



Crawley u3a

Monthly Newsletter: June 2023



Monthly (and other) meetings

Dates for your diaries below. All meetings start at 2.30pm (with the exception of the Coffee morning and fees meeting) at the Friary Hall, Haslett Avenue:

- **Friday 9th June** – Kathryn Ferry, *The History of the British Seaside*
- **Friday 23rd June** – Midsummer's Eve Celebration, 11.00-am-2.00pm, Bandstand, Memorial Gardens (more details on page 16)
- **Friday 30th June** – All members meeting on 2023/2024 fees, 10.30am, Friary Hall (see paragraph on page 5)
- **Friday 14th July** – Sue Hicks, *Tissues and Tena Lady*
- **Friday 8th September** – Open Afternoon
- **Friday 13th October** – William Avenell, *I never knew Geography would be so relevant, why didn't I concentrate more at school?*
- **Monday 30th October** – Coffee morning, 11.00am
- **Friday 10th November** – Annual General Meeting
- **Friday 8th December** – Christmas Party

Meet the Committee: Jacqui Mercer, Members Coordinator



Jacqui was born in Brighton but after her marriage in 1971 she worked and lived in London until 1998, so when she retired she knew no one locally.

She worked as a volunteer for Save the Children in Crawley until her husband became terminally ill in December 2010.

Jacqui joined Crawley u3a in August 2012 and her second event was the AGM in October at which it was announced that we would have to close if no one was prepared to become our Treasurer, as the current one (Mary Mayne) was stepping down. Horrified that her new lease of life was going to be extinguished, nevertheless she shyly put up her hand to possibly take over the job. She had never done full accounts or used Excel, so it was a very steep learning curve; luckily Phil Light stepped in to help her about 18 months later.

Jacqui has never looked back and has thoroughly enjoyed her time with the u3a, learning and laughing her way through all events.

She always seems to be on the loud table or in the loud part of any group she joins which has again led her to “foolhardily” offer to be the Membership Secretary/Coordinator.

Jacqui awaits the next curve ball sent to her!!!

A Plea from your Chair Jim McGough: Can you contribute to strengthening our Indoor Groups?

Some indoor groups are currently finding it difficult to retain and recruit new members, and others are faced with retiring Group Leaders (GLs) and a reluctance of other members to succeed them. This obviously has implications for our long-term sustainability as a functioning organisation and suggests that we need to do more to develop and sustain the quality of learning and the breadth of subject matter.

To resolve these problems we are setting up a short-term Working Group (WG), to be led by myself and with no more than four or five members.

The Working Group's aims will be:

1. To develop ways of support existing GLs in refreshing their group's subject matter and range of activities.
2. To encourage existing Group Leaders to think about succession planning and encouraging group members to take on additional responsibilities.
3. To generate ideas for new indoor groups and then attract potential GLs to run them.

This is expected to require no more than three meetings over the summer, and we are looking for Group Leaders (current or previous) and anybody else who can share their valuable experience.

If you are interested in contributing then contact Jim McGough via chair@crawleyu3a.org.uk

Why did we ask some members whether they would be interested in acting as External Examiner?

Back in April I e-mailed a handful of members of Crawley u3a asking them if they were interested in becoming the new External Examiner of our annual accounts. For the background to this see the AGM 2022 subpage of the website accessed via the Documents page of the web

<https://u3asites.org.uk/crawley/page/48932>

Margaret Lloyd, Secretary Crawley u3a

Crawley u3a Newsletter Archive: Can You Help?

When I was going through the crates of documents I inherited upon being appointed Secretary I was delighted to find a collection of old Crawley u3a newsletters. These begin in July 1982, when Learning in Later Years (LILY), the organisation which would later become Crawley u3a, was set up and continue to November 2009.

These old newsletters are absolutely fascinating, as they trace the development of LILY, its transformation to Crawley u3a in 1987, and the gradual growth of activity groups thereafter. Over the years the physical appearance of the newsletters changes; they start off as typewritten A5 size documents, not always easy to read and with no pictures, to the larger A4 format composed using a word processor and including a few somewhat fuzzy black and white photos. The style of writing becomes less formal as the years pass, the number of articles on the Third Age Trust nationally decreases and more space is taken up by news of Crawley u3a groups.

We intend to display some of these at future all-Member events, such as Coffee Mornings and the AGM, and to scan a few onto the website, so you can all take a look at them.

Alas, I have no newsletters at all from the period December 2009 to Summer 2017 and am also missing all of the 2020 Lockdown Newsletters, except for 3 May and 4 June. There are also a few gaps in the ones to November 2009.

The Committee would be grateful if you could you search your old e-mails and any boxes of documents and magazines you may possess to see if you have any Crawley u3a newsletters older than March 2021.

I understand you may be keen to hang on to any physical copies and so would return them once I have photocopied them.

If you do have any of these missing newsletters please let me know via Secretary@crawleyu3a.org.uk or, if you do not have access to e-mail, on 07922 824022 (just leave a message if it goes to answerphone).

Margaret Lloyd, Secretary Crawley u3a

What is available on the National u3a website for you?

I am surprised by how much there is to look at on the National u3a website. Not only is there the National u3a Newsletter, but there are also a range of national programmes you can participate in, online interest groups, subject networks, research and shared learning and a u3a blog. If you would like to know more, follow the link below, which will take you to a sub-page of our Members page on the website entitled Other Sources of Learning and Fun then scroll down to THE U3A NATIONALLY heading where you will find all the links you need below the heading:

[Crawley u3a: Other Sources of Learning and Fun \(u3asites.org.uk\)](https://u3asites.org.uk)

Crawley u3a Committee meetings

Ever wondered what happens at our Committee meetings? Members are free to attend if they wish. The Committee meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 4.00pm in Room 6, St Paul's, Northgate. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th June.

All members meeting on the 2023/2024 fees: Friday 30th June

If you have an interest in the fees for 2023-2024 then come along to the meeting to be held at 10.30am on Friday 30th June at the Friary Hall for an opportunity to ask the Committee any questions you might have on the subject. We will be sending out a paper by email beforehand.

Crawley u3a Facebook page

Here I go again! Have you joined yet our Facebook page yet? Think what you might be missing out on! If I have whetted your appetite to see more then follow this link: [Crawley u3a | Facebook](#)

May monthly meeting: Choir & Ko – Report by Jean Austin

Due to a combination of unsettled weather, rail strikes, cancelled buses and the concern that audience numbers could exceed the Friary Hall limits, numbers attending this lovely concert (and book sale) were disappointingly small. What Jim called the “select few” enjoyed a delightful afternoon’s entertainment, however, which was just what we needed to cheer us up and perhaps get us in the mood for Eurovision!

Noel Coward wrote about “The potency of cheap music”, and there is no doubt that music has a unique way of stirring the emotions, especially songs sung as beautifully as they were by Choir and Ko under the leadership of the talented and entertaining Karen O’Connor. Choir members come from all over Surrey and Sussex, including Crawley, and their obvious joy in entertaining had us all smiling and tapping our feet along to songs from “Jolene” to the West Side Story finale, by way of Tarzan and the Titanic. (That makes sense if you were there).

I think we were all sorry when the performance had to end, but I certainly went home humming Bernstein and looking forward to any future visits from Choir & Ko.



Coffee morning on Tuesday 30th May

It was an unseasonably chilly and dull start to the day for our coffee morning, so it was a pleasant surprise to emerge from the Friary Hall 90 minutes later to glorious sunshine. The photo below shows some of the large selection of second-hand books available for sale. I was surprised to discover a hardback book by a popular author, published at the end of last year, costing £20, on sale for 50p. There are many more bargains like this to be found. Why not come along to the next one on 30th October and see what you can find?



Welcome to new members

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

Pam Citrone, Lesley Edrich, Sheila Fox, Rosemary Hussey, Janet Lavan,
Mary Louise, Ken Toll

Committee vacancies

Do you think the Committee got it wrong when they advised people that the May monthly meeting would be run on a first come first serve basis? If you think they did, ask yourselves why. Could it be partly due to the lack of an Events Coordinator, a post which we have been trying to fill for some time? The Committee are spreading themselves too thinly with the need to cover this vacancy. If you think you could help out, why not get in touch with a member of the Committee to discuss what being a Committee member would involve. Did you know that the week of 1-7 June is Volunteers Week? What better time to come forward and find out what you can do to help?

This is not an onerous role as we have in place an excellent team to support the role in Liz Tennant who organises the speakers for our monthly meetings and the seasonal outings and Isabel Baker and Sue Mearns who organise our wonderful team of RUGs.

Exercise Afternoon and Sports Evening

Just a reminder, following on from the article in the May newsletter, to those who have not yet registered their potential interest in either of these two new activities, please let Graham Friday have your name as soon as possible. It is important that we have a good idea of potential interest before we can start to plan the activities in more detail. Without a good level of interest, it will not be worth us pursuing these new opportunities.

If you missed out on what we are talking about, have a look at the May newsletter, under the Members tab on our website.

You can register your name with Graham in several ways.

- Add your name to the list by the Notice boards at the 9th June regular monthly meeting.
- Telephone or text him or 07982 424533 (just leave a message if it goes to answerphone)
- Send a message to his u3a email address: treasurer@crawleyu3a.org.uk

Amblers' walk on 5th May

Amblers enjoyed a walk around Forest Row before heading to The Brambletye for lunch.

Many thanks to [Pam Wilson](#) for the photo of Brambletye Manor.



Autumn Outing: Tuesday 19th September

The Autumn Outing will be on Tuesday 19th September to Fishbourne Roman Palace and Gardens. More details and a booking form to follow in the July newsletter.

Out & About 6 visit to Woolbeding on 18th May

Out & About 6 enjoyed a visit to Woolbeding, a large estate in Midhurst, on a sunny May afternoon. It is a National Trust property with extensive gardens and quirky features. The display of plants, shrubs and trees is stunning, and there was a volunteer who gave a talk on the history of the estate from the 18th century to the present day. The topiary is very impressive, as are the well-maintained gardens. As the guide explained, 'we like to do things differently here'. Although there is no parking, a regular free shuttle takes you to and from the estate from Midhurst. Highly recommended.

With thanks to [Peter Beckley](#) for the report and the photograph of the Woolbeding Glasshouse, which on warm days opens up using a hydraulic mechanism to allow the plants access to direct sunshine and ventilation.



First meeting of the Pétanque and Picnic Group on 18th May

The Pétanque and Picnic Group enjoyed their first meeting on a sunny May afternoon in West Green Park. The group will meet weekly, weather permitting, at 4.30pm. The next meeting will be on Thursday 8th June at 4.30pm. **Peter Beckley** has organised extra meetings on some Monday afternoons for those who cannot manage Thursdays. Please contact him via peter.beckley@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to know the Monday dates or are interested in joining the Group. The next Monday game will be on Monday 12th June at 2.00pm in West Green Park.

Why not come along and have a go? It is a simple game to play, good fun and, best of all, it is free!

Thanks to **Julie Neale** for the first photograph.



Walkers Extra walk on 25th May

Walkers Extra enjoyed a sunny walk around the Arun/Loxwood Canal area before heading to the Onslow Arms at Loxwood for lunch.

Thanks to [Jan Morris](#) for the first photo and [Linda Edwards](#) for the second.



Pre-Euro coins

Are there any numismatists in our midst? If so, Janet Sully has a mixed collection of pre-Euro coins, mainly from France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Belgium. If you are interested, please contact Janet on 01293 882243 or via email: janet.sully@icloud.com

Smartphone Photographic Group outing on 25th May: Report from Monique Tovey-Mansfield

This month our photographic outing took us to Tilgate Zoo. A beautiful, sunny afternoon, we could not have wished for better weather.

Taking photos was rather challenging as many of the animals and birds were enclosed by very fine mesh trellis making it very hard to get a clear photo. We shall see the results in our next meeting in June, fingers crossed we shall have some stunning photos.

We rounded off the afternoon with coffee and a chat, we had a lovely afternoon.



Bridge for Fun Group

On a sunny morning in early May, I paid a visit to our Bridge for Fun 1 Group, who play at Three Bridges Cricket Club, in order to take some photos for our website.

Bridge for Fun 1 meet every Thursday from 9.00am-12.00 and Bridge for Fun 2 meet every Tuesday from 1.00-4.00pm, also at Three Bridges Cricket Club.



Scamwatch

Between January and March this year, residents in West Sussex lost a total of just over £3.5million to criminals using different types of scams. The majority of victims were aged 60 or over and just under half of the reports came from people living alone.

To stop individuals becoming victims of fraud and blackmail, a series of free webinars and in person events are being run to raise awareness of online safety. The sessions, organised by the County Council's Digital Safety Team, are being held at the following locations:

- Wednesday 14 June – Hosted online and in person at [East Grinstead Library](#)
- Wednesday 2 August - Hosted online and in person at [Horsham Library](#)
- Tuesday 15 August - Hosted online and in person at [Bognor Library](#)

Tickets for the online sessions can be booked via [Eventbrite](#), and anyone who would prefer to attend in person can go along to East Grinstead, Horsham or Bognor Library on the designated day at 10.00am.

After the sessions in libraries, from 11.30am – 3.00pm members from the Digital Safety Team will be on hand alongside Digital Ambassador Volunteers and the West Sussex Library Service's Digital Support and Digital Access Teams, to support people with any digital enquiries or to provide information on how to be more scam aware.

Duncan Crow, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire & Rescue, said: "Whether it's online, on the phone or on your doorstep, fraudsters have many ways of scamming people, and unless you know what to look for, it is very easy to get caught out.

"The top three fraud and blackmail scams between January and March this year are courier and impersonator fraud, sextortion and dating and romance fraud. With most of these taking place online, these scam awareness webinars, and in-person events are a great way for people to find out more on how they can stay safe and ultimately stop themselves, or their friends and family from becoming another victim."

If you can't attend one of these sessions, you can visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/staying-safe-online where you can find more information on how the Digital Safety Team can support you, your family or business to stay safe online.

Scamwatch (continued)

Every time you use visit a website, send or receive a message or email, buy or book anything online, comment on a post, upload a photo or find directions on your phone, you're adding to your digital footprint. The internet provides many positive experiences, but we could probably all benefit from thinking more about the trail we leave online. Your digital footprint is part of your online history and can potentially be seen by other people, or tracked and held in multiple databases, however careful you are with your privacy settings. This month the Get Safe Online campaign considers what might happen as a result of your digital footprint and provides tips and advice on what you can do to protect your digital trail. Please visit the following link for further information:

https://www.getsafeonline.org/digitalfootprint/?utm_source=nwemail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nwmay23

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 6th June – 10.00am-3.00pm – publicity drive in County Mall. A few of us will be handing out leaflets. Why not stop by to say hello and take away a few leaflets for your friends and neighbours to encourage them to join?

Friday 23rd June – 11.-00am-2.00pm – Midsummer's Eve Celebration at the Bandstand in Memorial Gardens. Please come and join us. Our Folk Singing, Singing for Fun and Ukulele Groups will be performing together. At 12.00 Graham Crozier from our History Group will be leading a local history walk around Crawley and some of our groups will be showcasing what they do. Bring a picnic, something comfortable to sit on, enjoy the live entertainment and catch up with friends.

The July newsletter will be emailed to members on Monday 3rd July and posted or hand delivered to those without email shortly thereafter.

Please note that there will be no newsletter in August.

Sue Parker

Newsletter Editor

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