

A photograph of a brick wall with a white tent on a lawn in the background. The wall is made of red bricks and has some greenery growing on it. The tent is white with a scalloped edge and is set up on a green lawn. There are trees in the background under a blue sky with some clouds.

# Senior

# Moments

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

*Issue 75*

*August*

*2022*

Wildlife on Bookham Common in the summer photographed by Derek Wisby



Young blackcap female with no tail



Small skipper



Gatekeeper



Comma



Young egret the legs  
are not yet black



Speckled wood

# Bookham and District U3A

Registered Charity No 1036386 u3a Membership No 254/239/93  
 Registered Address: 156 Lower Road, Bookham, Leatherhead KT23 4AQ  
[www.bookhamu3a.org.uk](http://www.bookhamu3a.org.uk)

## The Committee



Chairman  
Chris Middleton  
454107

**Vacant**



Vice-Chairman  
Secretary  
Gillian Arnold  
452046



Treasurer  
Chris Pullan  
454582



Joint-Membership  
Secretary  
Liz Looney  
459551



Joint-Membership  
Secretary  
Pam Hyde  
454734

### Editorial.

With this issue I have been editing Senior Moments for 10 years and this edition is particularly pleasing because for the very first time the magazine is full of articles three whole weeks before the closing date for submissions. For an editor this is extremely satisfying and my hope of course is long may it continue. For all aspiring contributors always remember you only have to come up with an idea, not necessarily a full article with accompanying photos. While this is good when it happens I am quite prepared and indeed enjoy building a piece from scratch.



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Groups Co-ordinator  
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Website co-ord  
Harold Reglar  
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News Bulletin  
Tony Matthews  
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Speaker Secretary  
Frank Cross  
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There are many interesting pieces to read in this issue including two posthumously from the author who died last year: Rita Pitcher had lived a long life and I knew her from her attendance at the weekly painting workshop meetings in the Harrison room at the OBH where she displayed her not inconsiderable skill as an artist, mainly in oil painting. I also discovered she did sculpture and writing where she had written her experiences of growing up in Lambeth in London during the Blitz. She wrote up her piece as memories of a 10½ year old schoolgirl. There are also three more new contributors, Rosemary Coleman, Pam Cannon and Marian Foss, in this issue of SM with interesting articles to read.

*Maurice Baker*



Social Events  
Lynn Farrell  
451797



Senior Moments Editor  
Maurice Baker 372147



Minutes Secretary  
Peter Clarke  
450908

## Chairman's Commentary

Welcome to the summer edition of Senior Moments.

Whilst there are several topics that I could discuss with you, there is one which overrides all the others in terms of its impact on Bookham u3a.

In accordance with our constitution, my 2 year period of office as Chairman finishes in April 2023. I have previously mentioned the need for a vice chairman who would normally then progress to become chairman. However, for the past 16 months I have had to operate without any member putting themselves forward for vice chairman. In these circumstances I have to advise you that the future of Bookham u3a is in serious jeopardy.

If a Vice Chairman is appointed at the AGM in October 2022 or as a last resort by April 2023, then I am prepared to continue for 6 months for a hand over as the Vice Chairman moves to become the incoming chairman in October 2023. If no member puts themselves forward for the Vice Chairman position by April 2023, then Bookham u3a is at serious risk of CLOSING. The choice as to what happens rests with you, the membership.

Until next time, take care.

Chris

## 40th Anniversary of the u3a Movement

Maybe you have been wondering why Bookham u3a has not been participating in the 40th anniversary celebrations of the u3a Movement. Look on the national u3a website or read in Third Age Matters and you could not avoid the celebration events.

Here in Bookham, we welcome the 40th anniversary and continue to support the Principles of the u3a Movement. However, it was only 4 years ago that we celebrated our Silver Anniversary, as Bookham u3a is an independent organisation affiliated to the national movement. We celebrated in style in 2018 but with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee occurring this year, we wanted to avoid celebration overload and confusion. Bookham u3a could not have been 25 years old in 2018 and now be 40 years old. When Bookham u3a reaches its ruby anniversary in 2033 there will be time to prepare and enjoy properly.





A great walk along the river Wey, and beautiful weather to go with it!—Liz Looney

Leonardslee

Liz Looney photos



In 2019, Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens opened its doors after a closure of 10 years, this magnificent Grade I listed garden was nearly lost forever and has been the subject of the largest garden restoration in England and possibly Europe.

These spectacular and ancient gardens are now open for the public to enjoy once again. Many people in the local area have fond memories of their visits and life around these gardens, and we aim to protect this magnificent heritage so that future generations get to enjoy these beautiful green spaces and flora and fauna within.



## The second World War 1939-1945 (From a 10½ year old girl's point of view)

“We are at war with Germany”  
Prime Minister Chamberlain's words reverberated all over Great Britain through our wireless sets in September 1939.

What did it mean? What was going to happen to us? I suppose to my parents it was a bit of a shock as they had experienced the First World War of 1914-1918, the war to end all wars and here was another one. It must have conjured up memories of Zeppelins, mud, gas and thousands of soldiers being killed.

But to me, a 10 year old girl with no experience of the outside world, I suppose it just didn't hit me so hard. I just didn't know.

Within minutes of the declaration mum said to me “quick Rita, go round to the shop and buy some sugar”. Already she was thinking ahead, she knew there would be shortages of food.

Children living in danger areas which were expected to be bombed at some time or other were evacuated to what was thought to be safer areas of the country, complete with a small suitcase of clothes and a gas mask in a small cardboard box around our necks. I lived in the centre of London, good old Lambeth just a stone's throw away from important places such as the Houses of Parliament etc. but my mum did not want to send me away, so for the best part of the war I came to know from first hand experience what bombing was all about.

I lived in a block of flats, two of which were converted to shelters for the residents.

Windows were sandbagged up and all taped ready for the onslaught.

Children who stayed behind not evacuated had to be dealt with regarding their education and I had just passed my examination to go to a grammar school. You still had choice of school you wished to belong to but because the whole school was evacuated, mine was Mary Datchelor, which was evacuated to Wales. An emergency school was set up in London to cater for groups of children belonging to many other grammar schools. Mine was in Honor

Oak school, the other side of Peckham Rye. It was here that I met my friend Lily who belonged to Honor Oak School - she became my lifelong friend. For me, it involved a long tram journey to school, if ever there was an air raid on the way we all had to get off the tram and go to the nearest shelter. If we were at school during a raid you were ushered into the dugout shelter in the school grounds, lessons abandoned, but we all read stories from the well known Just William books to keep us amused. So I suppose the raids had some good points.

To help the War Effort children were allowed a small plot in the school grounds to Dig For Victory (a slogan on billboards all over the country) and grow their own vegetables. I had a plot of my own and loved it but I had one mishap. I had a tug of war over a small fork with another girl, she let go and I whacked myself over my eye and had to go and have a tetanus injection. Girls will be girls.

Food was rationed. We were issued with ration books allowing us each so much meat, cheese, butter, sweets per week. I cannot remember exactly how much of each we had but people today, with all the food available to them would think we must have been starving. But in actual fact we never ate more healthily. Certainly a lot less sugar. Children these days just wouldn't be able to believe ever not being able to have an orange or a banana. Not only food was rationed. All materials were in short supply so clothes coupons were issued. Children who were larger than normal got extra clothing coupons; my friend Lily was extra tall for her age and I was fatter than normal so we both got extra coupons. You were weighed and measured for height. Shops were issued every so often with certain goods; words would get around and a queue would start outside the shop - you had to queue for everything. Nylon stockings were like gold dust. When the Americans came into the war the offer of a pair of nylon stockings was the lure to any young girl. But for those without a pair of stockings girls used to colour their legs, I think with gray brown and drew a line down the back of their legs for the seam.

It was a time to make do and mend - nothing was wasted, nothing was thrown away. To this day in my 85th year, I still work on this principal - Waste not Want not.

At first not a lot happened regarding

German attacks on London, which was a good thing, allowing us to prepare ourselves. Civilians were trained for putting out fires with stirrup pumps (we still have one to this day - my husband won't part with it). Windows were draped with heavy weight curtains to block out the light. Windows were covered with strips of sticky paper to prevent glass from shattering and then we all had to get used to the blackout at night as all the street lamps were off when it got dark. To find your way about in the street you had to use a torch with the face covered with paper to diffuse the beam. Air Raid Wardens would parade the streets at night shouting PUT THAT LIGHT OUT to any offenders.

Night after night the sirens would blast out and people trooped down with their sleeping bags down the Underground to sleep on the platform all night. This was sometimes from six in the evening until the next morning. So they would be lying down on the platform while people were returning from their city jobs on the trains. We used our own shelter for a time in our flats but it went on for so long that we just got fed up in the end we stayed tucked up in our beds, at least I did. I used to sleep through all of the bombs but my poor old mum used to sit by my bed bobbing up and down over me thinking she was protecting me in some way. During the day, the sky would swarm with barrage balloons floating like basking whales. These were to entrap enemy aircraft. At night the sky would be aflame with searchlights tracking enemy aircraft then the ack ack guns would start trying to hit them before they dropped their deadly load of bombs. When the all clear sounded people thought nothing of wandering around in their pyjamas to see what damage had been done and help dig out people buried in rubble.

One really bad night the whole of London viewed from the roof of our flats seemed to be on fire. The church at the end of our road had its steeple burning like a candle and the wax polish factory next to it was blazing away.

Yet with all of this going on people just got up the next day to carry on with what they had to do; wash, shave and go to work. They were not to be beaten by Adolf Hitler. Towards the end of the war Germans began bombing London with what we called doodle-bugs, pilotless planes which while you could hear their engine you were safe but once the engine

stopped you had to fall flat on your face because they fell to earth and exploded; these were the V1.

Then the V2 came out which was a rocket fired at an angle to come down to explode in Britain. With these rockets which flew faster than sound you heard nothing at all until they exploded. One minute you would be standing in the street waiting to cross the road, the next minute "BOOM" and you were destroyed - just like a giant foot smashing down on an unsuspecting insect.

The final year of the war I finally succumbed to being evacuated to Wales to my proper school, Mary Datchelor, because I was due to take the Matriculation exam and I was not getting the tuition for this exam at the emergency school. I was upset at first because I was leaving my friends and home for the first time in my life. But all turned out well because I was billeted with the loveliest of families. A husband and wife who had one son about two years younger than me. They also had a grandfather living with them. I absolutely adored him. They also had a Corgi dog which nearly bit the postman's nose off every time he delivered letters.

They treated me as one of the family and to this day I still keep in touch with the son and his wife at Christmas time. The end of the war came while I was living there. What rejoicing there was with street parties and singing. I came back a different person, a grown up person, having experienced so much in the past five years.

It was a time I shall never forget, it is all there in my mind. Dreadful things happened but the people always rose to the occasion. There was always a feeling of camaraderie, people cared for each other, they helped one another in order to stay free from a tyrant.

So my war story ends, but still wars go on all over the world. I hope they will be met with the same care, help and thought for one another.

Rita Pitcher



## CROQUET NEWS



**W**hen the 2022 season started we were pleased to have a renewed membership of over sixty, divided into seven different playing groups. This includes nine new members who play on Thursdays, several of whom have also joined Golf Croquet groups.



A working party set up the lawns at Polesden Lacey on 31st March, ready for the season's start on 4th April.

Following winter, the lawns were in very good condition thanks to the work of the gardeners at Polesden. Now, despite the gardeners' best efforts, they're slightly worse for wear thanks to the sun and rabbits!

Our first event was the Golf Croquet Tournament on 21st June. David and Averina Snow took over the organising this year and a splendid job they made of it. Twenty players arrived at Polesden to see everything laid out and even flags flying on the base line. It was very hot so chairs and picnic bags were put in the shade. A new format saw us playing four games throughout the day, each one with a different partner on various lawns. Paper slips handed out by Averina had all the information we needed neatly laid out. Play commenced and everyone was accommodated thanks to one lawn being double banked, meaning played on by eight people with two sets of balls. Great fun and if you had to wait your turn to play all the better to chat!



Lunch time was welcome and everyone retreated to the shade to eat, drink and more chat. David read out the top five players so far and to our delight one of the new members/players, Roland Cunningham, was in the top five! Play continued throughout the afternoon and the winner was finally declared, congratulations and well done to Ray White, who was presented with the Tournament Trophy. (Bit biased but I've got to mention that Frank Cross was a very close second!)

David was thanked for organising the day so well, a lot of thought and work had gone into it and as his first (and hopefully not the last!) such event it was truly a great success. Again, thank you to him and Averina, as with all u3a groups it's volunteers giving up their time who make things happen.

Martin, who has organised the tournament and the croquet group for many years was away with family, he and Trudi were missed. We hope you'll be there for the

next tournament, enjoying being players having a rest from the work of organising it.

While we still look to Martin to keep us going, Peter Jackson has taken over membership renewals and of course Angie Squires is our long standing treasurer, many thanks to both.

Without the National Trust and Polesden there probably wouldn't be croquet in Bookham so our heartfelt thanks to all the staff at Polesden for allowing us to set up and use the lawns. Visitors from near and far make positive comments and delight in watching croquet being played on what must be one of the most scenic set of croquet lawns in the country. Trying to explain the intricacies of the game in five minutes is another matter!



Our next event is the croquet picnic at Polesden Lacey on Sunday 17th July, followed by the Association Tournament on Tuesday 30th August. The season ends on Thursday 6th October.

*Val Cross*



Visit to West Horsley Place –  
Wednesday June 8th 2022



We had a warm, sunny day for our visit to explore the nooks and crannies. Many of us had had our appetites whetted at the January U3a monthly meeting.



West Horsley Place is now under the management of the charity, the Mary Roxburghe Trust, named after the last owner Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe.

The Trust aims to restore the buildings on the estate as feasible, to encourage the teaching of a wide variety of crafts on the premises and to support and encourage the performing arts. They were approached by the Grange Opera in 2016/7: resulting in a purpose-built opera house in the grounds and the 2022 opera season is now underway.

The house itself was full of young people and activity when we arrived,



much the same as it might have been in Tudor times when important guests were expected. Today's bustle was

to set up and prepare tables for the 'fine dining experience' of opera-goers. Caviare and other delicacies were on the menu, reminding us of the opulence and social standing of the owners in former times.

The uneven floors, the damaged ceilings and the odd bucket to collect rainwater reminds one of how much restoration is necessary and the massive costs involved.

The only original Tudor interior decorative feature which was apparent was part of a ceiling with its heraldic reliefs, dating from about 1540, in the Geraldine room.

The Stone Hall (originally the Medieval Great Hall) on the ground floor and the Drawing Room on the first floor were large and impressive. It was interesting to hear and see how previous owners had modernised the rooms and reflected 'current fashion' over the centuries.



Current style and fashion in the 1640s had encouraged Carew Raleigh, (father of Sir Walter Raleigh) the then owner, to construct the exquisite brickwork facade we see today and attach it loosely to the 'old-fashioned and out-dated' 15th Century timber-framed house. If you visit the house, don't miss a visit to the downstairs toilets where part of

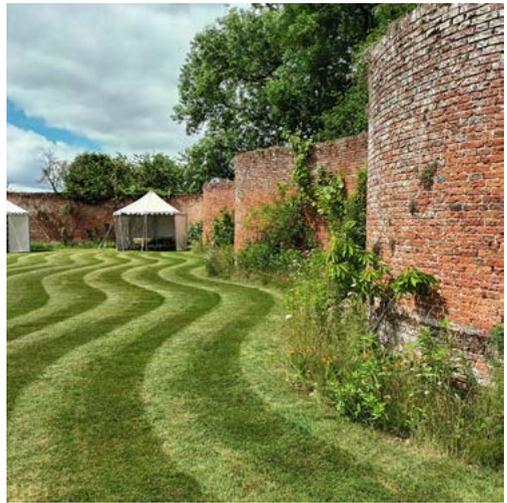


the original 15th century structure is on display.



Sir Walter Raleigh was subsequently beheaded and there is a decorated bag on display which is alleged to have stored his head. Part of the decorative braid on the bag dates from that time, but the main fabric is more

modern.



for gardening done in 1546 when the house was owned by Henry VIII.

A visitor in the 19th Century noted that the gardens were famous for their home-grown fruit and vegetables. Mary, Countess of Roxburghe would encourage her lunch-time guests to walk and see her 'crinkle-crinkle' or serpentine wall which provided a sun-trap for her espalier trees. The informal part has mowed lawns. I watched the gardener mowing the lawn by the serpentine wall, following its curves and making an attractive effect.

After a most interesting 2 hour tour, many of us enjoyed lunch at Carlo's at Newlands Corner.



The Stone kitchen dates from the Tudor period. It was well sited at the east end of the house, by the dining area, and this earned the house the reputation of serving up hot meals. In

later centuries, up till the present, the house had the reputation in winter of being cold – 'to warm up, go into the garden'!



Some of us did go into the gardens, but not to get warm!

One of the glories of West Horsley Place, the

guide book tells us, are its gardens. Having strolled around them, I would agree. It has a delightful combination of formal and informal. The formal part with box hedges and rectangular layout, give a faint echo of Tudor times. A bill still exist



*Rosemary Coleman*



### 3E London walks

**3**E London started up again in March after a 2 year break. Covid was more prevalent when we decided to start again so to play safe we decided to limit the size of the group, minimise the use of public transport and reuse and to mostly rehash our 10 years bank of walks rather than research new ones.

In March we only went as far as Wimbledon (it was quite an experience for some of us who had not used the trains for 2 years) doing a walk from Andrew Duncan's Favourite London Walks, available from the library. Wimbledon village is charming with its wealth of independent shops and cafes and restaurants, as are The Common and Cannizaro Park.

In April we ventured a little further to Battersea Park to explore both the park and the new development of Battersea Power Station and had lunch in one of the lovely new restaurants overlooking the river.

In May we travelled to Victoria and did a walk from there to Piccadilly, taking in buildings from many periods and architectural styles and walking

finished the walk off by visiting the Stern Pissarro Gallery in St James St where they have paintings from five generations of the family of Camille Pissarro, the famous impressionist artist, in a stunning modernist building.

In June we plan to walk part of the Wandle trail and Mitcham, keeping away from London so close to the jubilee celebrations.

Sadly our numbers are a little depleted now due to illnesses or injuries or the loss of an appetite for London so contact me if you are seriously interested in committing to a new group. We meet the 1st Wednesday on even numbered months and 1st Friday on odd numbered months.

Alternatively contact me if you want details on any of the above walks to do by yourself or with friends.

*Kathy Gothard*



through St James Park and Green Park. It was lovely weather so we decided to have a picnic in the park and



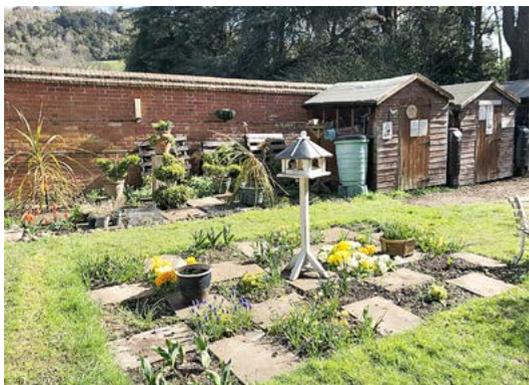
## Patchworking Garden Project

This wonderful project was established in 2014 to bring positive change to people's lives through gardening and friendship. They operate in a natural environment set in a walled garden



in Pixham Lane, Dorking with extensive views to Box Hill.

Run entirely by volunteers they offer gardening, crafting and the opportunity to learn new skills in



a safe and friendly space. They welcome those with a need because of physical or mental health conditions, learning disabilities, dementia, isolation or bereavement.

Over 40 support volunteers in teams of 6 to 8 support 70 people per week. A Management Committee overlook the day to day

running of the Garden and a Board of Trustees are responsible for the overall direction and running of the garden.



We visited their Open Day in April when their new glasshouse which was won in a competition was officially opened. The gardens are split into sections hence the patchworking



name. We saw the alpine and spring section, the craft and woodworking shed and the new incredible roundhouse. There was a plant sale and we enjoyed refreshments in the adjoining field

Take a look at their website for further details and about further open days to raise money for this excellent charity.

*Anita Laycock*



## In times gone by

On Wednesday in May 2022 I met up with a group of old friends who I worked with 35 years ago. We were in the forefront of radio and television. Sounds dull? It wasn't. It was the only job I got on the spot. My new Australian boss Stefan Sargent was setting up his Television company



called Molinare in Soho With his partner Robert Parker they already had sound recording studios in Broadwick Street where they made the first radio commercials for British radio. The new studios



### Moli Producers

**Robert Parker**  
 Co-creator of Moli in 1973. Moli was quite frankly last track of the radio station in the 1970s and was the first to be broadcast on television when the BBC took over the station back in 1974.

**Bob Auger**  
 Co-creator of Moli in 1973. Moli was quite frankly last track of the radio station in the 1970s and was the first to be broadcast on television when the BBC took over the station back in 1974.

### Caroline Shaw

Co-creator of Moli in 1973. Moli was quite frankly last track of the radio station in the 1970s and was the first to be broadcast on television when the BBC took over the station back in 1974.

**Bob Auger**  
 Co-creator of Moli in 1973. Moli was quite frankly last track of the radio station in the 1970s and was the first to be broadcast on television when the BBC took over the station back in 1974.

in Foubert Place just off Carnaby Street had a walk in Television

studio, Editing,Telecine, Audio Visual unit, four sound recording suites and eventually two sound dubbing suites. His plan was that a client could walk in with an idea for a commercial or pop video, shoot it, edit it, dub it (putting sound on the picture) and walk out with a complete production at the other end ready to go onto television or radio.

I started off in the Audio Visual department as I had been a Graphic Designer and knew about film slides. I got the chance to work in all departments and finally specialised in the Audio department. So I was in charge of four sound recording studios and two dubbing suites.

Robert and Stefan sold the Broadwick Street studio to Pete Townshend of the Who once Foubert Place was finished.

When we were up and running the work boomed and famous people poured into our doors, doing radio commercials and pop videos, we did the lot.

On Fridays we would do commercials for the Mirror and Sun newspapers. They had to be kept separate so sometimes I would tape paper over the studio windows so they could not crib each others ideas. The Sun used a production company so things ran fairly smoothly. But the Mirror boys rarely had ideas when they arrived and would sit around waiting for divine inspiration. Once they had settled on an idea—Bingo-things went more smoothly. A lot of drinking went on but they were on a tight schedule to get a commercial out by the end of the day. It went straight to the BT Tower to get around the country. There was a time scheduled for the country's commercial stations to pick up.

The broadcasting industry's weekly newspaper

11 July 1983 • 1216 • 24th

# Broadcast

INSIDE  
1983 Radio  
Festival programme



If you're looking for the best in sound dubbing - look no further than Molinare.

We have got the best facilities in the business. And that doesn't just mean machines - but people.

They're all professionals, whose only concern is to help you produce your best work. Why not talk to one of our Sound Engineers: Richard, Mike, Eric, Malcolm or Brian, and explore the

opportunities before you make a booking.

It's worth the cost of a phone call to Marion, our bookings co-ordinator on 01-439 2244. She'll fix up a meeting.

She'll also tell you that Ted in the Library has a reserve of Music and FX that's the envy of every other sound studio.

It all goes to show how Molinare look after you like nobody else can. And that's a promise. Scouts honour!

**MOLINARE**  
61 Great Marlborough Street, London W1P 6DB  
Telephone 01-439 2244. Telex 299200  
**The gang's all here.**

We were pioneers but the financial pressure of running such a large company in central London took its toll. We went public and were taken over at least twice while I was there.

Molinare still exists in a smaller scale. I read up a review recently that reported it had one of the best dubbing suites in the world.

If you look on YouTube, you will find the Molinare show reel 2020. One section contains a commercial we made for the Sun (or the Mirror) showing skimpy ladies prancing around a cage containing a tiger. It was all a bit mad. Then have a look at YouTube Molinare 2020 and you will

It was the Punk era and we used to sometimes visit the Marquee Club at lunch time and pogo away, then back to work.

I worked in the TV studio at one point and got involved with Pop videos. Once I had to pull people off Carnaby Street to dance to the Squeeze Christmas Pop video special. It was banned by the BBC, apparently 'Mary' was too busy!

see how far the company has come. Maybe Commercial Television has improved hugely, but I wonder if it is as much fun?

Marian Foss



## Wine Tasting Group2

We had our latest Wine Group 2 presentation at my home on Wednesday, 27th April with our honorary member, daughter Caroline Topping. We had a splendid presentation of "Found" wines from the M&S range.

snip at £9.50. The other bottle which stood out was a Portuguese Alicante Bouschet. The second Greek wine had potential also. This was a

Xinomavro Mandilaria from the uplands of Macedonia with huge fruit flavours and tannins.



These wines mostly emanated from central Europe and came from lesser known grape varieties which made for a most interesting evening. The German Weissburgunder Pinot blanc was a surprise package which the great

Our next evening will find us exploring reds, roses and whites best suited to warm weather. Do I sense summer is round the corner?



majority rated really highly. It would be particularly good with seafood and asparagus and was a



Jane Bishop



## Summer on the Commons

Summer is a difficult time for bird watching because the trees are in full leaf and little brown birds are very hard to see.

The experienced birder uses bird calls to record the various types and phone apps are available to help with this. However, there is still lots to see. Larger birds like the young herons can be seen



learning to fish. There are ducks, geese and swans with their young and all around are



butterflies, bees and dragonflies. If you are very lucky you may see the famous and rare Purple Emporor!



Last year two very young little egrets were seen for over a week on the ponds. You can tell they are young by their greenish legs, they turn black as they get older. This is a new species to the Commons and it will be



interesting to see if they return.

Don't forget your garden birds, at this



time of the year a change in the

weather can leave birds feeding their young short of food and



desperate for a ready meal and a long drink.

*Derek Wisby*



*To Simba My lovely cat*

*Just a small ball of fluff with large green eyes*

*Sitting in a bird cage for all to see*

*We looked at each other, it was no great surprise*

*When a wee tiny voice said "please buy me"*

*I opened up the cage and took him in my arms*

*We bonded at once at the very first touch*

*It wasn't so much his kittenish charms*

*But his warm loving feeling held us both in its clutch*

*For twenty happy years he enriched my life*

*He grew to be such a handsome cat*

*Always comforting me in times of strife*

*Looking just like a lion spread out on the mat*

*Sweet, sweet cat to the end of my days*

*I will keep your image locked in my heart*

*Always I will remember your loving ways*

*Dearest Simba, you have gone from sight but we will never be apart.*



*Rita Pitcher*

## Leonardslee Gardens

On Wednesday 11th May 16 Bookham U3A members visited Leonardslee Gardens and Lakes in Lower Beeding in Sussex.



The gardens have a rich history dating back hundreds of years and was last owned by the Loder Family who bought the estate in 1889 and planted the famous collections of rhododendrons and azaleas.



It closed in 2010 when it was sold, I believe to Russians, and reopened again in 2017 when the gardens

were acquired by Penny Streeter OBE owner of the Benguela Collection Hospitality Group. The gardens were wildly overgrown after nearly 10 years of neglect and it took a while to even find the paths!

16 of us travelled by mini bus, 10 of us from Wine Group 3 and were joined by 6 other members of the U3A. We met up with 2 Dorking U3A members and then after a coffee stop we explored



the gardens and lakes which were at their absolute best and the riot of colour everywhere was stunning especially in the Rock Garden. The Dell is one of the oldest parts of the garden and one of the highlights is a 35ft Cornish red rhododendron which is 120 years old and 35ft in height. Other attractions include the Wallabies, the Deer Park and the Dolls' House Museum.

After our walk round the gardens we met up for lunch just as it started to drizzle. Luckily we had booked a tutored wine tasting - well we would do as we are a wine group!! By that time it was raining heavily but by the time we had tasted 6 award winning estate wines - sparkling, white, rose and red from their Benguela Cove Lagoon Wine Estate in Hermanus South Africa - I think we had all forgotten about the rain!

*Pam Cannon*



# Bookham u3a future events

The table below shows upcoming meetings open to all members. For more information on these meetings please refer to the Bookham u3a website. You will need to be logged in to see the additional information.

Group events are shown either on the appropriate group page or on the Diary page.

## Tuesday, 6 September: Ian Keable The History of Cartoons

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

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

Author Neil Hanson has led an extraordinary life but as a professional ghost-writer 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. Others 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.

## Tuesday, 6 December: Jacques Arnold The House of Windsor

### Study Days at Yehudi Menuhin School

Thu Sep 8th

#### **Attaining & Maintaining Health in the Third Age**

Presented by Professor Norman Lazarus, Centre for Human Applied and Physiological Sciences, Guy's Hospital & Kings College London  
St Mary's Church Hall, Fetcham at 2pm - See link for further details  
Open to all with no charge

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Fri Sep 16th

#### **Voices from Ancient Mesopotamia**

Presented by Dr Irving Finkel, British Museum  
Places will be available in the hall or for on-line viewing and booking will open in June

Fri Oct 21st

#### **Eureka - A Brief History of Maths from 3000 BC to 2000 AD**

Presented by Roger Luther  
Places are available in the hall or for on-line viewing and booking is open

Fri Nov 18th

#### **Industrial Archaeology at Fifty**

Presented by Professor David Perrett & Professor Martin Adams  
Places are available in the hall or for on-line viewing and booking is open

Bookable on line [surreyu3astudyday@btinternet.com](mailto:surreyu3astudyday@btinternet.com)