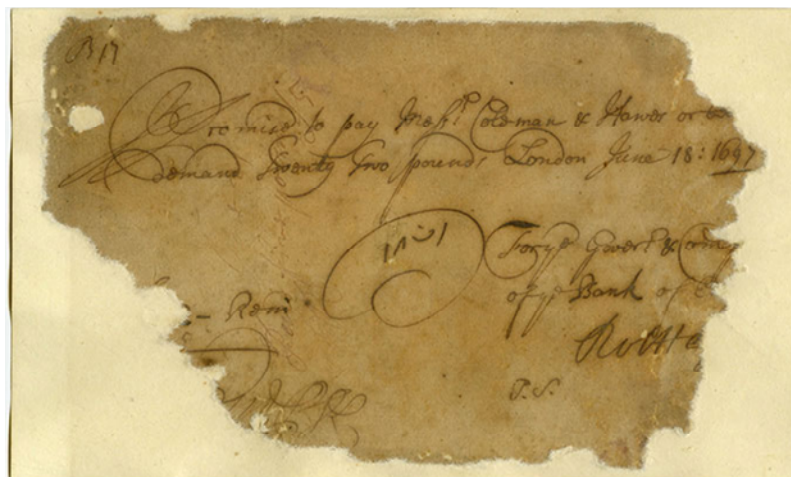
If that was unacceptable stealing by force was always an option! But following the Roman occupation, Roman coinage started to spread across the land.

Throughout the Middle Ages wealth in the form of precious metal cups, plates and ornaments, along with gold and silver coins, would be held in strong boxes in the houses of the aristocracy. They would be used as required to run their estates and fund their share of an army if required by the King.

It is almost a truism to write



*Paper money in Britain evolved from the receipts goldsmiths gave their customers for money they had deposited for safekeeping. Goldsmiths (see above) held this money as 'running cash'. They paid customers interest on the money they deposited.*



that monarchs were permanently short of cash. King Henry VIII was no exception but solved his financial problem by abolishing the wealthy monasteries in the 1530s.

Suddenly the country was awash with coinage struck from the melting of church plate and people had to find a safe haven to protect their new wealth. They looked no further than goldsmiths who since their guild, had been founded in 1327, had safely stored precious objects.

*Above: The earliest surviving Bank of England note is dated 18 June 1697. Below: Sterling gold coin*



Paper money evolved from the receipts that gold-

smiths gave their customers for the coinage and precious objects deposited for safe-keeping. They held this money as 'running cash'. They paid customers interest on the money deposited, which they also lent out with interest.

When the Bank of England (BoE) was founded, it gave 'notes' to its customers as receipts for their deposits. These gradually turned into modern banknotes.

To attract deposits when first founded with 17 clerks and two doorkeepers in the Mercers' Livery Company Hall in 1694, the BoE offered 8% interest per annum which proved highly attractive to the landed gentry.

The BoE ledger recorded £1.2 million deposited within the first 12 days of opening, including £10,000 from the King. This would have been sufficient to purchase 223,048 horses or 288,461 cows! The BoE soon had to move to Grocers' Hall for more space where it remained until 1734.

By 1780 country banks were opening across England and Wales. By 1810 there were over 800 licensed and unlicensed banks which both issued notes and provided small workshops, mines, and other new industries with loans for working capital.

Dorking was no exception with Darking Bank opening its doors in 1803 and by 1811 there were over 100



Above: This 1797 cartoon by James Gillray denotes Prime Minister William Pitt attempting to 'woo' the gold off an old lady representing the Bank of England. This was an effort to help fund the war with France. From this time the BoE became known as the 'Old Lady of Threadneedle Street'.

business trading in the town. A local bank proved essential to facilitate trade.

Initially Robert Piper, a butcher, his son George, and Thomas Dewdney, yeoman farmer, were the directors. After Robert's death in 1804, Darking Bank was run by George and Thomas until 1825.

In 1797, when a French Revolutionary force landed on mainland Britain, fears of invasion quickly spread. The public rushed to the BoE to convert their banknotes into gold. The amount of gold held by the BoE dropped from £16 million to just £2 million.

To try to preserve the depleted reserves, Prime Minister William Pitt placed a Privy Council Order on the BoE to stop paying notes in gold. The gold standard was

not re-introduced until 1821 with the intervening 24 years known as the Restriction Period. With no gold coinage in circulation the BoE produced £1 and £2 notes which proved easy to forge. But forgery was a capital offence and during this time no less than 300 forgers were hanged!

In 1825, following dubious investments in South America, there was another run on the banks with many provincial ones like Darking Bank going bust.

With the collapse or takeover of many smaller banks, a few came to dominate every high street with easily recognised logos. Today those are disappearing as nearly all of our local branches close.



## LOGIC PUZZLES FOR FUN

### Tree Logic puzzles

a) A farmer plants seven trees in six rows with three trees in a row. Show how the farmer can do this?



b) A second farmer wants to plant ten trees in five rows with four trees in a row. Show how the farmer can do this?



Any good at logic puzzles? Get involved in this new u3a initiative and challenge yourself by joining the team that devises these puzzles each month. Please send one or two sample puzzles and solutions that you have created to Janine Aldridge via [info@u3a.org.uk](mailto:info@u3a.org.uk) and the puzzles will be forwarded to the Maths Challenge team led by Maths and Stats Subject Adviser David Martin. Janine will also provide the solutions to the above puzzles.

### COULD YOU BE A THIRD AGE TRUSTEE?

*The Third Age Trust has been looking for volunteers with experience of financial management, governance or strategic planning who may be interested in serving on the board as trustees.*

*The trust has also been looking for people with experience of writing grant applications or obtaining legacy funding. Chairman Liz Thackray said: "If that is you, email: [info@u3a.org.uk](mailto:info@u3a.org.uk)"*

### SOUTH EAST FORUM SUMMER SCHOOL 2022

*Booking is open for the first South East Forum Summer School in three years from Monday, 20 June until Thursday, 23 June, at the University of Chichester*

*Go to the Surrey Network website at <http://www.u3asites.org.uk> for more detail.*

### THANKS LADIES

We are really grateful to Jackie Hulton and Beryl Eisenegger who have stepped forward as volunteers to take over provision of refreshments at the monthly meetings in the Old Barn Hall.

They follow Margaret New who has stood down after organising teas and coffees for the past few years. Any more volunteers?

### ARE THE FOOTLIGHTS CALLING YOU?

We are looking for members interested in going to live matinee theatre productions of pre-London runs at local theatres in Leatherhead and other local towns.

We miss the laughter, the comedies, the musicals, the dances, the murder mysteries, the dramas and perhaps a little Shakespeare. If you do too, please contact the Committee either directly or via the *News Bulletin* and we will have Bookham u3a heading back to the footlights without delay.



**COMING TALKS IN 2022 - OLD BARN HALL**

**Tuesday, 5 April: Mary Smith A Schoolgirl's War (Old Barn Hall)**

Mary tells the story of school life in Kent during World War 2, featuring the highly original artwork of a local school art teacher. Her work depicts disrupted schooling, air-raids, doodlebugs, and underground lessons in shelters experienced by so many at the time.

**Tuesday, 3 May: Howard Smith Picture Post (Old Barn Hall)**

*Picture Post*, the first photo-journalism magazine published by Hulton Press, was selling two million copies a week in the 1940s. In the 1950s, editor Tom Hopkinson detailed post-war life in Britain with a message of the need for regeneration and social reform.

**Tuesday, 7 June: Fran Sandham My Walk across Africa (Old Barn Hall)**

Author Fran Sandham walked solo across Africa from Namibia's coast to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar, a 3000-mile trek taking nearly a year.

**Tuesday, 5 July: John Griffiths-Colby Emily Connell's Autograph Book (Old Barn Hall)**

Emily Connell was a staff nurse at the 3rd Western General Hospital in Cardiff when World War 1 broke out. She kept an autograph book in which her patients drew and wrote messages. This is Part 2 of the story of her own highs and lows and struggles with the system.

**Tuesday, 6 September: Ian Keable The History of Cartoons (Old Barn Hall)**

Cartoons became standard in *Punch* magazine from the 1840s but Hogarth and Gillray employed satire, caricature, speech bubbles and captions long before then. Masters of the craft have since included John Tenniel, John Leech, David Low, Vicky, Ronald Searle, Heath Robinson, Giles, Gerald Scarfe, Steve Bell and Peter Brookes among others.

**Tuesday, 4 October: Paul Barfield The mysterious death of MI6 spy Gareth Williams (Old Barn Hall)**

In August 2010 Gareth failed to return to work at MI6 HQ in Vauxhall after annual leave.. Police found him dead in his flat inside a large sports bag, padlocked from the outside and placed in his bath. The flat was locked from the outside. The speaker delves beneath the media headlines into the world of international espionage. Who would want to kill this mild-mannered maths genius? A former policeman, Paul recalls how events unfolded to a disbelieving world. We ask if this was a tragic accident, a deliberate act by Gareth or something a lot more sinister. We look at the part played by MI6 and the police enquiry and ask whether international agents had a hand in his demise.

**Tuesday, 1 November: Neil Hanson Ghostwriting (Old Barn Hall)**

Author Neil Hanson has led an extraordinary life but as a professional ghostwriter of over 60 published books, he has also worked with a remarkably diverse collection of fascinating people. His clients include household names, among them an American showbiz legend, England's most famous cricketer, a famous actor, one of Britain's most decorated soldiers and an England football manager. But also many less celebrated men and women who have also led extraordinary lives or achieved remarkable things. They include SAS men, fast-jet pilots, explorers and adventurers, a treasure diver, a kidnap negotiator, a hugely successful businessman, a spy, a notorious gangster, an around the world walker, a submariner, a maxillofacial surgeon and many more.



## BOOKHAM U3A SUMMER DAY TRIP TO OXFORD



We are taking bookings now for a summer coach trip to Oxford organised for Wednesday, 17 August. The all-in transport costs are £14 each.

Extra options include a 30-minute guided tour of the Bodleian Library at £7.70 and a visit to an Oxford University College with costs from £3 to £7.

Enjoy the delights of a summer's day in this beautiful city with pick-up in Bookham at 8.30 am.

Book your tickets through the Bookham u3a website or enquiries to Viv Bignell at [viv@bignells.co.uk](mailto:viv@bignells.co.uk) or 01372 450392

## SURREY u3a NETWORK

### UP AND COMING STUDY DAYS

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.

The fees, including coffee/tea and biscuits, are £12 for members and £15 for guests and £5 for virtual attendance. Attendees bring a packed lunch and prior booking is necessary.

Click on any study day

link at the website [www.u3asites.org.uk](http://www.u3asites.org.uk) 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 fill in

the same form which will be available at the study days and hand it to any member of the committee.

The list of study day titles is given, together with a poster of a typical study day. When study day hand-outs or presentations are available for download they will be mounted for at least **three months**.

Surrey Network treats your privacy rights seriously and its Privacy Policy can be

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found by following the link. History of Study Days.

Please contact the Surrey Network Chairman, Caroline Sawers, on 01483 560590. Coming up:

18 March

*The Art and Objects of the Mughal Emperors c.1550-1650.* Presenter: Dr Ursula Weekes

22 April

*Illuminated Manuscripts of the Medieval Period* . Presenter: Imogen Corrigan

20 May

*Talks on Science: Colour, Electronic Music, Poisons & Dying.* Presenters: Andrew Hanson of NPL and Dr Kathryn Harkup

17 June

*Understanding Turner: The Man, His Life & His Work* Presenter: Professor Maria Chester

### **SPEAKER SWAP ON ART HISTORY**

Speaker Swap, an initiative to swap talks between interest groups in different u3as, has recently started in a new subject area, Art History. The talks being offered as part of this reciprocal initiative include *The Woman Who Took Revenge* and *Leonardo, would he have made a good u3a member?* Email [info@u3a.org.uk](mailto:info@u3a.org.uk)



### **WEBINAR ON SAFE DRIVING IN THE NEW ERA**

The Older Drivers Forum is running a free webinar on the new Highway Code as well safe driving tips. There are 500 places and registration is needed.

It will start by giving an update on the findings from the Older Drivers Task Force report published in November 2021. The webinar will then go over the new Highway Code and particularly the new changes. This will be followed by advice on safe driving tips to help mature motorists carry on driving safely for longer.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions of all the speakers. The webinar will last for 90 minutes with a ten-minute break in the middle.

The same webinar is scheduled for two days, on Thursday, 10 March starting at 2pm and Monday 14 March at 7pm. Please register with the Older Drivers Forum to get your link to join the webinar. No Zoom account is needed to join.

Visit <https://olderdriversforum.com/webinars/> to find out more. E-mail [olderdriversforumweb@gmail.com](mailto:olderdriversforumweb@gmail.com)

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire notified u3a about these webinars.

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## WHY NOT USE THE NEWS BULLETIN TO PROMOTE YOUR OWN U3A GROUP?

Has your group done something interesting recently? Would other Bookham u3a members be interested in your news? Or do you have vacancies to fill which would help strengthen your group? If so, you can use this monthly News Bulletin to reach our whole membership and attract the attention you need. Try contacting the editor, Tony Matthews, at [newsletter@bookhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bookhamu3a.org.uk). The more we all share, the more we get to know about Bookham u3a and its potential for future growth.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS IN FEBRUARY

Last month six members of the Current Affairs Group met on Zoom to discuss the issues of the day that mattered to them. This time the discussion topics flowed seamlessly from one to another as they considered the following issues.

‘Partygate’. Would the Prime Minister resign and who would replace him? NHS funding, appointment delays and integration of health and care services. Taxation and should we pay more to fund healthcare? How would any extra revenue be ring-fenced?

Should the triple lock be maintained or applied selectively to favour the less well-off? Causes of inflation, particularly in fuel costs and closure of storage facilities. Labour shortages caused by Covid and Brexit trade restrictions and global conditions.

The proposed taxation of oil and gas companies’ profits arising from price rises. Energy sources and their problems including fracking, ground disturbance and fume emissions, expansion of North Sea gas and environmental pollution from burning gas. Nuclear waste and small modular reactors. Tidal power, effect on the environment and silting problems.

Is Scottish independence desirable or viable. Brexit and the Northern Ireland conundrum, is there a solution?

Columnist George Monbiot’s revelation about the failure of the Environment Agency to regulate waste disposal with millions of tonnes of waste, some of it extremely hazardous, being illegally dumped or burned by criminals.

There were agreements and disagreements but always in an atmosphere of respect for others. But an underlying concern many members shared was increasing shame at the behaviour of some UK politicians and the struggle to find leadership with honesty and integrity.

Where does Britain go from here?

### NEW CHESS GROUP ON THE WAY



*There has been extensive interest shown in the proposed new Bookham u3a Chess Group.*

*Mike Farrell, groups co-ordinator, was approached by a new member wanting to set this up. No final proposals are yet available but the group would be expected to meet in a local hall and cater for both experienced and new players.*

*Day, time, location, cost and frequency are still to be decided.*

*If you are interested please email Mike at [groups@bookhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@bookhamu3a.org.uk) Once he has sufficient numbers he will arrange a first meeting.*

### TALK ON THE HUGUENOTS THIS MONTH

Bookham u3a Family History Group is to open its talk on the Huguenots this month to other members. The talk will be held from 9.30am on Monday 21 March at the Old Barn Hall. There will be a nominal fee to cover the speaker.

Please email Roland on [His10@bookhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:His10@bookhamu3a.org.uk) if you are interested in attending.

## YOUR OPTIONS FOR GROUP MEETINGS

Please go to the website to ensure you connect to the latest information on each group.

CODE	GROUP NAME	WEEK IN MONTH	DAY	TIME
His12	3E London	Fourth	Wednesday	AM
Art06	Architectural History	Fourth	Thursday	PM
Art02	Art Appreciation 2	Third	Monday	PM
Art03	Art Appreciation 3	Third	Tuesday	PM
Bee01	Beer Appreciation	Second	Wednesday	PM
Eng07	Book Reading 1	First	Thursday	PM
Eng08	Book Reading 2	Second	Thursday	PM
Eng12	Book Reading 3	Third	Tuesday	PM
Eng10	Book Reading 4	Second	Tuesday	AM
Bri01	Bridge 1	Weekly	Monday	AM
Bri03	Bridge 3	Weekly	Monday	AM
Bri04	Bridge 4	Weekly	Tuesday	AM
Bri05	Bridge 5	Weekly	Thursday	AM
Bri06	Bridge 6	Weekly	Friday	AM
Bri07	Bridge 7	Weekly	Thursday	AM
Bri0x	Bridge All Groups	Weekly	Various	AM
Bri08	Bridge Beginners/Improvers	Weekly	Wednesday	AM
Can01	Canasta 1	Second + Fourth	Wednesday	PM
Can02	Canasta 2	Second	Tuesday	PM
Cra07	Card Making	Last	Thursday	PM
Ch01	Chess	When required	TBC	PM
IT03	Computing Workshop	Second	Thursday	AM
Cra01	Crafts	First + Third	Tuesday	AM
Cra08	Creative Embroidery	First	Monday	AM
Eng03	Creative Writing	Every Other	Friday	AM
Cro01	Croquet (April to Oct)	Various	Various	AM
CA01	Current Affairs	Second	Wednesday	PM
Cyc01	Cycling	First + Third	Friday	AM
Wal03	Easy Rambling	Second + Fourth	Tuesday	AM
His10	Family History	Third	Monday	AM
Cra06	Flower Arranging	First	Thursday	AM
Fre01	French Conversation	Second + Fourth	Wednesday	AM
Fre04	French Intermediate	Second + Fourth	Thursday	AM
Gar03	Gardening 03	Second	Wednesday	PM
His22	History	Second + Fourth	Wednesday	PM
Dan01	Line Dancing	Weekly	Wednesday	PM
Dan02	Line Dancing Beginners	Weekly	Wednesday	PM
His11	London Walks	Third	Wednesday	AM
His13	London Walks 3	Third	Thursday	AM
His15	London Walks 4	First	Thursday	AM
His17	London Walks 5	Third	Friday	AM
His18	London Walks 6	Third	Thursday	AM
Mah01	Mah-jong	Weekly	Friday	PM
Met01	Metal Detecting	Second + Fourth	Wednesday	PM
His08	Military History	Fourth	Tuesday	PM
Wal04	Morning Hikes	Second	Wednesday	AM
Sci06	Ornithology & Botany	Second	Tuesday	PM
Art04	Painting Workshop	Weekly	Monday	AM
Per01	Phoenix Entertainment	Weekly	Thursday	PM
Pho01	Photography	Fourth	Wednesday	AM
Eng11	Play Reading	Fourth	Monday	PM
Eng01	Poetry Appreciation	Second	Thursday	PM

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**YOUR OPTIONS FOR GROUP MEETINGS continued**

CODE	GROUP NAME	WEEK IN MONTH	DAY	TIME
Zz01	Qigong	Weekly	Monday	PM
Sci01	Science & Technology 1	Second	Thursday	AM
Sci02	Science & Technology 2	Fourth	Thursday	PM
Sci03	Science & Technology 3	Third	Wednesday	PM
Scr01	Scrabble	When required	Various	PM
His16	Social History 1	Second	Monday	AM
His20	Social History 2	First	Monday	PM
Spa02	Spanish Group 2-Basic	First + Third	Monday	PM
Ten01	Table Tennis	Weekly	Monday	PM
TC01	Tai Chi 1	Weekly	Thursday	AM
TC02	Tai Chi 2	When Required	N/A	AM
The01	Theatre Interest	When Required	Various	PM
Tra01	Travel Experiences	Third	Tuesday	PM
Mus11	Ukulele	Second + Fourth	Thursday	AM
Gar02	Vegetable Gardening	Second	Saturday	AM
Wal02	Walking 12km	First	Friday	AM
Wal01	Walking 7km	Second + Fourth	Friday	AM
Win02	Wine Appreciation 2	Fourth	Wednesday	PM
Win03	Wine Appreciation 3	Second	Tuesday	PM
Win04	Wine Appreciation 4	Third	Monday	PM
Win05	Wine Appreciation 5	Fourth	Monday	PM
Win06	Wine Appreciation 6	When Required	N/A	PM

**SITUATION VACANT**

**Please contact Chris Middleton at [chairman@bookhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@bookhamu3a.org.uk) or call him on 01372 454107 for more information on the role below.**

**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

A Vice-Chairman is needed who will deputise for the Chairman and be able to fill that role when the current period of office expires. The Chairman has the following roles:

- Maintain the objectives/purposes of the u3a.
- Preserve order at meetings and ensure that the correct procedure is followed and the agenda covered
- Guide discussions in a positive manner while allowing different points to be expressed
- Encourage audience participation in discussion and decision-making
- Draw discussions to a conclusion and summarise for audience votes where required.
- Ensure decisions are followed through.



## **VISIT TO WEST HORSLEY PLACE**

**10am, Wednesday, 8 June**

West Horsley Place is a Grade 1 listed building, parts of which date back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Many of us had our appetites whetted for a “Nooks and Crannies” tour when June Davey spoke at our February u3a meeting

You could have the opportunity to see for yourself and be guided around the property by one of their expert guides on Wednesday, 8 June. Starting at 10am. The tour lasts between 90 minutes and two hours and you will see corners of the house and areas not normally open to the general public.

You will go home with a copy of the book *West Horsley Place; a New Start* by the late broadcaster Bamber Gascoigne who inherited the property in 2014 from his great-aunt, the Duchess of Roxburghe, and then set up a charity with a mission to restore house, buildings and 380-acre estate for the benefit of the local community as a vibrant centre for performing and visual arts and crafts. A brand new opera house was built in the grounds which now hosts the annual season of The Grange Opera each summer. The gardens provide the perfect place for mid-performance feasting.

We will travel there independently but hope to use as few cars as possible by offering spare seats.

The cost is £20 per person, payable when you book your place. There are only 20 places available. Please book on the website as soon as possible. If you are unable to do that, email Rosemary Coleman [rosemaryjcoleman17@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryjcoleman17@gmail.com)

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