



Crawley u3a

Monthly Newsletter: February 2024



Where was I in Crawley when I took this photo? (Answer on page 12)

Monthly (and other) meetings

Dates for your diaries below. All meetings start at 2.30pm, with the exception of the coffee morning, and are held at the Friary Hall, Haslett Avenue:

- **Friday 9th February** – Tony Harris as *Henry VIII* (for more details please see page 3)
- **Tuesday 20th February** – Coffee morning at **11.00am** (for more details please see page 7)
- **Friday 8th March** – **Graham Crozier**, *Mark Lemon and His Circle*
- **Friday 12th April** – Martin Lloyd, *Becoming a Famous Author*
- **Friday 10th May** – Andy Smith, *Prosthetic Perils*
- **Friday 14th June** – Derrick Hughes, *More Heads and Tails*
- **Friday 12th July** – Neil Sadler (title to be confirmed) '*(Almost) Death in Paradise, Pirates and Rum*'
- **Friday 11th October** – Dr Janet Pennington, *Sussex Inn Signs*
- **Friday 8th November** – Annual General Meeting
- **Friday 13th December** – Christmas Party

Report on the Royal Jubilees talk at the Monthly Meeting on 12th January



Well, our motto is *“Learn, laugh, live”* and we certainly started the new year with the first two, thanks to a very entertaining and informative talk by Sarah Slater (who will be paying a return visit next year to give a different talk).

Sarah is a qualified Blue Badge tourist guide for the South Central region, covering Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight. She is also a White badge guide lecturer for Hampton Court Palace, often dressing in period costume, which she makes herself.

Her delightful talk covered the jubilees of six monarchs:

Henry III, 1216-1272 (56 years by my reckoning, although his jubilees were not celebrated as he was busy fighting off the barons – look it up!)

Edward III, 1327-1377, whose golden jubilee was celebrated with processions and jousting. Sadly for him he was too ill to participate, and died shortly afterwards

George III, 1760-1820. Queen Charlotte organised his golden jubilee a year early, in 1809, with images of him projected in various towns and cities; very innovative. George was, famously, mentally ill, so this was a way he could still be part of the celebrations.

Victoria, 1837 – 1901 famously celebrated her gold and diamond jubilees; the latter encouraging her to step back into the limelight after years in recluse as *“the widow of Windsor”*

George V, 1910-1936 was the first monarch to recognise and celebrate just a silver jubilee

And finally, Elizabeth II, 1952-2022 of course, who had four jubilees which we all remember. For her Diamond Jubilee a state coach was made in Australia, using materials from many incredible sources, including door handles made in New Zealand from diamonds and sapphires. (Makes mine from B&Q look a bit rubbish). Sarah was thrilled to meet The Queen when she helped at the Royal Windsor horse show, for the Platinum Jubilee.

Along with all the fascinating snippets of information we had fun voting for or against each of the monarchs, who were represented by various members of the audience wearing suitably ornate crowns. The winner was Elizabeth, closely followed by George III. I think many of us were quite surprised to learn so many good things about George, who has rather been dismissed as “mad King George”. Elizabeth was ceremoniously draped in a purple robe and took a bow, before we all enjoyed our usual tea and chat.

A lovely talk to start the year; here's to many more.

Jean Austin



Part of Sarah's collection of Jubilee memorabilia

Thanks to **Monique Tovey-Mansfield** for the above photograph. For more photographs, visit our Facebook page [Crawley u3a | Facebook](#)

February's talk

Continuing with the royal theme, our guest speaker for February's talk will be Henry VIII! I hasten to add that our 'royal' visitor will be actor-historian, Tony Harris, who will appear in full Henrician costume to give us all the juicy details behind his six marriages and what he would do to avoid pestilence and plague. There will be our usual book sale before and after the speaker.

New members meeting on 25th January

A meeting was held at St Paul's on 25th January to give new members an opportunity to meet some of the Committee and other new members.

Thanks to [Margaret Lloyd](#) and [Monique Tovey-Mansfield](#) for kindly sending me the photos below.



Welcome to new members

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members:

Rachel Bailey, Lesley & Peter Campbell, Isaac Conroy, Ian Cooper, Kevin Deasy, John Devine, Elaine Flack, Sheila Jones, Nicola Keogh, Paula Mayne, Anne McQuade, David & Elizabeth Packer, Douglas Reed, Meg Rew, Alison Sharp, Helen Strangeway, Janice Towner, Rita Wallis, Jan Williams

Air Rifles Group

Why not consider joining our Air Rifles Group which meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10.00am-12.00 at the 2nd Ifield Scout HQ? The morning session is now full but **Craig Edwards**, the Group's Leader, is keen to start afternoon sessions. There is a small waiting list but if a few more people would like to sign up then we can also run afternoon sessions on the same day. If you are interested, Craig can be contacted via [Crawley U3A: Mailing \(u3asites.org.uk\)](mailto:u3asites.org.uk)

Thanks to **Craig Edwards** for the photo.



Live Music Group

Peter Beckley's Live Music Group have planned their first musical outing and will be going to see Oye Santana (a tribute to the music of Carlos Santana) at The Hawth on 18th April. They are also considering a trip to see The Illegal Eagles at The Hawth on 20th June. If you would like to join the group, expressions of interest to peter.beckley@yahoo.co.uk

Bridge for Fun Groups 1 and 2

We are fortunate to have two Bridge Groups: Bridge for Fun 1 which meet every Thursday morning from 9.30am to 12.30pm and Bridge for Fun 2 which meet every Tuesday afternoon from 1.00 to 4.00pm. Both groups meet at Three Bridges Cricket Club which, as I hope my photo below shows, is an ideal venue at which to play Bridge.

The first session is free but if you decide to join the group then the cost for each session is £3 per person plus 30p for refreshments. There is no need to bring a playing partner as there are plenty of people to play with. The emphasis is on fun and the groups do not take themselves too seriously. Beginners are welcome.

For people who have not played Bridge before, the group plan to offer Bridge for Beginners sessions at their Tuesday afternoon meeting.

If you are interested in joining one of the groups or going along for a taster, then please contact **John Wynter**, the leader of both groups, on 01293 546667 or via email: johnwynter24@gmail.com for more information.



u3a Friends Newsletter

The monthly u3a Friends National Newsletter, which can be found online, is always worth a look. Follow this link if you would like to read it:

[Your u3a Friends Newsletter - January ☁ \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Amblers walk on 5th January

Amblers took the train to Chichester and, after a cup of coffee and a slice of cake (to give us energy!), walked through the Bishop's Palace Gardens to do the City Walls Walk, enjoying surprisingly good weather for early January. A few of us then did the walk in reverse before heading to the pub.



Coffee morning on 20th February 11.00am

The first coffee morning of the year will be held on 20th February at 11.00am at the Friary Hall, Haslett Avenue. All members welcome. As well as our usual bargain book sale (a wide variety of excellent quality books for only 50p each), there will be a jigsaw puzzle and DVD swap.

Amblers Extra walk on 5th January

For their first walk of the year, Amblers Extra enjoyed a walk around the Hyde Estate at Handcross before heading to the Black Swan for lunch.

Thanks to [Janet Newson](#) for the photo.



u3a Online Learning Events

Browsing through the u3a Online Learning Events for February, my eye was caught by an event which may be of interest to some members.

Have you recently bought an Air Fryer? If so, this free online event via Zoom on Thursday 8th February from 11.30am-12.30pm might be just what you need. You can get an e-ticket via this link: [Introduction to the Air Fryer, with simple recipes Tickets, Thu, Feb 8, 2024 at 11:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Out & About 7's visit to London on 9th January

Out & About 7 took the train to London on a cold but sunny day and enjoyed a visit to the Foundling Museum. Thanks to [Janet Newson](#) for the photo.



Bus/Strollers Group 1st meeting on 23rd January

The Bus/Strollers Group descended on Starbucks on a wet and windy Tuesday morning for their first meeting. It was an excellent opportunity for Group members to meet for the first time or become better acquainted and plenty of ideas on a variety of outings were exchanged over mugs of coffee. The Group have already organised their first outing: lunch at Goffs Manor on Thursday 15th February. If you would like to join the Group then please contact me via: sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk



Walkers Extra London walk on 25th January

On a damp but mild Thursday morning, Walkers Extra took the train to London to walk from Blackheath to North Greenwich before enjoying lunch at the O2. Thanks to [Jan Morris](#) for the photo.



Offer of a Listed Home tour in Ifield

I have received an offer of a tour from member [Peter Temple-Smithson](#), who is a life member of Crawley Museums, and has been helping Ted Henbery MBE and others save a derelict Water Mill, at the same time working on Caxtons in Worth and Michaelmas in Ifield Green. If members are interested, Peter would be happy to show small groups around his current Listed Home in Ifield and discuss the ongoing potholes. If anyone would like to take up this generous offer then please contact Peter directly on his mobile 07503 886241 or via his mobile number on WhatsApp.

Crawley Scottish Country Dancing Club

Did you know that there is a Scottish Country Dancing Club in Crawley? They meet every Thursday from 8.00-10.00pm at Milton Mount Community Centre from September to May, and are looking for new members. There is a short break during the evening for members to have a chat. Beginners are welcome, no partner necessary. Cost £3.00 weekly. If you would like to know more or join them, you can do so via their website:

[Crawley Scottish Country Dancing Club - Home \(crawleyscdc.org.uk\)](http://crawleyscdc.org.uk) or you can contact them via enquiries@crawleyscdc.org.uk

Front page photo: where was I?

Congratulations to those who know Crawley well enough to guess that I was in Tilgate Park when I took the front page photograph on a very foggy Tuesday morning in January 2014.

The March newsletter will be emailed to members on Monday 4th March and posted or hand delivered to those without email shortly thereafter.

Sue Parker

Newsletter Editor

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