

## Letter from the Chair



Hi everyone.

There is a lot going on as usual. We had a well appreciated extra talk on February 12<sup>th</sup> funded by our lottery grant. It was very informative and amusing on the subject of Pantomime Dames by an actual Pantomime Dame. He emphasised that the role was meant to be a man dressed up as a lady and that it should be clear it is a man. He went on with many amusing anecdotes and singalongs and progressively showed us how he applied his makeup.

The Beetle Drive at the Surrey National Golf Club proved another success and the Social Committee is busy developing further plans for the year. Thank you, Rita and Peter Dael, for a wonderful afternoon.

Corrie Ball, our new Publicity Officer is also busy beavering away. His next event is at the Warlingham Hobbies Fair on March 16<sup>th</sup> from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm at Warlingham Church Hall. Please come along and support our u3a team and browse the other stands where you may well find something that interests you.

Our groups are going from strength to strength. We now have around 80 groups of which 9 have been set up recently. We all owe a vote of thanks to our group leaders. Sue Cox has taken on the mantle of group leader from Joyce Jessop on the popular dining group and held her first event at The Kerala in Caterham. It was a great success and received publicity in several local Facebook sites.

Rita Dael, our Membership Secretary, is finalising our membership subscriptions so if you haven't paid yet and wish to remain a member please pay soonest. Over 70 of you used the new system for paying via the Beacon account which gives you access to your own membership details as well as the ability to update them and pay by credit card or PayPal. Going forward it would be appreciated if more of you could use this process as it gives you benefits and saves our membership secretary a lot of work. Full details are on our website and the renewal notice.

Unfortunately, we had to abandon our German holiday this year as there was insufficient support. Deb Skinner is working on a trip to France later in the year and will update you as details are available. The Thursford trip is still open so please let Deb know if you want to go.

Finally, the Third Age Trust Magazine had some systems issues so new members did not receive their copies and members who no longer wanted them still received them. We are promised this will be resolved in May.

Well, that is enough from me so please enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter.

Paul Knight  
Chair



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# News from the groups

## Groups Coordinator Update

Greetings all

There is so much going on in our Groups. I hope you want to join in the fun!

Do you realise we have 80 groups on offer? This includes new groups such as Belly Dancing, Chess, non-fiction book group, Japanese language, Meditation and Philosophy. Several of these groups have reports in this Newsletter.

Every group has a page on the website and contact details if you want to know more. Your starting point is <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/groups>. There is also a link for contacting me.

Of course if you can't find a group to suit you please let me know – I always appreciate new ideas. Recent suggestions are a group for dog walkers and also one for flower arranging. Anyone fancy joining?

As always a huge thank you to all Group Leaders and Administrators – without them our wonderful selection of groups would not exist.

Everything within our u3a runs because members are willing to contribute. If you don't already do so please think about what you can offer.

Best wishes Liz (Whittaker)

## Environmental Studies Group

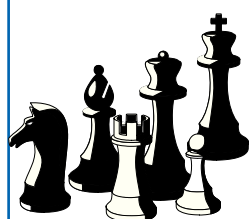
Members of the group visited The Downlands Trust, Old Lodge Farm, Carshalton on the 12th January. The Downlands Trust is a fabulous charity that promotes the conservation, protection and management of habitats in North-East Surrey and adjoining parts of South London. We were treated to a talk by Sean (not of Shaun the Sheep fame) that focused on explaining how they maintain the chalk grassland under their care by conservation grazing and other means across the sites they manage in our local area. The complexities and decision making processes were fascinating. We learnt how this important work is done, often by volunteers, benefiting us all.

Our regular meetings are via Zoom on the second Friday of the month. Why not join us for those or our next outing? For more information <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/page/110834>

Michael Chandler



## Chess Group



This new group has started to form and we hope to hold our first meeting in March. The group is open to all standards of player and we intend initially to meet once a month on a Monday morning. See <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/page/132868> for more information

Derek Nickless

## Beginner Japanese Language (日本語)

Would you like to challenge those little grey cells? This group will give you a chance to do just that. We will cover Japanese speaking and writing..

... but slowly, at a pace to suit everyone. There will be some homework – but not too much. We will meet in Purley, starting Thursday, March 7th 2 –4 p.m. <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/page/134256> for more information



Wynny Mehra

## Egyptian Dance (AKA Bellydance)

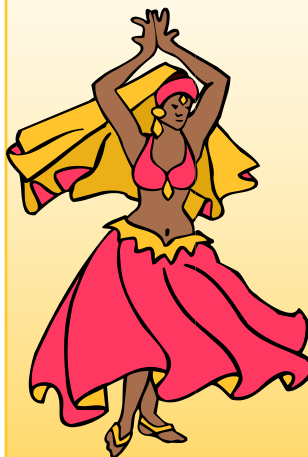
Our first bellydance class was held on Thursday 22nd February. Several ladies joined in and had a great time finding muscles they didn't know they had. These muscles will grow stronger over time and give a broader range of movement, and also strength to the joints they support. Most of all we had fun, so do join us if you think you'll enjoy the movement.

Just try one class, no obligation to continue if it's not for you.

Unfortunately, the entrance to the Hall doesn't have any identification so, on Thursday afternoons, we shall have a sign of our own to show where the classes are being held.

I forgot to take a photo before everyone dispersed but keep an eye on the Caterham & District u3a Facebook page as one will be posted very soon.

Sue Seymour



## London Discovery

London Discovery Group now has over 300 members. You can imagine what a challenge it is to provide something for everyone! Fortunately, we have several of our members willing to help.

This week I was lucky enough to be on a guided tour of the Theatre Royal – it was huge fun and incredibly interesting: elsewhere you can read about other recent visits. So far this year we have 17 trips planned, including visits to the Guildhall, HMS Belfast, the Music Museum, and 2 Temple Place. To find out more go to <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/page/15181>

Would you like to join us in planning more trips?

Some of our team of helpers are knowledgeable on London and are happy to arrange and lead the visits, others are happy to administer guided walks, repeat visits, or other trips we are able to suggest. Volunteers can do as much as they feel able to contribute, and the “old hands” are happy to offer help and assistance to “newbies”. Every offer of help is hugely appreciated and means we can expand our programme.

If you can help or would like to join the group please contact me via the link on the webpage. <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/page/15181>

Liz Whittaker

## London Discovery – Cathedrals Underground

On January 29th I organised a guided tour of the Jubilee Line extension led by John Morgan: aptly named Cathedrals Underground. We had to delay from the original date in early January due to strike action but I am glad to say there was minimal disruption on our new date.

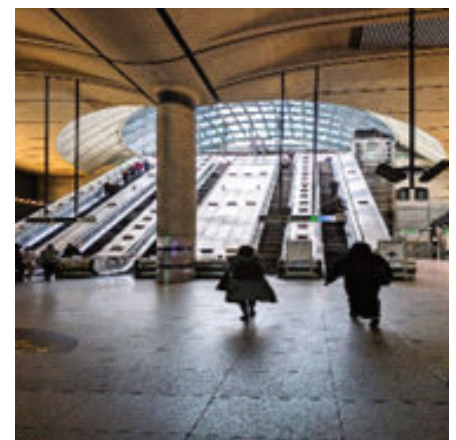
We all met at 11.00 am at the Westminster underground station where John described the process of building a large hole in the ground while protecting large historic structures nearby including Big Ben. They have kept some of the original concrete pouring pipes on display across the roof structure.

We then went on, stopping at Southwark and Bermondsey, to admire and hear about their architecture. Although there was one overall architect for the project, individual architects contributed to the design of the stations: varying from the grand to the small. A circular maze pattern for you to work out is on display at every one of the underground stations as part of Transport for London's (TfL) Art on the Underground programme. (Originally commissioned to mark the London Underground's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, each of the 270 stations have their own unique labyrinth, numbered 1–270 according to its order in the route the contestants took in the 2009 Guinness World Record Tube Challenge. In 2023 a further two were added at Nine Elms and Battersea Power Station, but were numbered 110a and 110b as they branch off from Kennington Station, which is 110. The artist is Mark Wallinger. Ed)

Next stop was Canada Water where we were shown the ongoing project to develop the wetland habitats, including raising the water level and installing a new 170m long pedestrian boardwalk traversing the dock; new seating and steps along the southern edge leading down to the water. From here we went to Canary Wharf, which is an amazing station. Truly bigger than any cathedral I have seen. It has many exits, links with the DLR and is deep underground.

We ended the tour at North Greenwich, the home of the O2 dome, where we dispersed to take lunch in groups or make our way home. A magnificent 2-hour tour where we all learned a lot and appreciated these spaces which we normally just run through to catch a train. To find out more about this group, go to <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/page/15181>

Paul Knight



## London Discovery Visit to Armourers' Hall

The visit to the Armourers' Hall proved very popular, with nearly 40 members applying to join the visit. Fortunately, the Livery Company were very helpful, and said that they could accommodate all of us! For once the trains behaved themselves, and so we had no travel problems.

I was a bit anxious taking such a large group, but it proved very easy. Everyone was on time, and the entire party started the visit with coffee and biscuits in the beautiful reception room. This was very welcome, as it was pouring with rain!

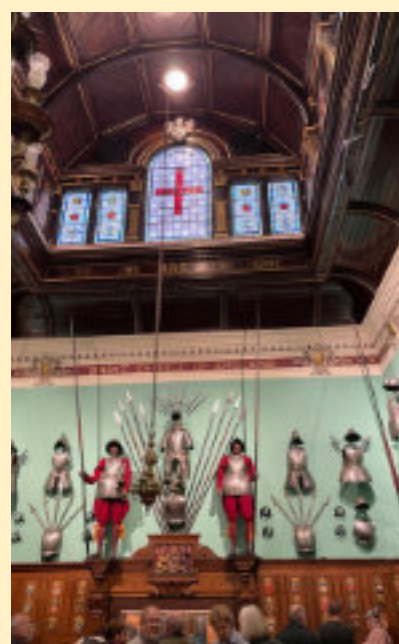
We were then treated to a wonderful presentation on the work of Livery Companies in general, the history of the Armourers' Company, and the hall itself. Our host, who was formerly the Clerk of the company (effectively the CEO) and who now organises visits, was excellent. The talk was also a history lesson, covering the history of armour, and a graphic account of the Battle of Agincourt.

We were then taken to the Livery Hall. This was spectacular, and is one of only two Livery Company halls where they still hold candlelight dinners!

The decorations and the paintings were amazing, as was the collection of armour. We learned about the scandalous mistress of one of the founders of the company, whose portrait hangs alongside the master. Apparently, she was not allowed to be buried with him as he requested, but at least her portrait hangs next to his!

An added bonus for this visit was that we were seated during the explanations, which I think pleased everyone!! To find out more about this group, go to <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/page/15181>

Mike Brigden



## London Discovery Visit to the Theatre Royal

Seventeen members of the Caterham and District U3A enjoyed a tour of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, on 21 February. It was a most enjoyable mixture of informative tour and thespian occasion as our two guides illustrated various points with bursts of play-acting. We learned the distinguished history of this, the oldest theatre site in London, and toured the enormous building. This ranged from the impressive stage, set for "Wicked" to the rooms used by Royalty before performances, to the subterranean passages. Here we heard of the ghosts of actors of long ago and almost believed in them. Overall a unique and highly pleasurable experience, organised by Phil Wright. To find out more about this group, go to <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/page/15181>

Corrie Ball



## Boules Group

Not long now! May will soon be here and the boules group will recommence.

We meet at 2pm on Wednesday at the two pitches on Godstone Green for the season which runs from May to October (weather permitting).

We are a small friendly group who enjoy a casual game and many laughs. We also met at Christmas for a social lunch and I am currently trying to arrange another before the summer session begins.

No previous experience is necessary and the accent is on an enjoyable social game. All newcomers and ad hoc players are welcome at any time. Fingers crossed for a long dry summer. Go to <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/page/88667> for more information

Carole Stanley

## Tennis Group



● If you enjoy racquet sports, fresh air and want to keep active, then why not join our Tennis group? We meet on Wednesdays between 10-12 at the free courts at Queens Park, Caterham on the Hill, CR3 5RB. See <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/page/131875> for more information

Marina Barclay

## Glee: Singing for Pleasure



The next session of the "Glee: Singing for Pleasure" group is **Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March** from 2.00 to 4.00 pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Caterham. We sing all types of songs: from Frank Sinatra to Michael Bublé and all points in

between: The Beatles, McFly, songs from The King and I and The Greatest Showman. Some old, some new: all are accompanied by piano and/or guitar. There is something for everyone and we generally have a very good time.

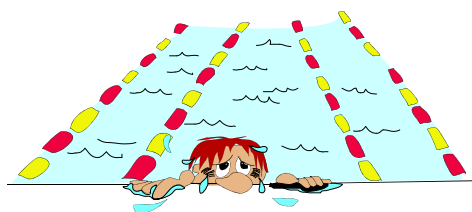
Singing is for everyone and anybody is welcome to join us. Singing makes you feel better, helps with breathing, can relieve stress, improves memory and improves confidence and well-being. Singing in a group also provides a sense of community and you can quickly make new friends: we are all very friendly in the group. It would be a delight to meet you on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. You will certainly feel invigorated after our singing session. For more information, <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/page/12162>

Alan Brinded  
Group Leader

## Swimming group

Our swimming group began in September and after visiting de Stafford pool at various times I discovered a quiet time to swim - 9:30am on Thursday mornings. My idea for the group was to re-introduce swimming into people's lives. As adults, swimming can become something that's only attempted on holidays and not a regular exercise. I meet many swimmers who, because they can't swim endless lengths in front crawl are put off by lane swimming. Swimming is such a universal activity with no age or ability barrier. Our group have a good exercise and chat in between swimming. We are very happy to welcome more swimmers. There is a £7/session fee at de Stafford (less if you're a member there). To find out more go to <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/page/129519>

Mandy Clayton (group leader)



## Possible new group - Training Video Appreciation Group

You will probably have seen the email from Alan about his suggestion for the above group.

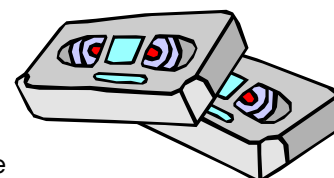
To summarise, Alan earned his living designing and running Management, Sales and Communication Skills Training Courses in UK, Europe and the Middle East & amassed a large collection of VHS Training Videos, many starring actors such as John Cleese, Ronnie Corbett, Penelope Keith, Bernard Cribbins, The Muppets, Dilbert... Each video is typically between 5 and 20 minutes in length and they are often quite amusing.

He envisages monthly 2 hour Group Sessions playing 4 or 5 videos and then discussing them and rating/scoring them on their educational and entertainment value.

In his email Alan asked people to let him know if they were interested and he tells me that he's had quite a few say they are, but is keen to hear from anyone else who might wish to join in.

At the moment, he's thinking of running the group on the second Monday of the month at his house in Purley, 10.00 to 12.00.

So, please get in touch with Alan if you'd like to take part



## The u3a Gardening Group – A Potted History

Having been invited to write something about the contribution our outgoing group leader, Kate Nash, has made to the gardening group, it occurs to me that this is an opportunity to take a quick look back at the (at times chequered) history of the group. Over the years the baton has been passed from group leader to group leader, and various permutations of how “content” and learning, theoretical and practical, has been delivered.

Our u3a gardening group goes way back, but perhaps really started to take off with the arrival of Mike Brigden in 2010, and Roy Skelton, who was at the time chairman of the Caterham & District Horticultural Society. They were a great combination with Mike stepping up – as he so ably does! – as group leader, and Roy bringing gardening expertise, and many amusing yarns of his gardening days. We were told by Roy’s wife Carol after Roy sadly and unexpectedly passed away that the group had meant a great deal to him. We certainly enjoyed Roy’s stories!

Jim and Julia Spinks followed, and developed a format whereby willing members invited the group to their gardens, resulting in much sharing of ideas and experiences. It is interesting just how varied the gardens and indeed the terrain in the area is, and how much creativity and ingenuity goes in to gardening. We covered a great deal of ground (another bad pun, sorry) and good and ongoing friendships have been developed over a shared love of gardening. There has been – and continues to be – quite a lot of eating of cake!



Kate Nash gamely stepped up when we finally decided to allow Jim and Julia to “retire” as group leaders, although they continue as stalwart members of the group. Little did Kate, or indeed any of us, anticipate the arrival of the pandemic. This in September 2020 from Kate to the group brings it all back, and illustrates Kate’s encouraging and inclusive leadership style and ability to hold the group together:

*“Following on from the latest Government announcement this week, the u3a has come to the decision that no groups that meet in people’s homes should meet for the foreseeable future. However, let’s remain cheerful and positive and most of all keep in touch. Let us know what you are doing in your own garden or any gardens that you have visited. If you have any gardening questions, someone in our group will be able to answer them.”*

As of February 2024 it has been deemed, somewhat reluctantly on our part, that Kate has more than “served her time” and we respect her wishes to stand down. Under Kate the group has grown in size and range of activities, and continues to be friendly and welcoming to new members, and that will continue. No one has been persuaded to step forward as formal leader of the group (yet!), and so we are trying a new approach. We have a very interesting programme of monthly events for the rest of the year: the ideas being contributed by the group, and a volunteer organiser for each event – no arm twisting was required! Some are visits to external gardens, some are visits to members’ gardens; there will be a talk by an expert on biodiversity hosted by the Downlands Trust, and a “Gardeners’ Question Time” with two experts from the Caterham Horticultural Society. We will no doubt enjoy the visit to Mandy’s garden where (she says) she will be

frantically growing flowers for her daughter’s wedding. Communications on behalf of the organiser of each month’s event will be sent out via Beacon, with Helen (me) brushing up my rather rusty Beacon skills with a slight feeling of trepidation.

Some last words from two long standing members of the group:

*“Kate has been a very dynamic leader & has given a great deal of time to running the group, putting together visits & meetings to hold the interest of all & bringing enjoyment for everyone”*

*“Kate has been a great leader of the garden group and has worked hard organising the various monthly activities. In particular, she hosted the Christmas social get together at her house for the last two years and provided great hospitality, good food and a thoroughly enjoyable quiz, which was interesting, funny, and a great ice breaker for all the members. We will miss Kate and her friendly and considerate personality and wish her all the very best for the future.”*

If you’d like more information on the group, please go to <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/page/5124>

Helen Mouldsley



## DIY GROUP

The DIY Group has now been running for nearly a year and currently we have about 18 members, of which about 8 to 10 members attend meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, at my house in Warlingham, in a large 'shed' which resembles a smaller version of the 'Repair Shop' barn!



DIY Group HQ



DIY Group HQ

We have a mix of novice, improver and experienced DIYers, with a good range of skills. Our activities are fairly varied, so there is always a good variety of interest and different aspects of DIY and crafting. Since the launch we have tackled quite a few projects, including:-

Repairing torn garden cushions, modifying, repairing and re-wiring a vintage lamp and renovating/re-polishing a table. We've made garden obelisks from roofing battens (6 completed over several sessions) and discussed home DIY queries, including how to drill into walls/hang shelves/pictures, etc. We've also had demonstrations on tool and



Completed bird boxes



Instruction on sawing

chisel sharpening, French polishing, electrical PAT testing and had a tutorial and demo of stained glass making and repair as well as providing basic tuition to beginners on sawing, drilling and fixing wood together with screws. In our last two sessions we made bird boxes and bug boxes: these 'making' sessions are very popular with most of the members.

This coming year we have a programme of activities, including mosaics, green woodworking, willow working, upcycling & reuse of things, house extension and design, house DIY/repairs, Christmas decorations and of course a Christmas social get together. Members are always welcome to bring small items for repair and renovation, and as a group, we can advise and discuss the best methods and techniques to use. For more information, please see <https://u3asites.org.uk/caterham/page/128094>

Bob Mewies  
DIY Group Leader



Bug hotels



An unusually tidy workshop

# Upcoming events

## Social Events – Dates for your Diary

Your social committee are planning events for the following dates in 2024. If you think you will be interested, please put a note in your diary.

### Sunday 12th May

4 hour Thames Boat Trip with Sunday lunch. Includes coach transport.

### Friday 7th June

Coach Trip to Chichester – Cathedral and Flower Show.

### Tuesday 23rd July

Summer Lunch at Bletchingley Golf Club.

### Friday 13th September

Branch Open Day, URC hall.

More details on all of the above to follow shortly, in the Newsletter and/or by email.



## Thursford 28–29 November

The Thursford trip is proving to be quite popular, but there are still spaces available. For those of you who have already booked & paid your deposits/travel insurance premium, you should be receiving paperwork in the next 10 days or so, so don't panic that you've received nothing yet.



If you haven't booked & would like to go, please let me know & I will send you the booking form etc. When you contact me, please advise whether you'd like a single, twin or double room.

In case you need reminder, and for the benefit of our new members, here's a brief summary of the itinerary etc.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>**, make our way to our hotel, the Wensum Valley Hotel, Golf and Country Club, Taverham, making stops en route. Dinner in the hotel.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup>**, after a leisurely breakfast, we drive to Thursford, where there'll be time for lunch and a look around before the show. After the show, we come home, arriving mid evening.

£220 per person. There's no supplement for single rooms.

Travel insurance (a requirement) is available from Woods at a cost of £12

## Plan B – Holiday to Normandy, 2nd to 6th September

You should by now have received my email about this trip, with the full details, but just in case, here's a precis.

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** We travel by coach to Dover and onwards to our hotel in Lisieux.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** Today we visit the pretty port of Honfleur on the Seine estuary, where we shall be free to explore, returning to the hotel in time for dinner.



Port et bassin de Honfleur © Valentin Pacaut - The Explorers

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September** Mont-Saint-Michel is our destination today. With entry to the abbey included. We return to the hotel in time for dinner.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September** We start with a visit to Bayeux, with entry to the Bayeux Tapestry Museum included, then go on to the seaside resort of Arromanches-les-Bains, where we'll

have time to look around before returning to the hotel in time for dinner.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September** There will be time to explore Lisieux this morning before journeying to Calais for our ferry to Dover and onward to the Caterham area.

The total cost is £765 per person, with a single room supplement of £185. Woods require that everybody has insurance and can offer this at £64 per person if you don't already have your own travel insurance.

If you are interested in joining this trip, please let me have your confirmation as soon as possible, advising whether you would require a single, twin or double room.

Deb Skinner



Vue sur le Mont-Saint-Michel © In Viaggio col Tubo



Tapisserie de Bayeux, détail d'une bataille © Valentin Pacaut - The Explorers



## Beetle Drive

Recently fifty of our members met up at the Surrey National golf club to take part in a beetle drive. With lots of laughter around the room it seemed everyone was having a wonderful time. We had a break halfway through for afternoon tea and cakes and then managed to complete one last game before the scores were added up. Christine Haugh was the winner, with Heather Johnson the runner up and Lyn Robinson Jones took the booby prize of a large plastic beetle!

Rita & Peter Dael



## New Members

Since the last newsletter there have been 33 new members and we would like to offer a very warm welcome to....

**Jack Speyer** from Bletchingley; **Alan Brinded, Pamela Day, Jane Hampton, Julia Johnston, Tony Carroll, Margaret Treacy** and **Anne Swift** from Caterham; **Anita Munt, Shreya Patel** and **Jenna Terry** from Coulsdon; **Lesley & Richard Bunce** from Kenley; **Amanda Christoforou** from Nutfield; **Valerie Beddington** from Old Coulsdon; **Jim Chester** from Oxted; **Keiko Miyakita** from Purley; **Peter Phillips** and **Linda Lemont** from Redhill; **Dennis Ramadan** and **Pamela Jacques** from Sanderstead; **Carolyn Frost** from Selsdon; **Stella White** from South Croydon; **Malcolm Cusack** from Tadworth; **Elizabeth Geany** from Wallington; **Robert Hall, Christine Attwell, Hilary Craman Jones, Angela Dean, Marion Ridley** and **Martin Smyth** from Warlingham and **Ida Morgan** and **Vivien Spreng** from Whyteleafe.

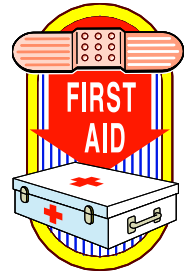
## First Aid Talk

Following another extremely interesting and instructive talk about First Aid (which was well over-subscribed), Caterham u3a has arranged another for its members:

**Date:** Wednesday 24th April 2024

**Time:** 10.30am

**Venue:** The Arc – 39 Weston Drive, Caterham, CR3 5XY



Lasting approximately 2 hours (with a short break for tea/coffee) CPR and serious medical problems requiring urgent action will be covered, with demonstrations of the appropriate actions, with visual aids, in addition to any questions submitted in advance by members attending.

As numbers are limited could you please let me know if you would like to attend, and let me have any questions that you would like Hazel to answer during or after her talk.

If you would like to have coffee or tea during the break it will be available at a cost of £1.50.

Sheila Frost  
Welfare Officer

Hazel Shirley has belonged to St John Ambulance for many years. She is an experienced cadet leader, first aid trainer and examiner for all age ranges, including pupils at Caterham School. Hazel has used her first aid practically at many events and recently taught other members of St John Ambulance how to vaccinate and how to teach giving vaccinations to assist in the anti-Covid battle.

Hazel was awarded the British Empire Medal for her voluntary services in the 2020/21 New Years' Honours List.

If you would like practical first aid training or refresher training, please contact Patricia Barnard who organises first aid training sessions.

## Fancy writing a Limerick?

Why not try your hand. Send your entry to Corrie Ball. The best two entries (as judged by our panel for entertainment value) will be published. Here is an example I dashed off in a moment of introspection:-

There's a chap in the old Surrey Hills  
Who measures his life by his pills  
On starting a new strip he'll sigh,  
"Yet another month has gone by!"  
But he hopes they will banish all ills.

Corrie Ball

Rules for limericks (for those not in the know).

A limerick is a five-line poem that consists of a single stanza, an AABBA rhyme scheme, and a bouncy rhythm. The subject is a short, pithy tale or description, often whimsical and funny (some comedic, some are downright crude, and nearly all are trivial in nature.) Here's my attempt, (and I'm sure you can all do better! Ed)

There was a woman called Deb  
Who edited the newsletter in Feb  
With articles found  
She'd not make a sound  
Until it was all put to bed



## Monday Talks for 2024 at the UR Church, Caterham

See below for the regular "last Monday" talks that Lyn has booked for this year – an interesting and varied selection – with additional talks to be slotted in too!

### 25th March 2024

*'The Dregs of the People Remain' – The Black Death and its aftermath – Imogen Corrigan*



It is possible to see a shift in artistic tastes following the plague years which began in the mid fourteenth century. This is understandable considering that we now know that at least 50% (probably more) of the population of Europe and beyond perished in the first wave and that the disease recurred over the next 130 years. Naturally, there were social changes as people adjusted to this shocking change in their communities, but there was also an understandable and distinct increase in interest in the macabre. Reactions to this disaster can be seen all over parish churches; some in the form of explorations of what will happen in the next life and some surprisingly optimistic and amusing. We see more interest in ex-pagan images and specific demands for spiritual protection and so what might be seen as a dust-to-dust mentality also becomes one of no tragedy, no triumph.

### 29th April 2024

*Foal Farm Rescue Centre – Francis*

Foal Farm has been rescuing and re-homing neglected animals in and around Kent for more than 60 years. Hear how they started and about the animals they rescue and re-home.



### 20th May 2024

*The History of Croydon Airport – Norman Brice*

The first purpose built air terminal in the world was at Croydon airport. Opened in 1928, it's now grade II listed. Norman will tell stories of the the airport's history; some of the famous flights and people connected with the airport and how it was the most important airport in the Empire.

### 24th June 2024

TBC

### 29th July 2024

*'The Legend of the White Mouse' – Paul Barwick*



This tells the story of inspirational WW2 spy Nancy Wake. a remarkable woman who lived with the daily threat of torture and death at the hands of the Gestapo. Her incredible courage and strength of purpose is an awe inspiring tale set against a world set on fire. We follow her exploits as an agent of the famous SOE (Special Operations Executive) in occupied France where she operated with the French Resistance. Nancy became one of the most decorated Allied service personnel of the war. We explore her life, lived to the full and salute her tremendous courage.

### 30th September 2024

*Rhyming London – Julie Chandler*

Delve back into your childhood and discover the stores behind your favourite nursery rhymes. Many nursery rhymes and children's songs were based on real people and events. So, let's go up and down the City Road, watch the cow jump over the moon, listen to the oranges and lemons and meet the Muffin Man, Little Miss Muffet, Lucy Locket and Little Boy Blue.



### 28th October 2024

*Save Soil – Louis De Souza*



Save Soil is a global movement aimed at addressing land degradation and advocating for healthy soil. Caused by unabated deforestation and urbanisation, industrial pollution, overgrazing, and unsustainable agricultural practices, half of the world's soil is already degraded – i.e. has declined in quality. This threatens food quality and supply. Recognising the irreplaceable role soil plays can help us change the way we care for it. Find out what steps you can take to help stop soil degradation.

### 25th November 2024 – AGM

Come along to our AGM, meet your committee members, listen to what has been done during this year and enjoy some mulled wine, mince pies and good conversation afterwards

Lyn Jones

## Caterham u3a Festive Lunch – Friday 12th January 2024

One hundred members of the Caterham u3a attended our annual Festive Lunch, which was held this year at the Bletchingley Golf Club. On our arrival we were greeted with a selection of music played by our excellent Recorder Group.

After a welcome speech from our Chairman, Paul Knight, we were served our choice of the delicious dishes by the efficient and friendly waitresses, with coffee and mince pies to follow.

There were several quiz sheets to keep us amused and a free raffle.

A lunch date enjoyed by all.

Keith Lawrance

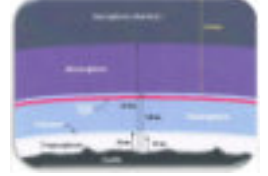


## u3a Study/Exploration Days, Stoke d'Abernon

**Friday 15 March – Europe at War: Putin’s War in Ukraine & the British Commitment** presented by Gordon Corrigan MBE, FRAS In February 2022 the unthinkable happened: the Russian Federation invaded its neighbour Ukraine and so began the most intensive military conflagration in Europe since the Second World War. This study day looks at the background to this war and examines its effect on British military planning and policies.



**Friday 19 April – Earth’s Atmosphere: Our Life Support System** presented by Professor David Phillips (Imperial College, London). This study day covers the development of the Earth’s atmosphere over geological time and the impact of man on the atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution. The great London Smog, the Hole in the Ozone Layer and the recognition of Global Warming have all occurred in our lifetimes. Society has significantly tackled the first two challenges and now we face the third and greatest challenge.



**Friday 17 May – The Jazz Age & Beyond** with Howard Lawes, Grace Evans, Dave Allison & The Alleycats Jazz Band  
The novels of F. Scott Fitzgerald chronicled the hedonism and excitement of the Jazz Age in America – Fitzgerald once claimed that the 1920s were “the most expensive orgy in history”. In Britain the growing interest in jazz music brought black and white musicians, artists and audiences together, and was crucial in influencing changes in British society, while in Europe, Ballets Russe, Hot Club de France, Art Deco and Bauhaus have left a lasting legacy in dance, music and design. The influence of jazz on society and society on jazz will be discussed with plenty of musical and visual illustrations.



**Friday 21 June** – Planned study day on Science Topics

**Friday 20 September** – Study day planned – watch this space

**Friday 18 October** – **History of Photography** by Roger Mendham, President of Surrey Photographic Assn

**Friday 15 November** – Study day planned – watch this space

These study days are open to all u3a members and are held in the Yehudi Menuhin Centre at Stoke d'Abernon (and can also be viewed online). It is a beautiful venue, and if you do go, it is a very nice day out, as well as being highly educational (and extremely good value at only £12 including unlimited tea and coffee!) Registration starts at 9.30, the talks are from 10am till 4pm, with a break for you to eat your sandwiches and chat with other attendees.

Prior booking is essential, so if you are interested, please contact Denise Dobbs, Booking Secretary for the U3A Surrey Network – Phone 07964 798791 or E-mail [surreyu3astudyday@outlook.com](mailto:surreyu3astudyday@outlook.com)

I will be attending most of these Study Day and will have 2 to 3 free seats in my car. Please call or text me if you would like a lift with me. If there are more than 3 of you that wish to attend, then I will endeavour to arrange lifts with other regular attendees.

Alan Speed  
Surrey Liaison Officer



Copy date for the next newsletter is 27th April

Send to Deb