

It's time again
for membership
renewal
Please remember to renew your
U3A membership
before 31 August

Senior Moments



The Newsletter of the Bockham & District
University of the Third Age
Issue 55 July 2017



Painting Workshop Group in action



Bookham and District U3A

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This edition of Senior Moments comes just two months after the May edition in order to avoid the postage costs, there being no meeting in August. This year we have pieces from new contributors—Pam North on the anniversary meeting of Art Appreciation I, Tony Matthews on cinemas and Nick Cox on Spanish. There is also an amusing poem from Marion Kemp that is sure to produce a smile and probably a chuckle as well.

July is also the month we renew our membership and hopefully resolve to become more involved in Bookham U3A, perhaps by joining another group or even joining one for the first time—there are so many to choose from. Perhaps you will want to make a contribution to your magazine either by writing a piece or even just suggesting a subject for inclusion that has not been considered before.

Then again a minimum involvement in arranging an outing where you just pick the venue, book the coach and ask Anne Glyn to do most of the administration. Perhaps there is also someone who is prepared to take on the social events and think up fresh ideas that are always enjoyed by so many members.

Calendars have been produced by Bookham U3A for the past five years and this time there is a change where instead of photographs, the Painting Workshop Group have submitted pictures for not one but two calendars! Such is the quality of work within this group that they enthusiastically offered their pictures for consideration. There were so many worthy contributions from 27 members that two calendars have been produced and the interest in both of them has resulted in 60 'reserved' already and we are still only half way through the year. It is necessary, in an exercise of this type, to obtain commitments to reserve copies so that as accurate a number of copies as possible can finally be ordered from the printers.

Maurice Baker

Cover photo Sweet Peas at Chelsea Flower Show by Maurice Baker

NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

What a funny, mixed spring we've had – rain/drought, cold/heatwave, how typically English and now we are into the light summer evenings. The garden is a bit of a mixed bag, the grass seems to be more moss than lawn but my sweet peas are doing really well.

Don't forget membership renewals are due in July and can be done at the July meeting.

Our speakers have covered a wide range of topics. In April Carole Maddern, a lecturer from the University of London, gave us an insight into the Social History of the English Language. Our language, she explained came about through invasions and cultural revolutions. We need to say a special thank you to her mother-in-law who is a U3A member, albeit in Sussex, who first persuaded her to speak to a U3A. The subject of May's talk was no less fascinating but extremely important and informative. The title of Chris Dingley's talk was Tax, Care and Toy Boys - as you can imagine it was about inheritance planning (one of his best tips for a return on investment was to buy your funeral now - funeral costs are apparently the subject of very high inflation!). Throughout the talk you could see many people taking notes and the queue of questioners hoping to speak to Chris at the end was huge — I wasn't sure that he'd make it back to Yorkshire that evening. The June meeting turned to the scientific — the Top 10 odd things to measure. Andrew Hanson is a professional colour measurer working at the National Physical Laboratory and gave us some mind-boggling information about the NPL and his work with colour — we even saw a pink elephant totally disappear to be replaced by our own minds as a grey shape, there was no image on the screen. We also witnessed our minds changing the colours of a flag to the ones we

recognise of red, white and blue.

Lots of other things have been happening too: three new groups should be holding their first meetings soon — our third Science & Technology group, a sixth London Walks group (I'm surprised there is any pavement left to walk on) and a new group for those interested in knitting and crochet. A further two groups are in the pipeline.

Our May social event was held as usual in the Barn Hall and was an evening of light opera and music from popular shows featuring Opera d'Amici. Over 100 of our members booked for this event and the meal was provided by Home Cooking by Elizabeth. The liquid refreshments were to everyone's taste as they bought their own along.

I would like to say a big thank you to the members of the committee who do a lot of work behind the scenes to help make this U3A a success. I know it's the members that make it and the group leaders who keep the groups going with lively programmes, but please spare a thought for what goes on behind the scenes and if you are at all willing to help out, even on an occasional basis, please let us know. Any one of the committee will be happy to speak to you.

I try to speak to and meet as many of our members as possible but, obviously not everyone comes to the monthly meeting or events, so if you would like to invite me to your group I would be very happy to come along.

Best wishes,
Lynn



Art Appreciation I

It's not so much the fact that the first Art Appreciation Group in Bookham U3A is celebrating its 21 years of meetings as a group, but that so many of the original members are still actively meeting each month. The present



Pam, Eileen & Mo

membership is 14 and 11 were at the lunch gathering at the Queen's Head, Clandon. Currently the leader is Pam North who joined the group at the start and took on leading in 2006. Apart from their monthly meetings, delving into the lives and



Mary & Joan

paintings of so many artists from the Renaissance to the present day, they have also organized many outings, particularly in the early years when many of them were physically much more active. Monet's garden in Giverny was an outing organised over 20 years ago. There have also been trips to Mapledurham, Wellington's house, the Stanley Picker Gallery in Kingston, Fire and Iron Gallery in Leatherhead, the Homewood in Esher and the Hannah Pescher Gallery and Sculpture Garden which was in Ockley and is sadly now closed. Also,

the London art galleries including the Dulwich Picture Gallery that so many art enthusiasts have yet to visit.

The top highlight, mentioned by all



Jill, Jean & Barbara

who went — the visit to France. The only trip abroad was in May 1998 when we stayed in Rouen, visiting Monet's garden in Giverny, and Auvers-sur-Oise, the latter to discover the landscapes of Vincent Van Gogh. We visited the Auberge Ravoux, known as Van Gogh's



Trudi, Eira & Ruth

house, where we saw the room above the café where he died from gun shot wounds and then on to the church, which is the subject of a dramatic painting of his,



At the June 2017 meeting

and also found his grave and that of his brother, Theo.

Pam North

Group Co-ordination Report

Three new groups have their first meeting arranged:

	Date of first meeting	Group Leader
• London Walking 6	15th June (third Thursday)	Karen & Peter Jackson
• Science & Technology 3	16th August (third Wednesday)	Mary Draper
• Knitting & Crochet	28th June (fourth Wednesday)	Nelly de Oliveira

This brings the number of groups up to 84.

The remaining two groups I am at the point of arranging initial set up meetings:

Travel Experiences

Gardening 2

Ballroom dancing is suffering reduced membership so will run up to mid July, then will break for August at which point I will advertise the group to seek new members. If unsuccessful the group is likely to close.

Group Leaders' meeting revised format will be reported at the 29th June meeting.

An item to be submitted to Maurice for Senior Moments on starting a group as discussed at a previous committee meeting.

Mike Farrell

Group Coordinator

In praise of Hugs

*I wish to make a little plug
In favour of the common hug.
When small, the spontaneous hug was always there.
Now, in adulthood, it seems more rare.
So why from this contact do we shrink?
Worried what others may wrongly think
That this expression of warm affection
Is merely a show, an affectation
Like kissing the air beside the face,
A political gesture? A false embrace?*

*I'm not for one moment going to suggest
You clasp passing strangers to your chest!
But a timely hug can often convey
Much more than words could ever say.*

Marion Kemp



U3A Vegetable Gardening

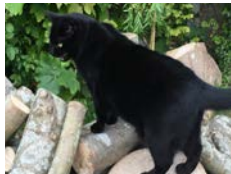
In May we had a very enjoyable visit to Penny and Gordon's garden in Woodlands Road. Gordon showed us his vegetable



plots, greenhouses, compost area, orchard and wild garden area. We had plenty to talk about on our tour and we took away lots of ideas. I especially liked his square plots in a small area, lettuces ready to eat and the



very healthy broad beans with pods in his greenhouse. And not forgetting Missy the cat who was following us around. Our thanks also to



Penny and Gordon for providing coffee to warm us up along with some delicious biscuits.

We had a very enjoyable tour of Little Bookham Allotments kindly led by Wendy in June. There were certainly some very well tended plots with excellent looking vegetables. The plots laid out as little gardens looked very relaxing. Wendy now shares half her plot



with The Grange who are growing squashes under weed-suppressing membrane. Thank you too Wendy for serving us refreshments in the Cabin, brewing up on the little stove. I especially liked the custard cream doughnuts!

Brian is hosting a barbecue in July and we shall make a return visit to the Vegetable Garden at Polesden Lacey in August.

Saturday, 15th July is the Bookham, Fetcham & District Horticultural Society Show at the Tithe Barn in Little Bookham. If you would like to enter any of the categories please contact Angela Stevens for a Show Schedule on 01372 456713 or email craigirstevens@aol.com
Anita Laycock



Ronald Greville

One of the advantages of being a member of Surrey County library is that you can access the Times newspaper archive and I thought I would find out what it said about the husband and father of perhaps the most notorious or should it be famous local lady, namely Mrs Greville. You might think this was unnecessary because there



Polesden Lacy photo by Chris Edwards

is a book 'Mrs Ronnie'. Apparently, this is what she liked to be called, so who was Ronnie? In the book there are only brief mentions.



The Hon. Ronald Greville

Ronald Greville is an interesting character. He was born in 1864, the eldest son and heir of the second Baron Greville. He never inherited the title as he died before his father. He was educated at Rugby and joined the Militia. In 1884, he took the entrance exam to join the army and the results were published in the Times. It is worth

mentioning that the purchase of commissions was abolished in 1870. Between 1888 and 1898 he was in the 1st Life Guards and became a Captain. He was part of the Marlborough

House set and therefore acquainted with the then Prince of Wales.

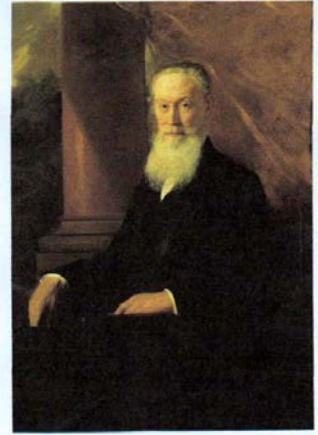
In 1891, the marriage was arranged between Helen Margaret Anderson, daughter of Mrs McEwan, wife of Mr W McEwan MP. The lucky bridegroom – for the bride is

not only wealthy but amiable and pretty, is Mr Ronald Greville. At the wedding she wore the newest dress material of corduroy or cotele cloth (or ribbed). It was pearl grey. The

shirt opened slightly down the front over a panel of old pink velvet. Her wedding presents included, from her father, a diamond tiara – perhaps the finest in England and said to have cost not a farthing less than £50,000.

Her name, Anderson, is her mother's married name from her first marriage. She was married to a Mr Anderson who was a day porter in William McEwan's Edinburgh brewery. Before 1885, Mr Anderson died and McEwan and Mrs Anderson decided to live together and the suggestion is that they

came south to London to avoid the very moral Edinburgh society. William was from 1886 to 1900 Liberal MP for Edinburgh Central and was described as



William McEwan; by Benjamin Constant, 1900 (no. 4; Dining Room)

THE LIEUTENANTS OF THE MILITIA FOR COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.

The following is a list in the order of merit and with the total number of marks obtained, of the Lieutenants of Militia recommended for Commissions in the Regular Army who are reported as having passed the qualifying examination held by the Civil Service Commissioners in October, 1884—

Name	Total	Name	Total
Bower, Dennis Mathew	2547	Griffiths, Herbert Ronald	2290
Murray, Alexander	2425	Hickley, Benjamin	2292
Seymour, Ronald Chas	2379	Proctor, Stephen	2292
Edward, Stephen	2378	Buchanan, Arthur	2279
Moore, Herbert Adolphus	2377	Levin, Hamilton	2279
Herbert, Douglas	2367	Pearce, Robert Mars	2268
Yardley, Eric Henry	2367	Parker, John George	2269
Walker	2363	Robinson, Edward Lang	2242
Leveson, Berkeley John	2359	Green, Chas Cameron	2242
Talbot	2359	Levenson	2242
Owen, William	2357	Paterson, Frederick	2242
Oliver, Henry Ward	2343	Howell	2242
James, Cecil George	2342	McKewen, Thomas	2242
Stuart, Mary Henry	2342	Moore	2242

In addition to the above the following candidates passed a qualifying examination in geometrical drawing—

Stuart, John William Spivell.

'a plain, blunt man.' His daughter, Maggie is said to have been proud of her roots by claiming 'I'd rather be a beeress than an heiress'. He died on the 12 May 1913 and is buried at St Nicolas. His estate was £1,503,940.

EAST BRADFORD ELECTION.

The polling for East Bradford took place yesterday in the morning, and the anticipation as to the result of the fight was fully realized. The result was declared as follows—

Greville (U.)	4,921	
Wilson (L.)	4,218	
Harvie (L.L.F.)	1,953	

Majority 703

There have been four elections in the constituency since its creation in 1885. They have resulted as follows—

1885.	1890.	
Mr. A. Halden (L.) 4,713	Mr. H. Byron-Boss (U.) 4,819	
Mr. J. Taylor (C.) 4,287	Mr. A. Halden (L.) 4,923	

Majority	348	Majority	206
1892.	1898.		
Mr. W. S. Caine (L.) 4,875	Mr. H. Byron-Boss (U.) 4,823		
Mr. H. Byron-Boss (U.)	4,823	Mr. W. S. Caine (L.) 4,779	
Majority	300	Majority	703

A score of thousands of soldiers followed the publication of the figures. The nominal candidate afterwards addressed his supporters at the County Conservative Club, and thanked East Bradford for returning him as a supporter of one of the House and accepted Government of modern times. The victory would be greatly appreciated by Lord Salisbury.

Captain the Hon. **ROBERT PULLER** is the eldest son of Lord Greville, and is 29 years of age. He holds a majority in the 1st Life Guards. He married, in 1911, Margaret, Helen Anderson, only daughter of Mr. H. Anderson, who has 110,000 acres of land in Scotland since 1888 as a Liberal. At the last general election he voted for the candidate of the Tories as a Unionist against Earl Compton, when he was defeated by 8,000 votes against 4,665.

Now back to Ronald. He did not have good health and in 1892, he was ill with typhoid and it was reported in the Times to be running its normal course. He

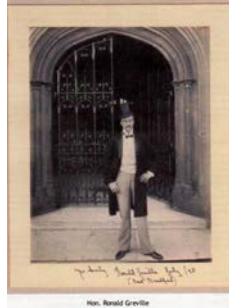
recovered and decided to pursue a political career and resigned his commission. His first attempt was in 1895 when he lost at Barnsley but in November 1896, he was successful at Bradford East which he won as a Unionist. It is interesting to note the candidate who was third—Keir Hardie, was a leading light in the development of the Labour party. Note that it says he married Helen Margaret Anderson, step-daughter of W McEwan.

Maggie and Ronald were unable to have

children although it was a good marriage – a mixture of money and status. They had an active social life and the Court Circular of

22 June 1906 states 'That the King intends to leave Windsor Castle early this afternoon by motor car to Reigate where he will honour Captain the Honourable and Mrs R Greville with a visit for the week-end. The party was named as including the Hon George and Mrs Keppel. This picture shows the King with no Queen and note Mrs Keppel but no Mr Keppel, although he was stated in the Court Circular as being part of the party. The Grevilles were leasing Reigate Priory but the party visited Polesden Lacey which they were in the process of buying at a cost of £80,000.

Ronald's health was deteriorating. He



Hon. Ronald Greville



Mrs Greville at the time of her marriage

suffered from throat cancer and died of pneumonia following an operation for cancer on 5 April 1908 at the age of 44. His condition may not have been unconnected with the fact that he was rarely to be without a cigarette in gloved hands.

Margaret Greville was awarded the DBE in 1922 and continued to be a Society hostess at Polesden Lacey and 12 Charles Street, London. Her health declined and she died in 1942. At one time, she proposed bequeathing Polesden Lacey to the future George VI but she changed her mind and it is one of the earlier houses given to the National Trust. She did give her jewellery to the Queen Mother and some has been worn by the Duchess of Cornwall.



Duchess of Cornwall

It is therefore not surprising that Polesden Lacey is identified with his widow.

William McEwan and Ronald are buried next to each other in St Nicolas Churchyard.

Chris Pullan





Nearly all the members of the Monday Painting Workshop G





Group mostly showing their 2018 calendar contributions



When Cinemas Were Tops

On 21 February 1896, 54 people paid up to a shilling to watch moving photographic images projected on to a large screen at London's Polytechnic Institution in Regent Street. They were Britain's first cinema audience. Some panicked as the train they saw moving on screen appeared to come right at them but films were shown there for the next 84 years until the last exhibitor left in 1980.

Yet following a three-year £6 million restoration project, the birthplace of British cinema reopened on 6 May 2015 with all of its



Art deco cinema 1930s

Art Deco features, domed ceiling and 1936 vintage organ back in place at what is now the University of Westminster's Regent Street campus. If ever a major entertainment

form bounced back against the odds this is it. The story of this historic cinema mirrors that of the industry itself.

Some U3A members may remember when "broadcasting" just referred to radio. Moving pictures were confined to the cinema screen as few people had TVs before the early 1950s. Live



Victoria Hall, Leatherhead

shows and sport attracted big numbers but for habitual weekly glamour, escapism, fantasy and news, the

cinema was king. It reached its zenith at the end of the war; yet just 40 years later came its nadir. Many still went to the pictures but cinema numbers had crashed, films were mainly

aimed at youth audiences, and home video was hastening the decline. The point of no return seemed imminent. Yet since then multiplexes have arrived, annual admissions have risen again and like the all too popular zombie, cinema seems to have made a comeback!

In 2017 cinemas again play a role in communities nationwide. Leatherhead Theatre, for example, is very much a cinema rather than just the live performance venue and it's only a short drive to Dorking Halls or the Odeons in Epsom or Guildford.

Britain's earliest cinemas were mostly shop conversions or simple rectangular rooms, often fleapits. But Charlie Chaplin and the Keystone Cops transformed expectations during the first World War. The arrival of talkies from Hollywood in 1928 brought a huge surge in new cinema building. Art Deco movie palaces seated up to 2000 or 3000 people with fantasy interiors styled after Egyptian temples or Gothic cathedrals. How was this represented here in our part of Surrey?

From 1906, Leatherhead's Victoria Hall was staging the local operatic society's live performances, but by 1914 it had become the Grand Theatre, a cinema with 550 seats. Around 1921, it was re-named Picture House. In 1940 it was re-named again as St George's Cinema to match the wartime mood. Afterwards it became the Ace

Cinema but was closed by early 1948. Just two years later the building was taken over by a group of young actors who later moved to the Thorndike Theatre when that opened in 1969. Today the



Crescent Cinema, Leatherhead

Victoria Hall is just a barber's shop and the Thorndike is Leatherhead Theatre.

Its cinema roots actually go back some

way. From 1939 it was the site of the Crescent Cinema, seating 1282 people. That had an Art Deco design, Hammond organ, a stage 30 feet deep, proscenium 40 feet wide, and two dressing rooms. Hit by the post-war national decline it closed in 1966 and Leatherhead Council bought the building. Major alterations to the stage, frontage and auditorium followed before it re-emerged in 1969 with 530 seats and a widely admired new theatre design. It was 26 years before it began screening films as well as live performances. The management company went bust in 1997 but it re-opened as the Leatherhead Theatre in 2001 and is now very much our local

cinema. The building has Grade 2 listing.



Embassy Dorking

Neighboring towns also had cinemas. The Embassy in Dorking opened with 1290 seats in 1938 and survived until 1973. Epsom's

Cinema Royal opened in 1910, later enlarged to 560 seats. The larger Capitol Granada cinema opened in 1929. An Odeon Epsom opened in 1937 with a typical Art Deco auditorium and seating for 1016 in the stalls and 418 upstairs. By the 1970s all three were gone but the name Odeon Epsom refused to die. It's now back again, inviting those "fanatical about film" to its doors.

So how do we remember the old cinema-going days? The star and studio systems brought us musicals, comedies, dramas, epics, westerns and other spectacles. Real life gossip filled the media. Even people who seldom went to the pictures recognized famous faces, tales of multiple marriages and scandals, names of movies, songs and scores played countless times. Stars appeared everywhere - posters, newspapers and magazines - were heard on radio and from the 1950s seen on television.

In 1933 the average Briton went to the cinema 20 times a year: By 1946 that had risen to 34 times. Many went more often, balancing out those who did not. During the same period, annual cinema attendances increased from 903 million to an extraordinary 1635 million. In 1946 post-war Britain, an average 4.48 million people watched the silver screen every day of the week. After that year, apart from a blip in 1948, annual admissions declined steadily. But in 1952, the country still

spent over £100 million on tickets, far more than on any other form of entertainment.

Some films were guaranteed to succeed. The all-time record breaker was *Gone with the Wind* (1939), David O Selznick's screen version of the epic novel about the American Civil War. Its promotional campaign lasted years as casting of the leading role of Scarlet O'Hara was deliberately dragged out for publicity effect. By the time Vivienne Leigh was cast alongside Clark Gable, the film's success was inevitable. It ran in London for most of the war and was so popular that it was re-shown repeatedly for years afterwards.

But by the 1970s the future of big screen entertainment seemed in doubt. Experiments with 3D, Cinerama and other cinematic innovations had failed to gain lasting appeal. Television appeared close to delivering the final coup de grace. Yet the past quarter century has seen cinema admissions steadily rising again. CGI, 3D and other digital technologies have arrived and some productions prove that the best in cinematography, acting, screenplays, direction and scoring more than match films shown to much bigger audiences years ago.

Last year, cinema ticket sales were worth £1.33 billion with admissions reaching 168 million, triple the level of 30 years ago. Films made in Britain with American backing accounted for a 27.5% market share, the second highest since records began.

However big our own TV screens may now be, watching films on them will never be the same as being part of an audience. Those of a USA vintage are unlikely to forget the days of ice-cream, popcorn, hotdogs, trailers and adverts and being part of the crowd that hushes as the lights go down and the curtains open.

Tony Matthews



Spanish group say “adios” to our guide

Almost four years ago we started on a journey to learn a little Spanish, whilst enjoying ourselves along the way. Most were absolute beginners or very rusty, and we were delighted when Marie (who is a former language teacher) agreed to guide us. Among many things we've learnt to count, ask for foods, find our way in cities, and describe ourselves and



even read and understand (well – mostly understand!) some short stories. We've progressed from beginners to being able to use and understand lots of Spanish phrases. Sadly (for us!) Marie is moving away and so on Monday we had a farewell tea with a mixture of Spanish (cava) and English (cake and sandwiches) delicacies on offer. So we say "gracias y buena suerte" to Marie. And if anyone would like to help guide the group we'd be delighted to hear from you – we don't need formal teaching so much as someone to correct us when we get totally confused in our understanding or pronunciation.

Nick Cox



Thoughtful quotes

Love your enemies- it will confuse them greatly.

Grownups know that little things matter and that relationships are based on respect.

The most important trip you may take in life is meeting people halfway.

When I was young, I admired clever people, Now that I am old, I admire kind people.

Be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, tolerant of the weak. Because someday in your life you will be one of these.

Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out.

We have two ears and one mouth, so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion.

Don't be yourself--be someone nicer.

Today, give a stranger one of your smiles, It might be the only sunshine he sees all day.

Heather Jennings

Out & About with Bookham U3A

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

The new arrangements for organising outings in Bookham U3A

Anne Glyn now coordinates the Bookham U3A outings which means any member can come up with an idea. They need to book the outing and the necessary coach and Anne will do the administration as well as offer constructive advice, including best places to consider hiring a coach of a suitable size.



U3A SURREY NETWORK STUDY DAYS

September 15th All Change! Avant-Garde Art in the First-Half of the 20th Century
Barrie Garnham

October 20th a double bill Plagues & Pestilence : Past & Present presented by Dr Tim Mason and Forensic Science & the Sherlock Holmes Stories presented by Dr Carrie Paris.



Croquet at Polsden



Anne & John Glyn watching the Croquet

U3A Tuesday Monthly Meetings

Tuesday 5 September Witches, Warlocks and Wellingtons: The Ritual Protection of the Home
Janet Pennington

Tuesday 3rd October AGM & Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Tuesday 7th November Riding it Out - World trip on a Bicycle Pam Goodall

Dine & Diva Social Evening

On a lovely warm evening, following a brilliant sunny day, about 100 members met in the Barn Hall for our Dine and

Our entertainers for the evening were from Opera d'Amici. Its founder Hannah Kirk was the soprano, Daniel (off for the autumn to the ENO for an appearance



Diva evening. Summer clothes abounded, doors and windows wide open, drinks and nibbles at the ready and the event was off.



in Aida) the tenor and finally Peter; their brilliant piano accompanist, started their evening with a selection of light opera. Opera d'Amici specializes in events like this or as themed evenings as well as weddings and corporate events and, depending on the choice of music, the artistes change to suit the music. They also do outreach work at

schools which not only include the music but also costumes and set design.



The first set was followed by the main course of poached and smoked salmon, new potatoes and salad provided by Elizabeth from Home Cooking which seemed to be enjoyed by everyone — the cleanest of plates went back to the kitchen.

The second set of the evening

included music from shows such as *Kismet* and *Phantom of the Opera*. Hannah and Daniel both put the music in context so that even if you weren't



aware of the operatic story you could understand the mood of the songs. Our songsters continued to engage the audience and sing from the floor with Barry Davies singing and dancing with Hannah and Lynda Tomlinson being serenaded and romanced by Daniel.

There was then a break in the music to allow us all time to recover and enjoy a dessert of



strawberries and chocolate brownies before the final musical session. At one point "o sole mio" morphed into "just one cornetto" with help both singing and dancing



from the audience.

A grand evening was had by all attending and we streamed out into the sunset after having had a wonderful evening that Jan Dicker had arranged. (Just a plea — if anyone is prepared to help or take over from Jan, please have a chat to her or to any of the committee!)

Lynn Farrell

Croquet

The Croquet Group welcomed the start of the season in April and like our games, the weather has continued to improve since



the Beginners' Group taking part and having really good competitive games.

There was much chatter, with picnics consumed and good croquet to play and watch. Chris Pullen and Frank Cross played in a super final game and for the second year running Frank claimed the shield which was presented by Gordon.

This was Gordon's first time arranging a Tournament and he was thanked for making an excellent job of it - no doubt with much advice from Martin Pulsford who has done it for many years. (We followed his mantra, "have fun"). Thanks too must go to Polesden Lacey for the use of the lawns, a truly beautiful setting for a great game. Val Cross

then. The thriving Beginners' Group has twelve enthusiastic members, all of whom are enjoying their play - we expect great things!



June 13th dawned warm and sunny,

Gordon Eley had arranged the weather to complement an excellent Golf Croquet Tournament. Fifteen members



Frank, Gordon & Chris



met on the lawns at Polesden Lacey and play began promptly at 11am and continued throughout the day. It was especially pleasing to see four of

Tai Chi Report

The original Tai Chi group is still thriving into our third year, with a membership of nineteen. An average of twelve attend every week (members will insist on having holidays...) and we still meet in the Tithe Barn, thanks to the continuing generosity of the



Tai Chi in 2016 photo by David Middleton

owners.

The winter was often not too inviting in the Barn but our members are made of stern stuff

and we Tai Chi'd our way through it. Now (June) we are enjoying our sessions being outside in the Barn garden again, with blue skies above and the ever present doves for company. We are working towards our Tai Chi demonstration on Village Day, if only one person thinks that Tai Chi might be for them after seeing it, then that is a good result—the health benefits are far reaching. There will also be a sword demonstration and we'll be accompanied by a few very experienced people so it should be fun.

Balance is one element which it is possible to improve with Tai Chi, I heard of one elderly gentleman Tai Chi practitioner who can put a shoe on standing on one leg (don't try this at home!) If you or someone you know may be interested in this fascinating gentle but effective exercise, there is a U3A Beginners' Group with spaces and you would be very welcome to go along and try it, no previous knowledge needed.

Val Cross



The competing Apprentices (Beginners) for croquet (photo by David Middleton)

The Bookham U3A calendar 2018 £5 each

The calendar in preparation for 2018 has been made from art work produced by the Monday morning Painting Workshop Group. There are 33 members and all were asked to submit work to be considered for the calendar. 13 images are required for the 12 months and 1 for the cover. In the event 27 pictures were submitted and Gordon Elsey, also a member of Leatherhead Art Club and an established artist, agreed to make the selection. This he did in early May, but it left 14 very worthy pictures and it was decided to make a second calendar. Such are the costs involved in commercial digital printing these days that 2 calendars can be produced and the price still kept to a very reasonable level. It was necessary to produce the calendars early in the year because the full Painting Workshop group meet on Mondays during the winter and closes before the end of May then starts again in September.

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