

# & DISTRICT CaterhamU3A NEWS

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2019

## *Message from Chairman Mike*

As summer draws to a close, and the evenings draw in, it is a good time to congratulate ourselves on our vibrant and active U3A, which gives us all such a busy life. We have had a couple of innovations with our social programme this year, with the addition of a summer lunch and a fun evening of skittles. The latter was held very recently and was a great success ( a report appears later in the Newsletter).

Our regular quiz night is now quite close, so if you have not yet signed up, please let one of the Social Committee members have a note of your name. You do not have to form a team. Just provide your contact details, and a place will be found for you.

At the same time, we are not neglecting the educational aspects of our mission, and we have a number of new groups being formed. Please do have a look at our recently revamped website to see what is currently underway. Many thanks to our new Webmaster - - for doing a great job of undertaking a radical overhaul of the website.

Finally, advance notice of our AGM to be held in November. We propose to continue our tradition of making this a fun event, as well as an important part of our day to day management. Please do come along, and make sure that you let us know what you want from your U3A.

Notice is hereby given of the

## **CATERHAM & DISTRICT U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

on Monday 25th November 2019

at the United Reformed Church Hall, Caterham

2.00 pm for 2.30 pm

### **Proposed Agenda:**

Chairman's Welcome and Report  
Secretary's Report  
Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts  
Membership Secretary's Report  
Group Co-ordinator's Report  
Welfare Officer's Report  
Social Co-ordinator's Report  
Publicity Officer's Report

Election of the Committee: The current Committee Members are willing to stand again (at time of going to print).

Please note that the minutes of last year's AGM held on 29th November 2018 will shortly be available on the website and copies will be on display at the AGM.

There will be mulled wine, fruit juice and mince pies and our Recorder Group will be invited to entertain us again, making it a festive occasion. We would like as many members as possible to attend so if you are able, do please come along and join us on the 25th November .

## *Membership Matters*

We are delighted to let you know that 19 people have joined since the last Newsletter. We would like to offer a warm welcome to the following and hope that they enjoy being members of Caterham U3A.

### Group Coordinator's Report

I trust that you all had a very pleasant summer, maybe during that time you thought that you might like to run a group of your own or where there is a waiting list create a new group in that subject.

I am always open to suggestions for new groups and the committee and I will always help in the formation, so, please give it a thought and contact me with your ideas.

Incidentally I am still hoping to form a Makaton Group so if any one else would like to learn this please let me know.

### *Did you know that you can view and change your details held on our Database?*

Beacon, the database used by over 200 U3A's around the country has a facility which allows you to view and change the details we have on you, such as your address, email etc. as well as being able to view the Groups that you attend.

To view this information go to the Caterham U3A website <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham> - click on the Links Tab, Scroll down to the Membership Section and click on Member Details. This will show a form which needs your membership number and your name, postcode, and e-mail address. On submitting the form you can view the Groups run by Caterham U3A and view those that you attend. Or you can update your details. Please note the Calendar is not used as details of meetings and events run by your Groups will be kept up to date on the website.

### *Group Leaders – Would you like some training on how to use Beacon?*

Many of you are operating with Beacon successfully, but if you would like some training on its use I will happily provide it. (I have two people on the waiting list at present but would like to have more before setting up a meeting)

### **SAD NEWS -**

Sadly we lost one of our members last month. ——— who was a member of Book Group 3, died in hospital after sustaining a fall at home. Three of the Book Group Members attended the funeral to represent our U3A, and at the service, his family paid tribute to our U3A for making Ian's last years more fulfilling and enjoyable. He was 91 when he died, but remained active to the end. He even joined the Book Group trip to the Douro - his first-ever trip outside the UK - when he was 89! He had to obtain a Passport for the first time! Ian was also a very talented artist and was an active member of the Caterham Art Group. He will be missed.

# Caterham and District U3A

## Coach Trip to Winchester Christmas Market Wednesday 11 December

Anyone wanting to experience a traditional Christmas will enjoy Winchester and Winchester Christmas Market. The city justly claims to be England's Christmas Capital and its Cathedral is at the heart of the festivities with a stunning Christmas Market and real Ice Rink dominating the beautiful and historic Close.

From its relatively modest beginnings, the Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market has achieved a reputation as being amongst the very best in Europe. Within the stunning surroundings of the Cathedral's historic Inner and Outer Close you'll find over 100 attractive wooden chalets brimming with goodies. The stallholders are individually selected by the Cathedral's in-house team to ensure superior quality, uniqueness and that a wide range of products are available. There's a strong emphasis on British and artisan amongst the stallholders. Look out for Hampshire's finest cheese and sourdough toasties – these alone are reason to visit!

A large outdoor Ice Rink sits at the centre of activity, providing the perfect opportunity to skate – or just watch! Like the Christmas Market, it is regularly listed as one of the best rinks in the country.

You can find more information about the market at: <https://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/home/christmas-at-the-cathedral/christmas-market>

There will be three pick up locations in Warlingham, Caterham on the Hill and Caterham Valley. The coach will leave Caterham around 0900 (times to be confirmed) and the return journey will depart at 1600 TBC). Our approximate time of return will be 1830.

**Price: £15.00 per person (£20 for non members) for return coach travel.**

Please complete the booking form below and return by 18 October with your cheque, made payable to **Caterham and District U3A** to:

### Booking form

Name	Preferred pick-up location	Phone no. on the day	Email

You will receive email confirmation of your booking. If you do not have email, please include an SAE for postal confirmation.

For any enquiries contact

We may take photographs during this trip which might be published in the Caterham U3A Newsletter. Please let us know if you do not want to be photographed.

## A DAY WITH THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY

20 September 2019

35 members of the London Discovery Group travelled by coach to the Combermere Barracks in Windsor, to learn about the Household Cavalry and sample a small portion of their life.

After a remarkably swift and comfortable coach ride, we started with refreshments in the camp coffee shop.

We then visited the Household Cavalry Museum, and had a brief talk on the history and current role of the units. Then on to the stables to see (and treat with mints) the famous horses, known as "Cavalry Blacks".

Here we had a chance to chat with some of the young troopers.

Lunch was in the cookhouse with the soldiers, which was enjoyable and very good value. From there we visited the Sergeants Mess, where some of us availed ourselves of the services of the excellent bar.

The visit ended with another visit to the museum, to view the impressive array of uniforms, weapons, etc. There was another entertaining talk on the ceremonial role of the regiment, and a "volunteer" donned the ceremonial uniform.



### PHOTOGRAPHS

From time to time, at U3A events and activities, members take photographs. Historically, these have sometimes been put on the website or in the newsletter to give our activities some interest. This has never been a problem and has never given rise to a complaint from any of our members.

However, since the promulgation of GDPR and Data Protection guidelines, everyone has become a little concerned about photographs appearing in "the public domain".

We would like to inform all our members that we wish to put photographs of our activities on the website and in our newsletter, which may well include photographs of our members. This will henceforth be stated on our membership application form, and on the application form for any of our activities (which includes London Discovery Outings and Social events). We hope that nobody will object to a photograph appearing on our website or our newsletter which may include them. If any member does not want to be photographed, could they please let the appropriate Group Leader know, or the social secretary (for any outings), and if they are participating in an event or activity, and a photograph is being taken, could they please ensure that they decline to be photographed.

# Quiz Night with Fish and Chip Supper Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 7pm

with our popular Quizmaster

Come along and exercise your brains!  
at Caterham United Reform Church  
Harestone Hill, Caterham CR3 6SX

**Tickets £10 per team member**

**Teams of 8 per table**

Free parking available

We can accept bookings from teams of up to 8 people or if you prefer you can enter as an individual and we will make up teams.

**Bring your own drinks, drinking vessels and nibbles.**

Please send your completed booking form with your cheque for £10 per team member made payable to **Caterham & District U3A**

**By 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

enquiries

Team Leader	Team Name
Email	Tel
1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8





Three words for a faster emergency response

**what3words'** location technology has divided the whole world into 3m squares, and given each one a unique 3 word address.

Many (but not all) **emergency services** around the **UK** are now **using what3words** as part of their operations. In these areas, callers **can** now give a 3 word address over the phone when they call 999 and help **will** be sent straight to that precise location. Surrey and London emergency services have yet to sign up to the technology.

---

Read more about it here -

<https://what3words.com/news/emergency/uk-emergency-services-rollout-what3words-in-control-rooms-to-save-resources-time-and-lives/>

---

**what3words** is simply a human friendly coordinate system, that sits on top of latitude and longitude and allows everyone, everywhere, to easily communicate their precise location.

You can use it to locate the front door to your own home, or your precise location when you are out and about.

If you have a smartphone (Android or iOS) download the **what3words** app. It works offline, when you away from home.

If you don't have a smartphone, but have a computer at home, go to this website address and then type in your own address in the search bar.  
<https://what3words.com/intend.bared.crib>

When you have found your very own 3 word location, make a note of it.

Give it to friends, family and the emergency service if you need to call them.

## Engineering Group - Visit to the Thames Barrier



Following the successful visit to the Bough Beach Water Treatment Works earlier in the year nine of the Engineering Group paid a visit to the Thames Barrier. For a small admission fee we were able to visit an exhibition area with a working model, a number of information boards and various videos including a very interesting one on the operation and work carried out to keep the barrier ready at all times.

After the 1953 North Sea flood it was decided that a barrier must be constructed to save London from flooding again and plans were drawn up. Construction started in 1974 and it was completed in 1982. The design had to cater for the changing weather patterns and with continuing maintenance and improvement it is viable until at least 2070.

There are ten gates which are semi-circular blades with flat tops which normally lie in pits on the river bed. The biggest of these stand 5 storeys high, are as wide as the opening of Tower Bridge and weigh 3,300 tonnes. When a flood is predicted these are rotated 90° to act as blockage to the River but they can also be rotated further until they are upside down so that maintenance can be carried out even inside the blade. (In the above photograph one can be seen in this position). There is a tunnel which accesses each of the piers carrying cables etc. and also allowing personnel to move between them. Maintenance is taking place throughout the year and the full operating system is duplicated to ensure that the barrier can be closed at all times. Should the power fail they also have their own standby generator.

The decision to close the barrier is not done by “touching the seaweed” or looking at the level of the water, it is undertaken by engineers who have a range of computer models to predict the level of the Thames from data provided on the tides, the weather (if low pressure is over the North Sea the water level will be higher) and the River flow from rainfall etc. Since its opening the gates have been closed to protect London on 184 occasions.

The group found the visit very informative and thanks must go to ——— for organising it and guiding us through the public transport system which involved train, underground and bus.

## EVENTS ORGANISED BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Friends of St. Catherine’s Hospice are holding a **GIN & FROLIC EVENING** - 26<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 - 10.30 pm Music and Dancing to the Martin Smith Band. Bar serving range of gin (beer and wine also available) with a selection of finger food and snacks. Raffle with fantastic prizes; Tickets £12.50 per person available from the Hospice or phone Wendy 07976 116699 or Julie 07754 165428. Venue: Soper Hall, Harestone Valley Road, Caterham CR3 6HY

---

-St James Church, Riddlesdown CR8 2DL Invites you to sponsor or provide an Autumn/ Harvest themed Floral arrangement for our **AUTUMN FLOWER FESTIVAL**, on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> (11am -4.30pm) and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October (2.30-4.30). If you would like to promote your club/society/business and support us, please Contact Arrangements should be in place by 10.45 on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>. Maximum space – 24”x24” x36” /60x60x90cm. Plant material must dominate . All arrangements should be exhibited with an A5 card stating your club/society/business and any information you wish people to know about you, **or just come along to support us on the day.**

## **NHS Scam**

Surrey Trading Standards Scams Team received a report last month of a scam involving a cold call with a follow-up home visit. A lady advising that she was from an NHS approved company phoned Mr X and advised him that they were carrying out a survey on elderly care and requirements. Mr X, who is currently undergoing treatment for prostate cancer, was awaiting an appointment and assumed that the call was regarding this. He continued to discuss his issues and medication and the lady suggested that it might be more pertinent to have a face to face meeting, to which Mr X agreed.

A man arrived at the agreed time and proceeded to take notes of Mr X's medication from his prescription and as a result saw date of birth. Mr X was then asked how his illness affects his sleep as prostate issues can often cause sleep disruption. After Mr X shared his struggles regarding this, he was advised that he was authorised to purchase a new NHS mattress at the reduced cost of £14,000, instead of the usual £18,000. The gentleman said that he unfortunately didn't have this type of money. The visitor then left. Mr X's daughter then phoned Mr X's GP who advised her that nobody from the NHS had been in contact, and that the caller was a cold caller attempting to scam Mr X out of his money.

Never assume everyone is genuine, always ask a friend or neighbour for a second opinion. Never be rushed into making hasty decisions, genuine companies will never rush you.

*Most of the alerts given in these items are received from Surrey and Metropolitan Police or from Surrey or Croydon Trading Standards. However the following two are from three members of the Money Matter Group.*

## **HMRC Scam**

A few weeks ago two of our members received different emails purporting to come from HM Revenue and Customs stating that their income tax had been recalculated and that they were eligible to receive refunds of £452 and £480 respectively. The emails then supplied a link to click and arrange the refund. Fortunately they both remembered reading about HMRC scams in a Newsletter some months ago and promptly deleted the emails.

## **Doorstep Scam**

One of our members noticed the following warning in a recent edition of 'Next Door'

*Be warned, there is a group going to homes and pretending to be officials from home affairs. They have documents with the letterhead Department of Home Affairs and claim to be confirming that everyone has a valid ID for the upcoming census.*

*They are robbing homes. Take note there is no initiative like that from the government. They are everywhere and they look presentable. Please alert your family and friends.*

From the Money Matters Group



## LONDON DISCOVERY GROUP - BRUNEL'S LONDON TOUR

**5th September 2019**

On a cool but sunny day, we travelled to our meeting point at Embankment tube station where we had time to enjoy a coffee in a cafe inside the pretty Embankment Gardens. We then met our guide, Robert, who quickly led us across the road (narrowly avoiding being run down by cyclists in the special bike lanes!) to where we would board the boat for the first part of our trip.

Robert then gave us a quick run down of what we would see during the day and pointed out the round piers either side of Hungerford Bridge which are all that remain of the original Brunel bridge at this point. Once on board we had a wonderful journey down the Thames - the sun was shining and all the landmarks looked stunning. Initially we went a short distance upstream to Westminster and then came back downstream with views of the London Eye, St Paul's, the Globe, Tate Modern, HMS Belfast, Tower Bridge, Canary Wharf and many more.



Throughout the journey our guide was a mine of information about the Brunel dynasty and also about London past and present. Eventually we disembarked at Masthouse Terrace Pier on the Isle of Dogs to look at the remains of the launch ramp for Brunel's SS Great Eastern. The ship was way ahead of its time, was by far the largest ship ever to have been built at the time of her launch in 1858 and incorporated many innovative ideas. In spite of its brilliant design, from the many revolutionary and beginning it was beset with problems and never did sail the routes Brunel had envisaged.

A wander further along the Thames Path took us to Island Gardens with fantastic views across to the Cutty Sark and the Royal Naval College at Greenwich.

We then took the DLR to Wapping and the London Overground to Rotherhithe, travelling through the oldest tunnel in the London Underground which was also the first tunnel to be built under a river anywhere in the world. From the train we looked out for signs of the 60 arches in the tunnel where thousands of people once shopped in the world's first underwater shopping arcade!



Arriving at the Brunel Museum in Rotherhithe we descended into the underground chamber which was once the entrance to Brunel's tunnel under the Thames. Our enthusiastic guide had lots of stories to relate about the building and use of the tunnel over the years but by this time we were all rather keen to have lunch!

Many of us then crossed the road to the excellent Mayflower, which claims to be the oldest pub on the Thames, before visiting the small Brunel Museum for our final part of the tour.

A fascinating day out made all the better by the blue skies and a really enthusiastic and entertaining guide.

## COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

### 30TH NOVEMBER

## SKITTLES EVENING



**25<sup>th</sup> September**

More skittles were left standing than perhaps should have been when 25 of our members enjoyed an evening of traditional pub skittles at Limpsfield British Legion. A good supper at half-time definitely improved the spirits of the four teams.

It was decided for the last round that players should bowl with their non-writing hand or bowl from backwards, between their legs. This caused much hilarity especially when one player scored a strike!

An analysis of the scores after the games showed that our average scores were just as good bowling with the “wrong hand” as they were using our normal hand - or should that be just as bad!

Definitely more practice required!

### U3A SURREY NETWORK STUDY DAYS

#### AT THE MENUHIM HALLSTOKE d'ABERNON

18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER      An Age of Uncertainty The Changing World of Victorian and Edwardian Britain and Public Discourse in the Modern Age & It's not the Economy Stupid!

15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER      The UK in a Changing Europe.

For full details and booking form go to Surrey U3A Network web site and click on Events - U3A Site [Builder-Dates](#) for your diary - Study Day