

NEWSLETTER – 6 APRIL 2023

MEETING INFORMATION

Next Meeting:	13 April		
Venue:	Roding Valley Hall Station Way Buckhurst Hill IG9 6LN (car parking is available on-site)		
Times:	2.00 pm	Doors Open	
	13 April	Speaker: Howard Slater	<i>Andre Rieu – Dutch Violinist and his Johann Strauss Orchestra</i>
Future Meetings:	11 May	Speaker: Brian Carline	<i>Days of Dolly Blue & Izal</i>
	08 June	Speaker: Paul Barwick	<i>The Spy Who Solved his own Murder</i>
	13 July	Speaker: Charlie Haylock	<i>The History of Surnames</i>

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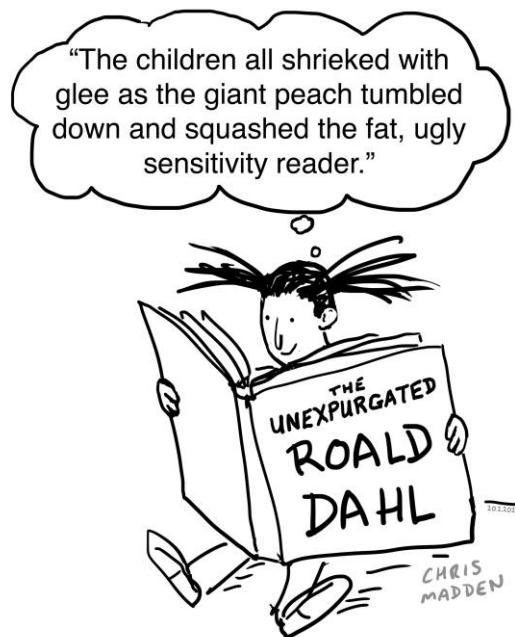
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Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the April 2023 edition of the Buckhurst Hill u3a Newsletter which we are publishing earlier than usual due to the Easter weekend.

I imagine I am not alone in despairing of the “rewriting” of so many classic works of fiction by so called “sensitivity readers”. I was particularly disappointed to read that many of Agatha Christie’s works are being sanitised to avoid offending the minorities and even Shakespeare is coming under attack.

An element of common sense has recently been seen from Penguin Books who publish Roald Dahl’s books. Despite now publishing versions with “updated” text, they have opted to continue to publish the originals – many of which have been adapted into successful films and stage productions.



Membership renewals were due by 31st March, and I pleased that so many of you have renewed for another year. Members who have not renewed will not be receiving this Newsletter due to data protection regulations. If you know of anyone who has still to renew, I would be grateful if you could remind them to do so as soon as possible.

The next monthly meeting is on Thursday 13th April and our speaker is Howard Slater who will be talking about Andre Rieu, the Dutch violinist, and his Johann Strauss Orchestra – a subject that I suspect will appeal to a great many of you.

My thanks to those members who arrived early and helped set up the hall for our March meeting, it makes such a difference. If you are able to lend a hand this month, we would be grateful if you could arrive at Roding Valley Hall at 1.15pm on the 13th.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter and I look forward to seeing you on 13th April.

Paint Pouring (Jacqueline Jacques)

Paint pourers generally abjure the use of paintbrushes, pencils or drawing implements of any description. The art lies in pouring various mixtures of paint and colours onto a canvas and moving them around, either by tilting the canvas or gently skimming the top layer of paint with paper, a plastic sheet, a palette knife, a playing card (swiping) or impressing it with a balloon or crumpled clingfilm (kissing) or by forcing an area of paint to move in a desired direction by rolling a marble through it, combing it, by stroking it with a lolly or cocktail stick or by pulling it with string or a ball-chain. As if by accident, recognisable shapes sometimes appear. You may see flowers or animals, birds in your composition that were not intended.

At the start of the month the 'fluid painters' tried their hands at the 'swipe and marble':



The 'End-of-the-month-ers' 'swiped' with stiff card and then used lolly sticks to create tree shapes. Here are their results:



Ten Pin Bowling (*Mary Nathan*)

For our March session of 10 Pin Bowling, we had good games. The top scorers were: Carol Smalley 127, Jean Pearson 112, Christine Chiswell 108, and me, Mary Nathan 110.

Our next date is 2nd May. The cost has gone up – it's now £9.49 per person, but we still have our tea and coffee included.

Craft Group (*Fiona Lucas*)

Last month, another large group of Crafters met to make an Accordion Book with a closure. The book looked very complicated but mercifully everyone followed the instructions to the letter and by the end of the session, everyone had completed their book successfully! There was a lot of precise folding and gluing involved – and of course choosing the decorative papers for the pages was probably the most difficult part! These books are reversible: on one side there are a lot of pockets and when it is turned over, there is a handy notebook section. Unfortunately, the books haven't photographed very well but, let me assure you, they all looked lovely!



Next month, the Group will be meeting on Friday, 21st April when we shall be undertaking a sewing project.

Unfortunately, our friendly Group is full at present, and we are operating a short waiting list. If you are interested in finding out more about the Craft Group, please look at the Buckhurst Hill u3a website.

Gardening Group (*Joan Brunt*)

The Gardening Group visited Anne and Stephen Harriman's lovely garden at North Haven.



We were very lucky to have a break in the rain and managed to tour the garden and sit outside for refreshments kindly provided by Anne.



It was a wonderful opportunity to be inspired, chat about gardening and the challenges of growing flowers and vegetables.

Local Visit to Loughton Synagogue (*Chris Embling*)

A group of 20 or so members visited Loughton Synagogue on Wednesday 22nd March on a trip organised by Sue Bird and Hilary Wightman. Having negotiated the security system (such a shame that it should be necessary), we were greeted by Rabbi Yanky Abrahams and his wife Rochel who invited us to enter the synagogue, where the men amongst us were asked to wear a kippah, which is a small skull cap worn whilst in the building. The ladies in the group were not required to cover their heads, but we later learnt that, at a service, ladies will wear a headscarf or hat.



The synagogue building is probably of a similar age to our Roding Valley Hall, is single storey, and on the inside has a vaulted roof – again similar to RVH, but here the similarities end. Loughton Synagogue is beautifully maintained and decorated.

Our group were seated inside the hall and, as this was not a service, were not segregated. Women and men were seated together, whereas during a service the sexes are seated apart.



The Shul (Hebrew name for a synagogue) has some rather splendid timber clad ceiling and murals and painted windows, all of which were painted by a member of the congregation, Charlotte Posner. Rabbi Abrahams explained that the window art represented many of the Jewish festivals/holidays and, in many ways, these reminded me of stained glass windows

in churches which depict biblical and historical scenes. We were shown, and allowed to handle, a beautiful hand-written parchment scroll and the Torah which contain the Old Testament – written and read from right to left

Following a short intermission when we all enjoyed a cup of tea with cakes and biscuits, we reconvened, and Rabbi Abrahams showed us the Tabernacle which contains the really beautiful scrolls and he then very bravely fielded questions from our group.



The majority of questions did not relate to the synagogue but, quite understandably, to the Jewish religion itself. So we learnt about matzahs, Hanukkah and even circumcision.

I don't think I am speaking out of turn when I say that we all had a really enjoyable time and were really appreciative of the hospitality of Rabbi Abrahams. And thank you to Sue and Hilary for organising things. Finally, for those who went, you might like to know that Hilary and Geoff will be buying some new prayer books for the synagogue with the money that was collected.

[u3a Paddling Project at Lee Valley White Water Centre 2023 \(Waltham Abbey u3a\)](#)

Following the success of the u3a Paddling Project last year, I am delighted that Lee Valley Regional Park Authority has generously offered another kayaking initiative for 2023.

Lee Valley White Water Centre is offering 6 hours of coaching for 18 u3a members, spread over six consecutive weeks from Thursday 4th May from 11 am till midday, at the Lee Valley White Water Centre, Waltham Cross.

All instruction is by experienced and qualified coaches, and will be provided at the hugely reduced cost of £5 per session. This will include all water wear and equipment. The sessions will be on the lake and designed for senior beginners who have little or no kayaking experience. Kayaks are the smaller boats that are sat in rather than sat on.

You do not need to be a strong swimmer, or indeed a swimmer at all, but you do need to be comfortable in water, as falling in is a possibility!

Visit to National Stud at Newmarket (Joan Brunt)

On arrival at the Stud, we were treated to tea/coffee and delicious cakes at the café before touring around the paddocks, stables and fields. Our knowledgeable guide, Nigel, joined our coach and as we toured around the paddocks, fields and buildings he explained the heritage and history of horse racing including the stars of the racecourse. He explained the work that goes on behind the scenes of this busy commercial stud farm.



It was an amazing experience to meet some of the mares with their foals and hear about their future journey, heritage, and blood line. Nigel explained that the mares normally gave birth at night and then once all the vet checks were satisfactory the mares and foals were turned out for some exercise and fresh air into the paddock. At two days old the foals were finding their feet and enjoying the freedom of the paddocks with their mums – such a wonderful sight to see. We saw some of the students leading the mares and foals.



We then moved on to meet the stallions and were very pleased to see a recent addition, Stradivarius, in the horse walker taking his daily exercise before being washed down by one of the grooms. He had a brilliant career winning many races. In 2019 he repeated his victories in the Yorkshire Cup, Ascot Gold Cup and Lonsdale Cup, and won a third Goodwood Cup, giving him a second £1 million bonus. With jockey Frankie Dettori on board, on 18 June 2020, Stradivarius won his third Ascot Gold Cup (by 10 lengths) and on 28 July 2020, he won his record fourth Goodwood Cup. In 2021 he won the Lonsdale Cup for the third time and in 2022 he achieved a third victory in the Yorkshire Cup. He was retired to stud at the end of the 2022 season, having won a record 18 European Group races.



The Stallion Stables housed, Lope Y Fernandez, Rajasinghe, Time Test and Stradivarius. We learnt about the education opportunities the Stud offers to students and that some of the workers lived on site.



The next fields and buildings we toured contained the brood mares and those just about to give birth. A circular stable block had been built to provide privacy for the birthing mares while giving the grooms and vet the opportunity to view through a discrete window to check all was well.

We visited the statue to Mill Reef a famous racehorse trained by Clare Balding's father, Ian.



Following the Tour, we had a lovely lunch in a hotel in the centre of Newmarket and had the opportunity to visit the National Racehorse Museum based in the Palace buildings of Charles II. A very interesting museum which spans five acres and provides retraining for ex-racehorses.



Toi Story was one of the horses staying at the Museum while working through his retraining. We learnt why and how the retraining was undertaken. The horses moved on from the Museum to become companion horses or personal rides.



A statue to Frankel dominated the Courtyard within the Museum. There was the opportunity to ride a racehorse simulator and an explanation of the jockeys' silks. There was also a beautiful portrait of the Prince and Princess of Wales which was on loan before going to the National Portrait Gallery.



Everyone agreed that our trip to the National Stud and Newmarket was a very informative and enjoyable one and we thanked Hilary for organising it.

I think you can guess that I thoroughly enjoyed it!

Photography Group (Kevin Lucas)

Our March outing had to be postponed and in its place the Photography Group was set a challenge to provide photos on the subject of "Food"... here is a selection of their submissions.



Cathy Lee



Jackie Jacques



Janet Gray



Yvonne Hall



Pauline Leadley



Noel T



Chris Embling



Vivienne Danzey



Kevin Lucas

Our next outing is planned for Wednesday 26th April and will be an afternoon visit to the Gibberd Gardens in Harlow.

To join the Photography Group, no special expertise or equipment is normally required and members with no interest in photography are welcome to join us purely for the outings. We have visited some very interesting locations in London.

Family History Group (Sue Meredith)

I hope you all enjoyed reading the stories from the Family History Group last month 😊

I was very pleased to be approached by a few members who said how much they liked the stories and a couple of members who asked me for some advice connected with their own research.

This month two other members of the group Valerie and Bob are sharing their stories – ENJOY!

*

(1) Valerie Thame writes:

David and I joined the Family History Group a year ago with the aim of tracing David's ancestors. We knew some of the past history, and I am pleased to say we have now found much more.

However, along the way – we got side-tracked into following a line of my family tree and have discovered some family members I didn't know I had!

It all started when my cousin Ann in Skegness was contacted through Ancestry by a Ted Meehan, who lives in Queensland Australia, and Ted turned out to be my second cousin. Ted's Grandmother Emily May Everett was the sister of my Grandad William Everett and up until that moment I had been unaware my grandad had had any siblings.

Although not related to Ted's side of the family – the breakthrough in my research came from one of the photos that Ted sent:



I recognised my Great Aunt Lal (Alice Hilda Knott) but not the man she was with – her husband Henry Denham. I hadn't realised that Great Aunt Lal had been married twice.

Following this lead, I discovered the Denham line on Ancestry and Wikitree, and found that Henry and Lal had had two children, a son Leonard, and a daughter, June. My research, I concluded was definitely right, as I remembered as a 4-year old, a boy called Johnny, who came to stay with my family whilst his mother June, had another child – this surely was the June I remembered.

June and her family moved to Canada in the mid-50s, where she had more children and died in 2018. Leonard had a son named Michael with whom I have now been in contact and he has given me a lot more family information. As for Aunt Lal, after her husband Henry Denham died in 1936,

she remarried Wilf Tillott (I had already known this) and had a daughter, Sylvia Tillot, who I also knew when I was a child.

I now want to discover what happened to Johnny, the 4-year old that stayed with us, and to research my Great Aunt Emily May Everett's line (Ted Meehan side of the family) more fully.

As a matter of interest – in 1911 a relation of the Denham's, a Digby Denham, became the premier of Queensland for 4 years – something I need to investigate more fully I think.



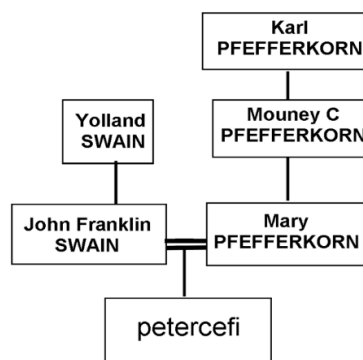
TED MEEHAN
+
AUDREY HIS WIFE

Ted Meehan and his wife Audrey

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(2) Robert Clayton writes:

I have been investigating my family tree for a few years but have only recently taken a DNA test. When I looked at the list of DNA results I could match the first few names with known relatives but an unknown match with a user name **petercefi** had me puzzled. The results showed a close match with a value of 154cM which meant **petercefi** would be my 2nd– 3rd cousin and that we probably shared great great grandparents. **petercefi** had a very small on-line family tree showing he was living in the USA.



petercefi's tree

So who was **petercefi** and how did I link to his family? These questions led me on a journey of discovery that stretched from Bow, in the UK, to Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines and eventually to the USA and my discovery of an American connection.

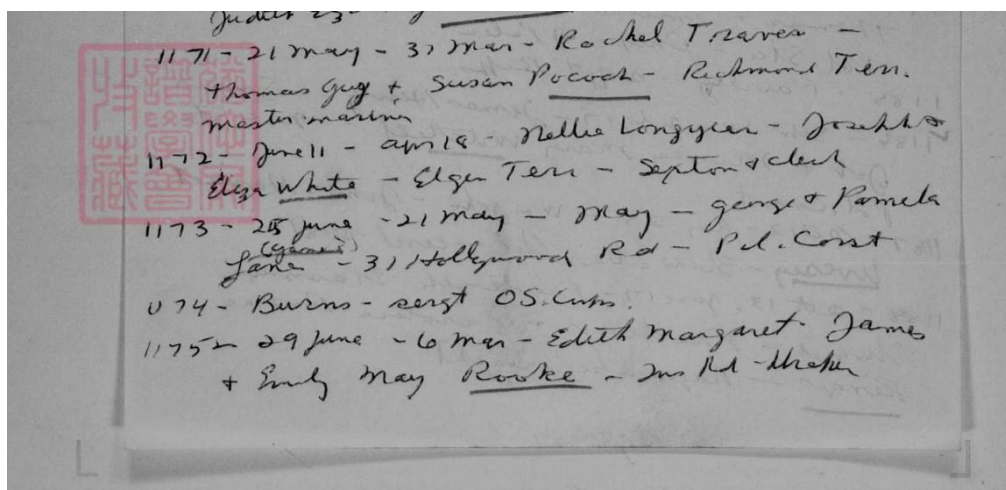
As you can see from the tree – **petercefi's** father was **John Franklin SWAIN**. In my previous research I knew the use of **Franklin** as a middle name was a tradition of my paternal grandmother's family – (a child is often given their mother's maiden name as a middle name to keep the name alive especially when the mother's family is more wealthy than the father's), so I thought it may have happened in this case and **John Franklin Swain** would be related to my **Franklin** line. So I concentrated my research on the **SWAIN** side.

On the 1930 US census – I discovered that **John Franklin SWAIN** was born in the Philippines in 1914 to father **Yolland Swain**, a journalist working in the Far East and his wife **Edith Margaret**. Could **Edith Margaret** be related to one of my **FRANKLINS**? The US census also showed that she was born in Hong Kong in 1884 and that her parents were both born in England.

Name	Relation	Age	Marital Status	Married Age	Attended School	Reads & Writes	Birthplace	Father Birthplace	Mother Birthplace
Swain, Yolland F	head	38	M	21	70	yes	California	Illinois	California
Edith M	wife	46	M	29	70	yes	Hong Kong	England	England
John F	son	16	S			yes	Philippines	California	Hong Kong

Extract from 1920 US Census

The free online family history site Family Search has copies of Anglican church records of Hong Kong – over 4500 un-indexed, randomly presented records and there was no search button! After several weeks of searching, I had the answer – in record No.1175 a baptism shows that an **Edith Margaret** was born on 6th March 1884 and baptised on 29th June 1884 in Hong Kong and her parents were **James** and **Emily May ROOKE**. James was shown to be a draper.



Extract from Anglican Church Records of Hong Kong

My own family tree showed an **Emily May FRANKLIN** (b. 1856), a great grand Aunt who was living with her sister **Margaret Mary** in Bow, London in 1881 and her occupation was a dress and mantle maker.

I was sure that **Emily May ROOKE** and **Emily May FRANKLIN** must be the same person.

The answer came via her sister **Margaret Mary**. The 1901 UK census shows **Franklin Hall ROOKE**, aged 9, living with **Walter** and **Margaret Mary GARSIDE** (Margaret Mary had married Walter Garside in 1888). The census entry showed that he was born in the Singapore Straits Settlement and was the nephew of **Margaret Mary**, her sister **Emily's** son!

Emily May ROOKE was **Emily May FRANKLIN** and **Edith Margaret SWAIN** was her daughter born in China in 1884.

So **petercefi** turned out to be my 3rd Cousin **Peter Stitt SWAIN**

I have gone on to investigate further and have unearthed further details of the lives of **Emily Franklin** and **James Rooke**:

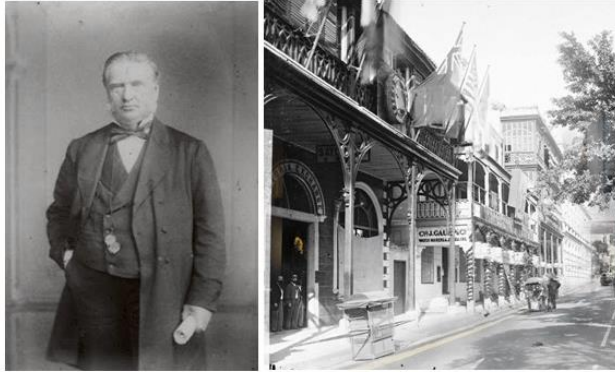
J. Rooke and Miss Franklin working for Sayle & Co., Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong in 1882.

So James and Emily met, as a lot of people do, via their place of work.

In 1889, James Rooke and Mrs. Rooke had moved to Singapore with their daughter and were assistants in Sayle & Co. Commercial Sq. Singapore. Franklin Hall Rooke was born here in 1892.

(Sayle & Co. was described as “drapers, tailors, dressmakers and outfitters” who had businesses in Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai)

Sayle & Co



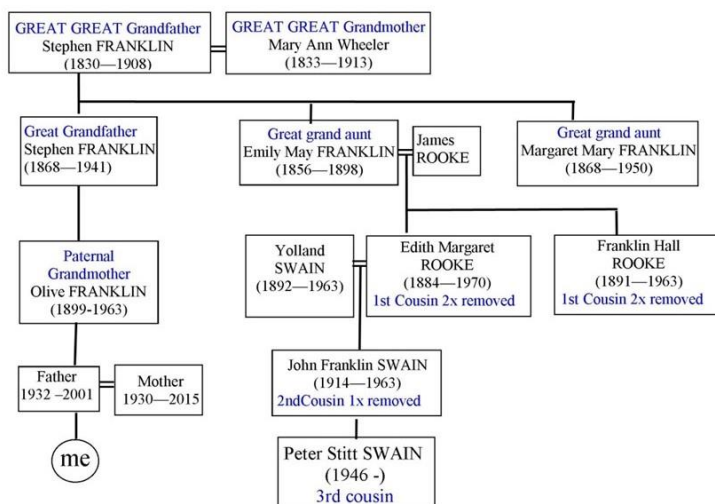
Left : Robert Sayle : Right : Sayle & Co storefront in Queen's Road Central

Sayle & Co was one of the earliest tailor shops in HK, active from 1860s to 1880s. Its founder Robert Sayle (1816-1883)

I also obtained a copy of Emily Rooke's death certificate from the G.R.O. (General Records Office) which showed the in 1898 Emily returned to Bow but sadly died on 7th July aged 41 of Dysentery, Hepatic Abscess and Exhaustion. The informant was her father **Stephen Franklin**, the common ancestor of petercefi (Peter Stitt SWAIN) and myself!

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Poplar</i>									
Registrar's Sub-District <i>Bowley</i>									
1898. DEATHS in the Sub-District of <i>Bowley</i> in the County of <i>London</i>									
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When registered.	Signature of Registrar.
149	<i>Seventh July 1898 13 Rounton Road</i>	<i>Emily May Franklin</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>Wife of James Rooke Commercial Traveller</i>	<i>Dysentery Hepatic Abscess Exhaustion Certified by J. Dickinson M.D.</i>	<i>S. Franklin Father in attendance 13 Rounton Road Bowley</i>	<i>Eleventh July 1898</i>	<i>J. Butler Registrar</i>

Emily May Rooke (née Franklin)'s death certificate



* Blue text indicates relationship to Robert Clayton

Family Tree showing my relationship with Peter Stitt SWAINA

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Well, I hope you have managed to follow our two stories this month. How families fit together can be complicated, but diagrams always help.

As I said last month, the Family History Group is full at the moment, and we have a short waiting list. But there is nothing to stop you starting your family history – you just have to take the first step. If any member would like any help or advice – please ask, and I, or another member of the group, will be happy to help.

History Group (*Peter Spencer*)

Moshoeshoe of Lesotho 1786–1870

Lesotho (formerly Basutoland) is a small, mountainous, land locked country within South Africa. It has a sub-tropical climate in the lowlands and in the past teemed with wild animals.

For hundreds of years quarrels within and between South African tribes over women and cattle, over status and power led to tribal wars.

As a great chief or king in 1822, Moshoeshoe led his people from the old world to the new after encounters with white settlers and missionaries. He is remembered for his political wisdom, personal integrity, and respect for human dignity. He ensured that only his people could own the land in the kingdom. They were self-sufficient peasant farmers in times of plenty and later itinerant workers in the mines and factories of South Africa.

The Dutch East India Company had first established a permanent base in 1652 followed by Trek Boers and the British.

When Moshoeshoe first became chief, he wore panther skins below the waist and only amulets and native headdress above. In 1830, he wore western dress and a top hat. He had asked the missionaries to teach his people about the European world and suppressed cannibalism. He was described by them as being an intelligent, superior man, majestic and benevolent with a gentle and humane character who had been trained to command others. Abstaining from strong drink or tobacco he declared "If I drink, I would be talking folly before my people." In the 1860s, instead of being ruled by white settlers, he repeatedly requested British protection and the country became a colony. By then, he owned two European style houses alongside gloomy huts. He abdicated and died in 1870. Most of his hopes and expectations for the country were fulfilled in the twentieth century and the country was granted independence in 1966.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Cost	Comments	Availability	Organiser
27 Apr	Ain't Too Proud	£37.50		SOLD OUT	Hilary Wrightman
5 May	Coronation Party	£15.00		SOLD OUT	Mary Nathan
14 Jun	"Glitz & Glamour" Royal Lunch	£32.50	12.00 pm for 12.30 pm	24	Ann Denwood
8 Jul	New Redbridge Wind Orchestra at Copped Hall	£12.00			Mary Nathan
22 Aug	We Will Rock You	£45.00		SOLD OUT	Hilary Wrightman
24 Sep	Opera Delights – Felici Opera at Copped Hall (upstairs room)	£24.00	4.00–pm – 7.00pm		Mary Nathan
28 Sep	Brick Lane Music Hall: Diva's Show with afternoon tea	£45.00		30	Hilary Wrightman
19 Oct	Meal at The Clink Restaurant HMP Brixton	£50.00	12.30pm	15	Hilary Wrightman
16 Nov	Ely Christmas Market	TBC		50	Hilary Wrightman
18 Nov	Entertainment Evening	£17.50		70	Hilary Wrightman
7 Dec	The Beatles Christmas Show and Lunch Party	£45.00		50	Mary Nathan
7 Dec	Kew Gardens Christmas Light Show	£40.00		28/21	Hilary Wrightman

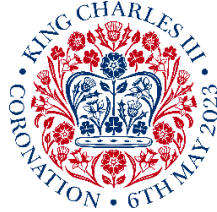
These are dates for diaries. Some booking forms have already been issued, while others will accompany the newsletter in the coming months.

(1) **Celebration Party for King Charles III** (*Mary Nathan*)

This will be on Friday 5th May (sold out). Feel free to bring your own drinks and glasses. Party hats optional, dancing shoes "a must".

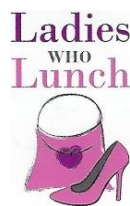
Tea and coffee will be served but the kitchen will close at 2.15pm!

(2) **Ladies Who Lunch** (*Ann Denwood*)



Ladies, I'm delighted to confirm that our next lunch will be on Wednesday 14th June 2023 at Mulberry House Hotel. This will be a special Glitz & Glamour "Royal" lunch to celebrate HM The King's Coronation Year. The lunch will also feature a Coronation themed Raffle!

So ladies, dig out your best Glitz & Glamour outfits. Your pearls and diamonds – real or paste – who cares?! Dress code: Coronets & Tiaras – optional!



(3) **Beatles Christmas Show and Lunch Party** (*Mary Nathan*)

Get in the Christmas spirit! Book your place for a great afternoon on Thursday 7th December with Beatles music and a 3-course lunch at the Prince Regent Hotel.

IN MEMORIAM (*Mary Nathan*)

I'm sorry to tell you that Pat Hallard's husband, Norman, died on 30th March. We send our love to Pat. Our thoughts are with you and your family.

LOST PROPERTY (*Sue Bird*)

A pair of ladies' glasses were left in the Roding Valley Hall after the last meeting on 9th March. They were left on a table near the entrance doors. The case is navy blue with a bright turquoise cleaning cloth inside. The glasses are oval with very thin frames. We are unsure if they were left accidentally or for Hilary's collection.

Please contact Sue Bird or Mary Nathan so they can be either returned to you or passed to Hilary.

COMMUNITY

Ukraine (Geoff Wrightman)



In conjunction with UK-Aid Felsted

In conjunction with UK-Aid Felsted, we are looking to collect the following new or used items:

Wheelchairs, Walking Frames, Crutches, Walking Sticks, Medical Boots, Spectacles and any other medical equipment.

The collections will be made at the following times & locations:

Roding Valley Hall, Station Road in Buckhurst Hill IG9 6LN

BH-u3a monthly meeting between 2pm and 3.30pm THURSDAY 13th April

Roding Valley Hall, Station Road in Buckhurst Hill IG9 6LN

Between 10am and 12noon SATURDAY 22nd April

James Hawkey Hall (Car Park) Broomhill Road IG8 OBG

Between 2pm and 4pm SATURDAY 22nd April

Barkingside -Swimming Pool (Car Park) Fullwell Cross, IG6 1PP

Between 10am – 12 noon SUNDAY 23rd April

Loughton Swimming Pool (Car Park) Traps Hill, Loughton IG10 1HD

Between 12.30 pm and 2.00pm SUNDAY 23rd April

Theydon Bois Village Hall (Car Park), Coppice Row, CM16 7ER

Between 2.30pm – 4pm SUNDAY 23rd April

For many of us these items are now not required but, in the Ukraine, they can help the victims of war and those who are ill.

Your support is truly appreciated.

Chigwell Recycling Centre (Christine Slade)

In the past, have you simply decided to go and take your rubbish to the "dump" when you wanted to? It's all changed!

Did you know that now you need to book a slot at the Luxborough Lane, Chigwell Recycling Centre? These slots can be booked up to 2 weeks in advance. The Centre is closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

STANDING NOTICES

Tell Mary (*Mary Nathan*)

I report and send a card to members who are unwell, in hospital or to the family on the passing of a loved one. So please tell me if you want to share sad or happy news. We want to hear about it. Phone Mary on: 020 8506 2203. If I don't pick up, please leave your name and number and I'll call you back.

Congratulations and Best Wishes (*Mary Nathan*)

On a brighter note, we can send best wishes to members who wish their friends to rejoice on their special birthday or wedding anniversary.

'Phone me on the above number and tell me your name, date and age of your birthday, and names, date and number of years of your marriage. This will be put in the newsletter. If you don't want us to know, don't 'phone me!

Charity Collections

Greetings Cards (*Hilary Wrightman*)

I'm collecting greeting cards (including birthday and Christmas). They are being used by a local special needs group for making pennants and decorations.

They can be brought to our monthly meeting or dropped in to me at home.

Stamps (*Sylvia Medhurst*)

Reminder: **please leave a half-inch border around the stamps to help protect their perforated edges** – stamps without this border are unusable and should be discarded.

Milk Bottle Tops (*Valerie Thame*)

We no longer collect Milk Bottle Tops. Please dispose of them with your usual recycling method.

All Forms – Membership and Booking Forms (*Christine Slade*)

Please send hard copies only – **scanned copies are not accepted**.

We will provide on request copies of all forms in hard copy, but we require members to submit all forms in hard copy.

Each booking form has its own specific reference for paying-in purposes. Please use it!

Membership Renewal (*Christine Slade*)

For those paying by bank transfer – your Membership Card will not be issued until I have received your completed and signed Membership Form. If you need a hard copy of the Membership Form, please either email me at membership@buckhillu3a.org or telephone 020 8505 1005.

The **2023–2024 Membership Form** has been revised and is on our website.

Don't forget to include a Stamped Self-Addressed Envelope with your Membership Form, otherwise your Membership Card will be retained for collection at the monthly meeting.

Please inform me if you want someone else to collect your membership card on your behalf.

Members' Contact Details (*Christine Slade*)

Have you moved, or do you have a new email address or 'phone number? Please let me know your new contact details.

I need an up-to-date home address. This is important because communications from the Third Age Trust such as "Third Age Matters" are sent by post and home addresses, in particular, need to be current, even though we ourselves contact members predominantly via email.

Newsletter (*Christine Slade*)

Articles should be sent to my account: newsletter@buckhillu3a.org or hard copy can be sent to: Miss C Slade, 18 Scotland Road, Buckhurst Hill, IG9 5NR. Our next newsletter will be issued early, in advance of the Coronation weekend, on **Thursday, 4th May**. The closing date for inputs is **Friday 28th April**.

GROUP INFORMATION

GROUP	MEETING DAY
Book Club	Monthly on 2 nd Monday 10.00 – 12.00 am
Bridge (Social)	Weekly, each Wednesday 10.00 am – 12.30 pm
Coffee Morning	Monthly on 3 rd Thursday 10.30 am – 12.00 noon
Craft	Monthly on 3 rd Friday 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Creative Yarns	Monthly, usually 2 nd Wednesday, 10.00 am
Cribbage	Monthly, on a Thursday evening, as arranged
Family History	Monthly on 2 nd Saturday 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
Forest Walks	1 st and 3 rd Mondays at 10.00 am
Gardening Group	Monthly on 3 rd Thursday
Grumpy Old Men's Club	As arranged
History	Monthly on 2 nd Tuesday 2.30 pm
Italian: Beginners & Intermediate (shared)	Alternate Wednesdays 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Jazz Appreciation (Roding Valley)	Monthly on 3 rd Wednesday 2.30 pm
Ladies Who Lunch	As arranged
Local Visits	As arranged
Lunch Club 1	Alternate months 2 nd Tuesday
Lunch Club 2	Alternate months 2 nd Monday
Mahjong	First Monday, monthly 2.00 pm
Outings	As arranged
Paint Pouring	Monthly: 1 st or 3 rd Tuesday or 1 st or 3 rd Wednesday, or 1 st Friday, 2.00 pm
Photography	Monthly usually 4 th Thursday
Play Reading	Monthly on 1 st Thursday 2.00 pm
Rummikub	Monthly on 2 nd Monday 2.30 pm
Scrabble 1	Monthly on 2 nd Wednesday 2.00 pm
Scrabble 2	Last Friday of the month 2.00 pm
Sunday Club	Monthly on 4 th Sunday 2.30–4.30 pm
Tai Chi	1 st and 3 rd Wednesday each month 10.00 am
Ten Pin Bowling	Monthly on 1 st Tuesday (unless school holidays)
Theatre Outings (Local)	As arranged
Theatre Outings (West End)	As arranged

VISITORS

Visitors/potential new members will be allowed to attend the Monthly Meeting TWICE ONLY (free of charge).