



Crawley u3a

## Monthly Newsletter: October 2023



### Monthly (and other) meetings

Dates for your diaries below. All meetings start at 2.30pm (with the exception of the Coffee Morning which starts at 10.30am) and are held at the Friary Hall, Haslett Avenue:

- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October** – William Avenell, *I never knew Geography would be so relevant, why didn't I concentrate more at school?* (details on page 6)
- **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October** – Coffee Morning, **10.30am-12.00**
- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November** – Annual General Meeting (details on page 2)
- **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Party
- **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 at 2.30pm, Friary Hall

We hope to e-mail out the Formal Notification for the AGM, with the agenda and other associated papers, on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Members not on e-mail should have received their copies of the documents with this newsletter.

An [AGM 2023](#) menu button now appears on the website. This will be updated regularly with relevant information between now and the end of December. Linked to AGM 2023 is a new page [Crawley u3a: Volunteering \(u3asites.org.uk\)](#) which will show all vacancies for Trustees, Support roles, and Working Groups.

The Formal Notification papers will include information on the vacant Trustee posts for which we are seeking volunteers. If you are at all interested in finding out more on what being a Trustee involves do contact our Chair, Jim McGough, via the Contacts [Crawley u3a: Contact \(u3asites.org.uk\)](#) or by phone on 07704870040.

There is also a document entitled “FAQs on being a Crawley u3a Trustee” which can be found on [Crawley u3a: Volunteering \(u3asites.org.uk\)](#)

We also currently have some Support Role vacancies. If you are interested in learning more on any of the roles below contact the relevant Trustee via Contacts [Crawley u3a: Contact \(u3asites.org.uk\)](#)

Support Role Description	Trustee Supported
<a href="#">Minutes Secretary</a> For AGM and monthly Committee meetings. Possibly for termly Group Leader meetings.	Margaret Lloyd, Secretary
<a href="#">Archivist</a> To sort and keep updated the Crawley u3a newsletter and document archive. If willing the holder could produce a pamphlet on the history of Crawley u3a.	Margaret Lloyd, Secretary
<a href="#">Receipts Assistant</a> Working with Group Leaders on fees & trips income	Graham Friday, Treasurer
<a href="#">Payments Assistant</a> Dealing with payments	Graham Friday, Treasurer
<a href="#">Publicity Assistant</a> Assistance with producing and distributing publicity leaflets and social media posts	Sue Parker, Communications Coordinator

## **Volunteering: a note from the Chair**

Like all other u3as Crawley is a self-help organisation relying on the good will of its membership to ensure that it remains a viable, and vibrant, organisation. Our continuing aim is to widen the scope of our activity and provide more fruitful activities for a greater number of members.

While, over the past few years, we have maintained a consistent level of delivery in all areas, this achievement has relied heavily on the sterling efforts of a dwindling core of volunteers both at committee and group levels. Thankfully, most of these volunteers are not running away from their activities but, frankly, we all need more help both to remain stable and maintain the push for growth.

I am asking you therefore to give some thought to volunteering your services. Being new to the u3a is no bar to taking on trustee roles nor supporting our developmental strategies in various areas. All of you have skills in diverse areas and we will support you to put these into good use.

If you are interested in volunteering, please speak to me or any member of the committee to find out just what it entails. A more detailed breakdown of our specific Trustee needs will be included within the AGM Formal Notification documents, and shown on the new [Crawley u3a: Volunteering \(u3asites.org.uk\)](http://Crawley u3a: Volunteering (u3asites.org.uk)) within the next week.

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Jim McGough**

Chair

[chair@crawleyu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@crawleyu3a.org.uk)

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

Although it was an oppressively hot and humid afternoon, I am delighted to report that during the course of last month's Open Afternoon, we welcomed nearly 250 people through the doors of the Friary Hall. Many of our Group Leaders were present, many of them showcasing the activities of their groups. We have hopefully signed up a number of new members.

Thanks to our Group Leaders for giving up their time to come along and talk to people, to our invaluable **RUGs** who made sure that everything ran smoothly on the day, and to **Heather Allen** for providing the floor map.



I am delighted to report that our Open Afternoon got a mention in the u3a National Newsletter. Click on this link if you would like to see the photo and read a short paragraph.

[Your u3a National Newsletter - September !\[\]\(c694a3ff3b077d76910920a6a1593ab4\_img.jpg\) \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

To see more photos of the Open Afternoon, why not join our Facebook page?  
[Crawley u3a | Facebook](#)

## Out & About 8

We have now launched this new group, the first new O&A group for around 7 years. There are still vacancies on this group so if you are interested in joining up then please let **Peter Beckley** know via [peter.beckley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter.beckley@yahoo.co.uk)

The group will be holding a planning meeting sometime in the first two weeks of November, where all group members will have the chance to determine what the group will get up to and where it will go.

To share the workload, the only criteria to membership of the group is that all members contribute to help organise at least one trip a year, which will be done in small groups of two to four people. This means that you will not have to do it alone, and you can make new friends in the process.

### Graham Friday & Peter Beckley

## New Needles Group

It's not too late to sign up to the new Needles Group which is restarting in November with a new Group Leader, **Wendy Townend**. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2.00-4.00pm at Wendy's home in Ifield.

If you would like to join the Group, please contact [peter.beckley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter.beckley@yahoo.co.uk) to register your interest.

## Air Rifles Group

The first meeting of the Air Rifles Group will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October from 10.00am-12.30pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ifield Scout HQ, Friston Walk, Ifield, RH11 0AH. Expressions of interest to [peter.beckley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter.beckley@yahoo.co.uk)

## Theatre Group visit to the Royal National Theatre on 19<sup>th</sup> September

The Theatre Group had an excellent trip for a backstage tour of the Royal National Theatre on 19 September when we were treated to the expert knowledge of our guide, George Staines. He talked about the architectural style and structure of the building, explaining the unusual shape and then led us to two of the theatres. The technicalities of the staging and sound systems were pretty amazing. We also visited the workshops and watched staff at work. You would be astounded at what they do with the hair of albino yaks!

My thanks to **Wendy Adams**, **Isabel Baker** and **Jean Manuel** for the report.

## **New Members' meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September**

I am delighted to report that 31 new and recently joined members attended the meeting held at St Paul's on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Our Chair, **Jim McGough**, gave members some background on the u3a and I spoke about our indoor and outdoor group activities. Refreshments were kindly provided by our **RUGs** and people were able to take away leaflets and other documents to peruse at their leisure.

## **13<sup>th</sup> October Monthly Meeting – more details of the talk**

Bill Avenell's talk at Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October's monthly meeting is entitled *I never knew geography would be so relevant, why didn't I concentrate more at school?* During this talk Bill, a retired geography teacher at Christ's Hospital School near Horsham, will discuss why motorway jams miraculously disappear, what is 'water neutrality' and how it will affect future housing development in West Sussex. Bill's talk will look at these and other questions (some light-hearted and some deadly serious) that affect our daily lives.

## **New Welfare Support**

**Karen Deasey** has kindly agreed to take on the role of Welfare Support. The Committee would like to thank **Brenda Ashenden** for the work she has done in this role.

## **Last call for u3a 2024 diaries**

It's not too late to order a 2024 u3a diary but if you wish to do so then can you please let me know by **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October** at the latest by emailing me at [sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Offer of a car bike rack**

**Peter Crosskey**, one of our new members, has kindly offered a car cycle carrier to anyone who might be interested. The four bike carrier fits on a tow ball. If you are interested, please email me via [sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk) and I will put you in touch with Peter.



## Autumn Seasonal Outing 19<sup>th</sup> September: Fishbourne & Chichester

Fishbourne Roman Palace is the largest discovered Roman home in Britain, and dates back to the 1<sup>st</sup> century. At one point it was the grandest Roman palace in northern Europe, with around 100 rooms and a footprint twice the size of Buckingham Palace. Our excellent guide started the tour with an explanation of how the site was discovered and the design of the palace, with the help of a large model. We were then taken around the remains of the north wing, which is fortunate, as it was a damp and blustery day, housed under a large cover building. The main features are the mosaic floors, which vary greatly in both design and quality.



*The Cupid on a Dolphin mosaic*

There is also a museum on site, and an introductory film. An extensive Roman garden has been recreated next to the museum, though the weather was such that most of our party preferred to remain under cover.

The second part of the trip was spent in Chichester, where we were free to do what we wished. Some opted for the cafes and shops, others for the cathedral and a walk around the Georgian streets. A little-known part of Chichester and one well worth a look is the Southgate canal basin, near the station, from where the Chichester Ship Canal runs four miles to the Chichester Harbour at Birdham.

We then drove home, across some of West Sussex's best landscape, and were back in Crawley a few minutes before the designated time.

All in all a well-planned trip, and many thanks to [Liz Tennant](#) for organising it.

[Margaret Lloyd](#)



*The Southgate Basin at Chichester*

### **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)



## **South East u3a Forum Summer School 2023 – Report by Margaret Lloyd**

I was the sole Crawley u3a member attending this year's summer school at the University of Chichester – in contrast to last year when Crawley was represented by no fewer than eight!

This year it ran from late afternoon on the Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September and finished on the Thursday lunchtime three days later. This was during the early September heatwave, so many delegates took the opportunity to eat out of doors. As can be seen from the photo below we could have been abroad!



There were 11 courses running, ranging from outdoor physical activities, such as cycling and walking, to the more cerebral indoor pursuits of “Fizzics for Fun”, Creative Writing and Archaeology. Each course had between 10 to 20 delegates so there were a good number in total, some coming from way outside the South East region. I had opted for the Poetry “A World of Dreams” course which covered a few very long poems, including one by Chaucer (in translation, fortunately) as well as many shorter ones.

The campus is delightful and very compact, and the food was very high quality. Entertainments were provided for the evenings, with a quiz held on the first night. Everybody was very friendly, and you get to know those on the same course well. All in all I would definitely recommend attendance.

## **Midhurst u3a Study Day on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

Nature loving members may be interested in Midhurst u3a's Study Day on *The Natural World* on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 10.00am – 4.00pm at the South Downs Centre Memorial Hall, North Street, Midhurst.

Speakers:

**Michael Blencowe:** Naturalist, writer and wildlife guide – *'The Wonderful Wildlife of Sussex in Feathers & Fur, Pastels & Paint'*

**Richard Shenton:** Blue Badge Guide and lecturer – *'West Sussex – A Natural History as seen in our Museums and Galleries'*

**David Boag:** Wildlife photographer, author and lecturer *'Natural Art'*

There will be a display of paintings, books and prints for sale, as well as coffee, tea, and a buffet lunch with wine. There will also be plenty of time for discussion.

**Cost:** £25 per person.

Please note that this event is for u3a members only or for guests considering joining.

**Bookings:** Sheila Ingram – [Midhurst u3a: Events \(u3asites.org.uk\)](http://u3asites.org.uk) then follow the link to [studydayposteru3a.pub.pdf \(u3asites.org.uk\)](http://studydayposteru3a.pub.pdf)

**Enquiries:** Carol Brinson – [www.u3asites.org.uk/midhurst/contact](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/midhurst/contact)

## **Articles and photos for future newsletters**

A couple of the reports and photos of outings and walks in this month's newsletter were as a result of the activities I did with the outdoor groups I belong to. I would be delighted to receive photos and a short report of trips which have been enjoyed by members of other outdoor groups, like the one on page 11 from the Social Cycling Group. This plea is not limited to outdoor groups, items from indoor groups will also be most welcome. For example, have you produced an artwork or a craft item you would like to share with others? Then why not send a photo and a brief description to [sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk) ?

### Social Cycling Group outing on 12<sup>th</sup> September

The Social Cycling Group's ride to Newdigate covered an impressive 18 miles! The photo below shows the group enjoying a short breather.

Thanks to [Jan Morris](#) for the photo.



### Proposed new Bus/Strollers Group

[Phil Light](#) and I have discussed the possibility of setting up a new Bus/Strollers Group. This would be aimed at people who would like a walk or an outing but can no longer manage to walk long distances. The group would be run along similar lines to the Weekenders Group in that it would be mainly WhatsApp based and outings would be spontaneous rather than organised well in advance.

The idea behind it is that if, for example, someone fancies a bus ride or a train ride somewhere, either for a stroll and/or a cup of coffee, then they WhatsApp the rest of the group to see if anyone is free and would like to come along. It is a similar approach to Weekenders, who mainly organise outings at the weekend, whereas this proposed new group is aimed at people who would like to do something on the spur of the moment in the week.

Expressions of interest to me via [sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk)

### Out & About 7's visit to Spring Farm Alpacas on 26<sup>th</sup> September

Out & About 7 enjoyed a visit to Spring Farm Alpacas, near Uckfield, where we took a dozen alpacas and one llama for a walk. Isaac, the llama, is shown with [Alison Peters](#) and [Jan Morris](#) in the photo below. After we had taken the boys for a walk, we were taken to the field with the mothers and babies in (see second photo). When the tour was over, it was possible to visit the shop which stocks a range of knitted alpaca items and alpaca related gifts.

Many thanks to [Neil](#) and [Jackie Hoey](#) for organising this memorable trip.





### Walkers Extra Bramber walk on 28<sup>th</sup> September

On this 5.6 mile walk, Walkers Extra set off from Bramber, walked beside the River Adur before heading up to the South Downs Way to Steyning Bowl, returning to Bramber along Monarch's Way. Having worked up an appetite and a thirst, we enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Castle Inn Hotel in Bramber.

Thanks to [Craig](#) and [Linda Edwards](#) for organising this scenic walk.

Sadly, my photo does not do justice to the fabulous views we enjoyed on the walk.



## **Welcome to new members**

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

Julie Ball, Nicholas Billing, Hilda Boxall, Margaret Brezezina, Ray Brown, Rosemary Chainey, John Clifton, Xiachuan Cooper, Valerie Coppard, Peter Crosskey, Jacqueline Davies, Camilla Dunne, Ian & Sue Edgson, Roberta Fitzgerald, Sandra Girling, Stanley Harvey, Annette Holt, Kathy Jones, Linda Kiddle, Eve Lee, Bronia Lennon, Audrey Lillis, Peter Lockton, Hazel MacGregor, Liz Mackay, John MacLeod, Michelle Mineau, Val Morton, Linda Osborne, Helen Pawley, Robert Peppett, Alan Quirk, Sharon & Gwilym Richards, Debbie Riches, Janet Stone, Tibor Szabo, Nicola Tapley, Susan Temple-Smithson, John Walton, Erica Wells, Denise White, Alan Williams.

## **Publicity Assistant role**

Regarding the Publicity Assistant role advertised on page 2 of the newsletter, if anyone is interested and would like to meet up for a coffee and a chat about it, please contact me via [sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk)

The November newsletter will be emailed to members on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November and posted or hand delivered to those without email shortly thereafter.

Sue Parker

Newsletter Editor

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