



Crawley u3a

## Monthly Newsletter: November 2023



*Artwork by Ana Achacurro (see page 14)*

### Monthly (and other) meetings

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

- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November** – Annual General Meeting (details on page 2)
- **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Party (see note on page 13)
- **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January** – Sarah Slater, *Royal Jubilees*
- **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** – Tony Harris as *Henry VIII*
- **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** – Graham Crozier, *History of Crawley*
- **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April** – Martin Lloyd, *Becoming a Famous Author*
- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May** – Andy Smith, *Prosthetic Perils*

## **Annual General Meeting Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 14:30 Friary Hall**

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Those of you with e-mail should have received the final agenda along with supporting documents on 1<sup>st</sup> November. You can also view these on the AGM 2023 page of our website [Crawley u3a: AGM 2023 \(u3asites.org.uk\)](https://u3asites.org.uk/Crawley%20u3a/AGM%2023)

We will bring along some extra paper copies of the agenda to the meeting for those not on e-mail.

There is not much formal business to cover this year, and once that is finished we will be presenting a slide show "Crawley u3a Highlights of 2022/23". Many of you will be appearing in this. As always, refreshments will be served.

**Margaret Lloyd**, Secretary Crawley u3a

### **Chair's plea for volunteers**

I have to bring to your attention a situation which if not resolved will seriously impact the ability of the committee to offer the level of performance needed to maintain Crawley u3a as a viable organisation.

For the last 12 months a depleted committee has worked tirelessly to achieve the highest standards of compliance, but at the cost of delaying vital commitment to developmental activity. Frankly, we cannot continue our work without the recruitment of new committee members, and other supporting roles.

I am, therefore, asking you to come forward to help, by taking on an important role. And, I should say that volunteers are particularly welcome from new members whose recent skills and experience may be particularly suited to committee and developmental work.

Details of volunteer opportunities are on the new Volunteers page on the website [Crawley u3a: Volunteers \(u3asites.org.uk\)](https://u3asites.org.uk/Crawley%20u3a/Volunteers)

If you can help in any way, or would like further information please reply to myself ([chair@crawleyu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@crawleyu3a.org.uk)), or our Secretary, **Margaret Lloyd**, ([secretary@crawleyu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@crawleyu3a.org.uk))

## Report on 13<sup>th</sup> October's monthly meeting

Well, it may have been Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, but we were very lucky to be treated to a return visit by **Bill Avenell**, with another of his entertaining talks: *I never knew Geography would be so relevant, why didn't I concentrate more at school?*

Ignore the title! Yes, it was about geography (Bill is a retired geography teacher) but we were taken, in various classic cars, starting with an Armstrong Sidley Sapphire, on a trip round the world, looking, and laughing at, history, ecology, geopolitics, languages, maps, motorway traffic jams, supermarkets, water neutrality ... and who knew plate tectonics could be set to music?

It was another delightful afternoon talk, but also informative and thought-provoking. I heard myself saying to friends the next day "Did you know..?" and "It never occurred to me before that ...". Why didn't I concentrate more in geography? In my case, because it was very dull, and I remember almost nothing of my O level exam apart from something about rivers and oxbow lakes; I bet I'm not the only one wishing I'd had a teacher like Mr Avenell.

**Jean Austin**



## Report on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Open Afternoon

If you wish to read my report on this year's Open Afternoon, it can be found under Links on the Events page on the website:

[openafternoonreportseptember2023web.pdf \(u3asites.org.uk\)](https://u3asites.org.uk/openafternoonreportseptember2023web.pdf)

### **Coffee morning on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

I was concerned that the wet weather might deter members from attending our coffee morning last week. I need not have worried! As can be seen from the photo below, we had an excellent turnout.



**Margaret Lloyd's** photo above shows members of St Andrews Craft Group who raised an impressive £255 for St Catherine's Hospice.

## New Group: Exploring Local History

**Venue:** Crawley Museum

**Duration:** Monthly, second Friday of each month / 11.00 – 13.00 2 terms

**Cost:** £2 per session

**Group size:** 15-20

**Outcomes:** Group members will be given the opportunity to:

- Access and examine a range of objects and materials (artifacts) from the Museum collections;
- Explore the nature and scope of local history, and how local history can help with the understanding of wider national events;
- Undertake their own research into aspects of local history, and present their findings in a number of ways.

**Methods:** Group leader input, group discussion and small group work, input from outside experts and enthusiasts, group presentations, exploring the Museum collections.

**Content:** The exact content of the sessions will be open to discussion to meet group interests, but will cover areas such as:

- What is 'local' history?
- How to research local history, using primary and secondary sources
- The use of artifacts such as photographs, documents, diaries and memoirs, using oral history, examining buildings and wider environment.

**Group leader:** [Graham Crozier](#)

**Proposed date for 1<sup>st</sup> meeting:** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 11.00am-1.00pm

**Expressions of interest to:** [peter.beckley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter.beckley@yahoo.co.uk)

## Petanque Group

The Petanque Group's last meeting was held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October. I am certain that the other group members will wish to join me in thanking [Julie and Tony Neale](#) for running the group this year and making it so much fun. We look forward to resuming play in 2024 (date to be announced in a future newsletter).



### **Amblers' Bramber walk on 6<sup>th</sup> October**

Following in the footsteps of Walkers Extra, Amblers did a shorter walk around Bramber on a beautiful autumn day before adjourning to the Castle Inn Hotel for lunch.

Thanks to [Phil Light](#) for the photo.



### **New Bus/Strollers Group**

The new Bus/Strollers Group I mentioned in last month's newsletter has been set up on WhatsApp. If you think this might be the group for you and if you like, for example, the idea of spontaneous outings and short walks with coffee and cake then email me at [sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk) and I will add you to the group.

## Out & About 7's outing to Fort Nelson and Southwick House on 10<sup>th</sup> October

Out & About 7 enjoyed a visit to Southwick House and Fort Nelson on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

Southwick House is an operational military base where the group visited the map room where in 1944, Eisenhower, Montgomery and Admiral Ramsey co-ordinated the Normandy Landings.

Next stop was Fort Nelson – The Royal Armouries, housed in a fully restored Victorian fort – with panoramic views across Portsmouth and the Channel with a collection of over 700 artillery pieces: there is a gigantic 200-tonne railway howitzer, and parts of the infamous Iraqi supergun. The group also explored the kitchen and barracks to discover what life was like for the average Victorian soldier living at Fort Nelson.

My thanks to [Phil Light](#) for the report and to [Janet Newson](#) for the photos.



### Air Rifles Group 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October

Sixteen people came to the first meeting of the Air Rifles Group on 11<sup>th</sup> October. Everyone had the opportunity to shoot standard targets and knockdown targets. As people got used to it, the standard of shooting improved throughout the morning.

The morning group is full but if anyone is interested in the afternoon group, this will run from 2.00-4.00pm when the waiting list fills up (there are currently five on the list).

The next meeting of the Group will be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November from 10.00am-12.00, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ifield Scout HQ, Friston Walk, Ifield.

Thanks to Group Leader **Craig Edwards** for the report and photo and to **Monique Tovey-Mansfield** for removing the background from the original photo.



### Needles Group

It's not too late to sign up for the first meeting of our Needles Group which will take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at the home of our new Group Leader, **Wendy Townend**, in Ifield. Expressions of interest to [peter.beckley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter.beckley@yahoo.co.uk)



### Walkers Extra Slinfold walk on 26<sup>th</sup> October

Walkers Extra were relieved that the weather forecast for rain for their October walk proved to be inaccurate. In fact, the sun shone for much of our nearly 6 mile walk, which began and ended in Slinfold, taking in countryside, woodland, the Downs Link and about 10 stiles, as well as a little mud.

Thanks to [Anne Thorn](#) for the excellent photo.



### **Ambler's' Copthorne walk on 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

Given the awful weather the day before, Amblers were pleased to enjoy some sunshine on our 3 miles(ish) walk around the Copthorne area, taking in Domewood, where we admired the varied styles of the houses, before returning to Haskins Snow Hill Garden Centre for an excellent lunch. Thanks to **Val and Bill Painter** for organising the walk.



### **Out & About 8**

Our new O&A group still has places available, but membership of this group does come with a commitment to help organise at least one outing per year.

The initial planning meeting took place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November between 2pm to 3.30pm at St Pauls. However, it is not too late for expressions of interest to [peter.beckley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter.beckley@yahoo.co.uk)



### **Amblers Extra Ifield Mill walk on 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

Amblers Extra were equally fortunate with the weather for their circular walk from Ifield Mill.

Thanks to **Janet Newson** for this fantastic photo showing happy walkers, stunning autumn colours and a photobombing Canada Goose!



## **Scamwatch: Digital Switchover Scams**

On Wednesday 15 November, between 10am and 1pm, West Sussex County Council will be holding a free, live digital support and scams awareness day at Crawley Library. From 10am – 11.30am the team will be presenting an in-person and online session, providing you with the knowledge on how to spot scams and what to do if you, or your family, become a victim of online fraud.

If you can't attend the session in person, you can watch the webinar from home between 10am and 11.30am by booking a free ticket through [Eventbrite](#).

Then, from 11.30am – 1pm, there will be a drop-in session available for anyone who wants extra help, support and information on how to be more scam aware. This session will have members from WSCC's friendly team, alongside Digital Ambassador Volunteers.

[WSCC Digital Ambassadors](#) are able to deliver talks to local groups. For more information or any questions contact: [DigitalAmbassadors@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:DigitalAmbassadors@westsussex.gov.uk).

Free digital support is available by the team of Library [Digital Volunteers](#). To find out more or to arrange for some digital support, please contact the Library Digital Support team on **03302223455** or [library.digital.support@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:library.digital.support@westsussex.gov.uk)

## **New: Scamwatch page on our website**

I have set up a Scamwatch page on our u3a website. It can be found under links on our Members page. This will be updated regularly with new links as I receive them. Here is the link to the page:  
[Crawley u3a: Scamwatch \(u3asites.org.uk\)](http://Crawley u3a: Scamwatch (u3asites.org.uk)).

## **Science Group: request for speakers**

Are there any members who would be willing to do a presentation to the Science Group or come and lead a discussion on a scientific topic they feel would be relevant? Expressions of interest to me via [sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk)



## **Welcome to new members**

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

Diana Baynes, Lynda Bloom, Cherry Davis, Steve Finch,  
Margaret Horsewell, Pauline Jewell, Jacqueline Kaldenberg,  
Janice & Tim Lane, David Moore, John Palmer, Peter Perry, Jenny Revell,  
Faye Taylor, Susan Temple-Smithson, Barbara Vivien, Simon Ward,  
Denise Weall, Debbie Wilkinson.

## **u3a 2024 diaries**

This really is the last call to order your 2024 u3a diaries as I will be placing the order on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. They cost £4.00 and with a bright orange cover they will be hard to misplace! If you would like one then please let me know by **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November** via [sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Christmas Party in December**

Preparations are under way for this year's Christmas Party, in the capable hands of our Members Coordinator, [Jacqui Mercer](#), and a team of helpers. Details will be sent out shortly to members.

## **Used stamps for RNIB**

With Christmas approaching, and the many cards we will receive with postage stamps on them, [Isabel Baker](#) has asked if members can save their stamps over Christmas for her collection for the RNIB. Used stamps can be handed over to Isabel at the first monthly meeting of 2024 on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Publicity Assistant**

I would like to thank the two members who kindly volunteered their services to help with publicity. Needless to say, I gratefully accepted both offers of assistance!

### **This month's front page image**

I would like to thank [Ana Achucarro](#) for kindly giving me permission to use her excellent artwork for the front page of this month's newsletter. I am sure you will agree that the beautiful autumnal colours she has used are perfect for the November newsletter.

### **Crawley u3a Facebook page**

Don't forget our Facebook page! At the time of writing, we have 239 members, but it would be good to have even more members there. Follow the link to join [Crawley u3a | Facebook](#)

The December newsletter will be emailed to members on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December and posted or hand delivered to those without email shortly thereafter.

Sue Parker

Newsletter Editor

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