



Crawley u3a

Monthly Newsletter: July 2023



### Monthly (and other) meetings

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

- **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July** – Sue Hicks, *Tissues and Tena Lady* (comic poetry)
- **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September** – Open Afternoon
- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October** – William Avenell, *I never knew Geography would be so relevant, why didn't I concentrate more at school?*
- **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October** – Coffee morning, 11.00am
- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November** – Annual General Meeting
- **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Party

# **Crawley U3A Outing 2023**

## **Fishbourne Roman Palace & Chichester**

**Tuesday 19th September 2023**

**Depart at 9.30am from the Bus Station stand E**

**Approximate time of return to Crawley: 6pm**

**On arrival at Fishbourne we will have tea/coffee and biscuits before meeting our guide for a tour of the mosaics. There will be free time to wander on your own after the tour and to have lunch in the cafe at your expense or bring a picnic. At 2pm the coach will take us into Chichester for a couple of hours free time before heading back to Crawley at 4.30pm.**

**The price of £32 includes coach travel, entrance into Fishbourne, tea/coffee and biscuits, guided tour and tips.**

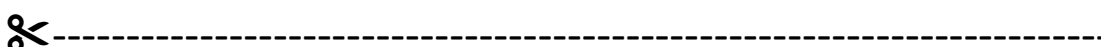
**During the course of your visit you can stroll around the recreated Roman gardens – the earliest gardens found anywhere in the country – and enjoy a tour of the largest collection of mosaics in situ in the UK.**

**If you want to join what sounds like a fascinating trip then please fill in the booking form on page 3.**

**Please note that printed copies of the booking form will be available at our monthly meeting on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July.**

## OUTING TO FISHBOURNE ROMAN PALACE (Cont.)

Please complete the booking form below and return it with your cheque payable to Crawley u3a with your membership number and date of the outing on the back of the cheque to: Liz Tennant, 1 Woodcot, High Street, Partridge Green, West Sussex RH13 8HX **by 15th August 2023** or bring your cheque to the meeting at the Friary on Friday 14th July 2023. Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first confirmed basis and confirmation will be sent by email or by phone. **Tickets are non-refundable.** Thank you, Liz 07394 653430.



### **BOOKING FORM - Fishbourne & Chichester 19.09.23**

Name and Membership Number:

Email Address:

Your Landline Number:

Your Mobile Number:

Emergency contact Name and Number:

Pick up at Crawley Bus Station Stand E at 9.30am

## **Meet The Committee: Sue Parker, Communications Coordinator and Newsletter Editor**



Born and raised in Bristol, I moved to London in 1975 when I started working at the Department of Energy.

I have lived in Crawley since I married Alan (also a u3a member) in 1981, spending thirty years commuting up to London to my secretarial job in the Civil Service. I gratefully accepted an offer of early retirement in 2011.

Joining Crawley u3a in 2016, due to other commitments, I was unable to make the most of my membership in the early days, only belonging to Walkers Extra. During lockdown, with more time on my hands at last, I joined Quiz Group 1's Zoom quizzes, meeting the group face to face in 2021. Addicted to quizzes, I joined Quiz Group 2 when it was set up by Peter Beckley. In 2022 I became a member of our History, Amblers and Out & About 7 groups, adding Petanque to the list this year, making a total of seven groups, with a good mixture of indoor and outdoor activities.

I blame the bout of Covid I went down with in May last year for my rash offer to join the Committee as Communications Coordinator and Newsletter Editor.

## **Report on the Fees meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June**

The Members Meeting held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June approved the fees proposed by the Committee for 2023/24. We thank all members who attended. The draft minutes, with the proposals, can be found on

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

Membership renewal will be taking place at the usual time, in early September. No fee payments for 2023/24 should be made until members receive their renewal notification.

## **Stamps without a barcode: extension of the expiry date**

Regular stamps without a barcode will expire on 31 July 2023. This is an extension of the previous deadline of 31 January that was announced in 2022, after Royal Mail recognised customers needed more time to use up the old stamps. All regular first and second-class 'everyday' stamps will expire, as well as first-class large letter and second-class large letter stamps. International tariff stamps and all 'make-up-value stamps' will also be going out of date. Any old stamps can be swapped for the new barcoded stamps through the Royal Mail's Stamp Swap Out scheme. You will need to complete the [Stamp Swap Out form](#) if you have up to £200 worth of stamps to swap, or the [Bulk Stamps Swap Out Form](#) for more than £200 worth of stamps.

There are three ways you can get the Stamp Swap Out form:

- Via the Royal Mail website
- By phoning Royal Mail's customer services team on 03457 740740 and asking one to be posted to you for free
- By visiting your local post office where you can pick up a form and envelope in person

If you've printed your own form, you will need to use your own envelope to send the form with your old stamps. If sending less than £200 worth, write on the envelope Freepost SWAP OUT. No other address details or postcode are needed.

## Publicity Drive in County Mall on 6<sup>th</sup> June

**Jim McGough, Peter Beckley, Carol Allen, Patricia Johnstone** and I spent an enjoyable couple of hours in and around County Mall handing out leaflets. As we tried to persuade people to take one (sometimes easy, sometimes impossible), our morning was brightened up by a number of u3a members who stopped by to say hello. We also gave out several application forms. I am delighted to report that as a direct result of our leaflets, two potential new members attended June's monthly meeting, one joining on the spot.

I have taken away lessons for the future from this exercise. Firstly, two-three hours is long enough, secondly, ask County Mall for a table that does not make us look like a charity asking for money, and thirdly, I must make more of an effort with the display on the table.





## Report on 9<sup>th</sup> June monthly meeting: Seaside 100: A history of the seaside in 100 objects



On such a glorious summer's day what could be nicer than a trip to the seaside? Well, perhaps a virtual trip, led by the very knowledgeable and entertaining Dr Kathryn Ferry, author of two books on the British seaside.

Dr Ferry began with a disclaimer: she would not actually be showing 100 objects, unless we had several more hours to spare, focussing instead on some of the most iconic.

We travelled from Scarborough, which could be called the first English seaside resort when it became a spa for the wealthy health tourists back in the 1620s, to current revitalising of towns like St Ives, with its Tate art gallery. On the way we learnt about bathing machines and huts; travelling by steamer, train or charabanc as the seaside became more accessible to working people. We admired some of the lovely houses, hotels and pavilions built on seafronts, (although we would have stayed in a boarding house, probably with a fierce landlady) and of course we had to share ice creams while watching Punch and Judy on the beach, or an end-of-pier show. Naturally, we had to buy a kiss-me-quick hat and be photographed walking on the prom' before heading home.

I think we were all in awe of the amount of information Kathryn was able to include in her delightful talk, and I kept thinking "Wow, I never knew that". The famous Skegness poster of the Jolly Fisherman dates from 1908, for example, and the first Butlins holiday camp was opened by Billy Butlin as long ago as 1936. Remember that for your next pub quiz!

Once again, a very interesting and enjoyable meeting.

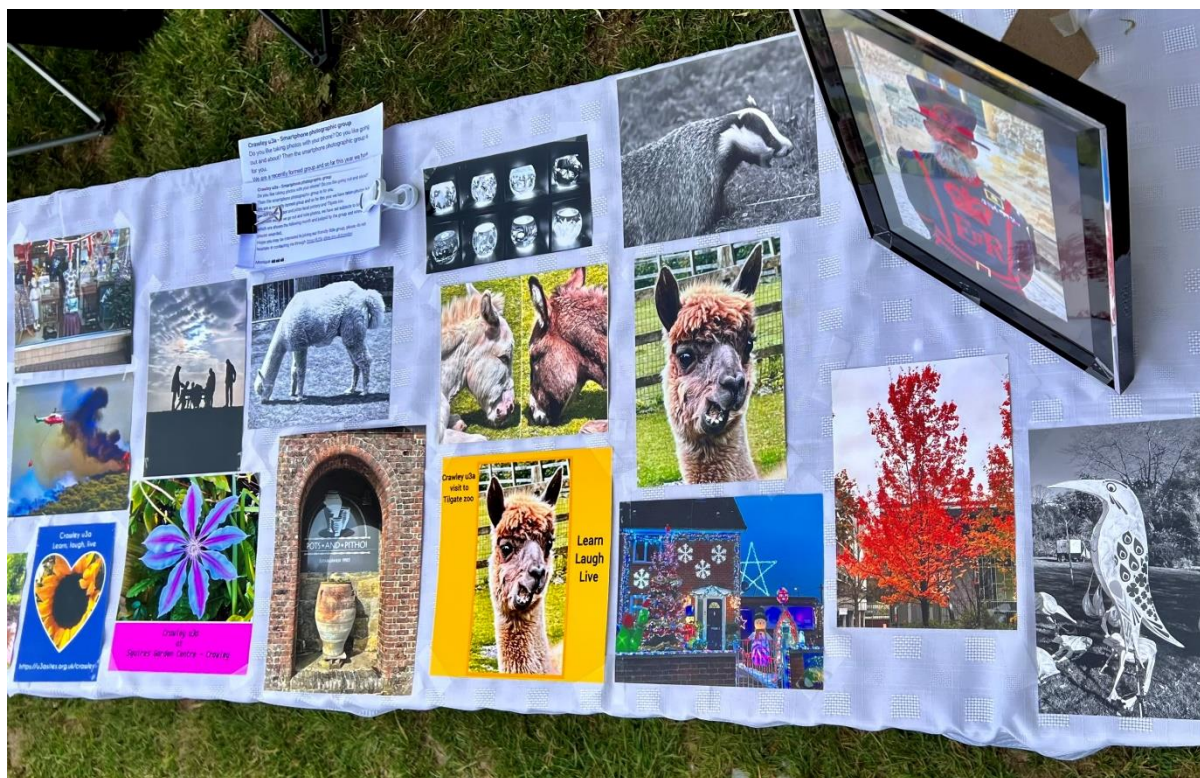
**Jean Austin**

## Midsummer's Eve Celebration on 23<sup>rd</sup> June

I would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation of our Celebration for making it such a success: the Events Sub-Committee, the Committee, our invaluable RUGs, **Graham Crozier** for leading the fascinating local history walk, the members of our Folk Singing, Singing for Fun and Ukulele Groups for their musical performance, **Monique Tovey-Mansfield** for the Smartphone Photographic Group display and **Peter Selby** for the Painting and Drawing Group display, all of which helped to attract passers-by.

Writing this over a week later, I am delighted to report that our membership has increased by more than 20 since the Celebration.

For reasons of space I am not able to bring you all of the excellent photographs members shared with me but if you would like to see more then head over to our Facebook page where I will post a selection shortly [Crawley u3a | Facebook](#)



*Smartphone Photographic Group's display*



## Midsummer's Eve Celebration (cont.)



*Painting & Drawing Group's display*



*Graham Crozier at the start of the local history walk*



## Midsummer's Eve Celebration (cont.)

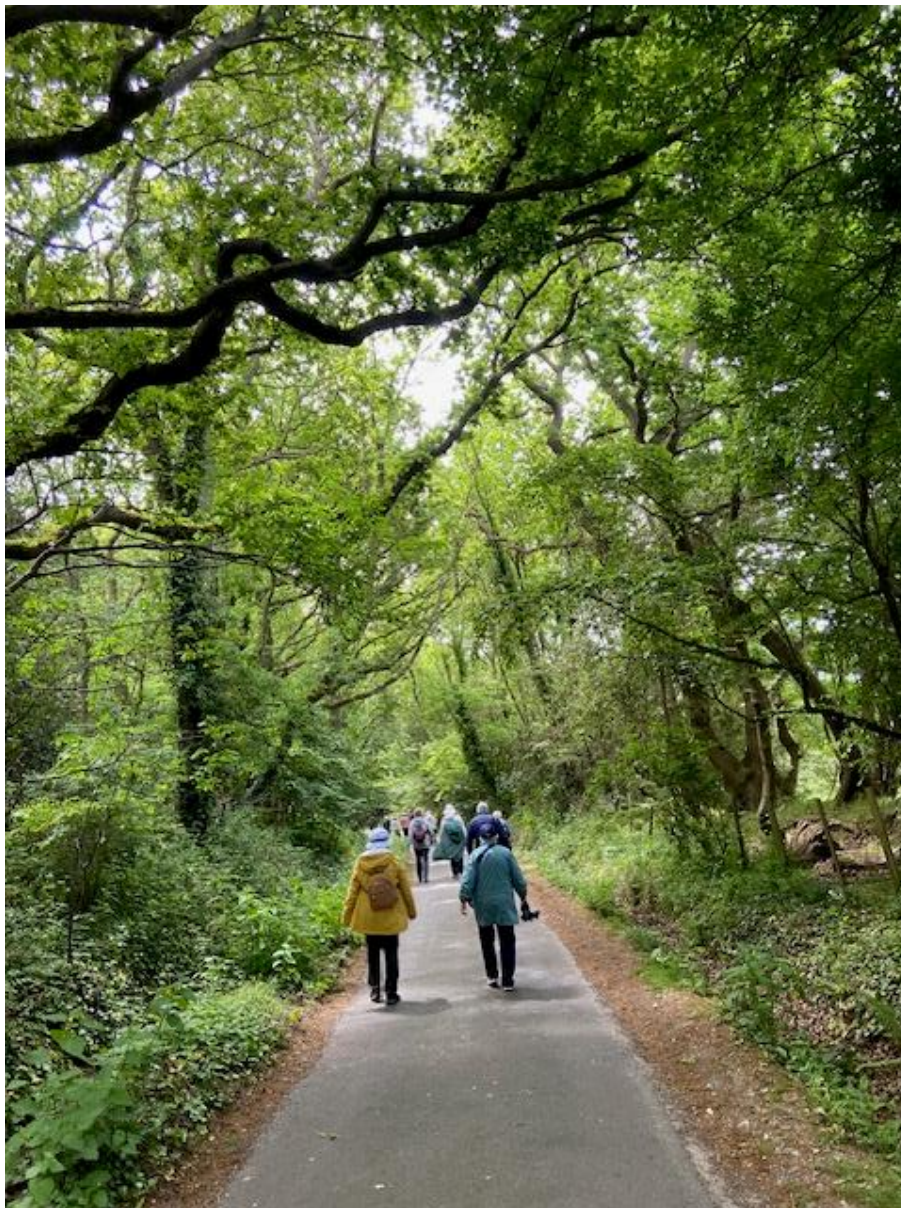


*Folk Singing, Singing for Fun & Ukulele Groups performing on the Bandstand*

Photo credits: Smartphone Photographic Group display:  
**Monique Tovey-Mansfield**  
Local history walk: **Margaret Lloyd**  
Our musical performers: **Ana Achucarro**

### **Amblers' walk on 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

When Amblers set off on their June walk, it was dull and chilly. Fortunately, it was not long before the sun emerged from behind the clouds and we went on to enjoy a sunny 3.5 mile walk around the Hassocks, Ditchling and Keymer area, with stunning views of the South Downs. To round off a lovely walk, we adjourned to The Thatched Inn at Keymer for lunch, all of us agreeing that the food was excellent and the service faultless. Not all pubs can serve large parties (29!) as efficiently as they did.





### Out & About 6's visit to Haywards Heath Gardens on 4<sup>th</sup> June

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June eight members of Out & About 6 enjoyed lunch at the Burrell Arms before visiting gardens in Haywards Heath open under the National Open Gardens Scheme. Thank you to **Monique Tovey-Mansfield** for the superb collage of photos below of some of the beautiful flowers they saw.

Sadly, for reasons of space, I cannot bring you the other photos taken by Monique and Peter Beckley, but why not take a look at them on our Facebook page? Follow this link [Crawley u3a | Facebook](#)





### Social Cycling Group's first outing on 6<sup>th</sup> June

The Social Cycling Group enjoyed their first outing, undertaking a tour of northern Crawley. Starting at the library, they cycled to Ifield, round the back of Langley Green, through Manor Royal to Forge Wood, on to Worth Park, through Pound Hill to Three Bridges, finishing up back at the library.

Thanks to [Andy Bridge](#) for the report and the photograph.



### Postal/hand delivered copies of the newsletter

A couple of members contacted me recently to say that they no longer needed a printed copy of the newsletter and that it could be emailed to them in future. If you are in a similar situation and no longer need a hard copy, can you please let me know via [sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Out & About 6's visit to Brick Lane Music Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> June**

Out & About 6 visited Brick Lane Music Hall, enjoying two hours of music and laughter, accompanied by a delicious afternoon tea of sandwiches and cakes.

Thanks to [Peter Beckley](#) for the photographs.





### **Out & About 7's visit to the Hellfire Caves at High Wycombe on 13<sup>th</sup> June**

On a hot, sunny day, Out and About 7, along with a few members from other Out and About groups, enjoyed a visit to the Hellfire Caves at High Wycombe before going on to Hughenden Manor, which was the home of Benjamin Disraeli. Thanks to [Phil Light](#) for the photo.



### **Out & About 2**

A few members of Out and About 2 have recently expressed concerns that the group is still without a leader. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure them that the Committee is working hard to remedy the situation.

### Gardening Group's visit to Hinton Ampner on 19<sup>th</sup> June

The Gardening Group enjoyed a visit to Hinton Ampner on a warm, sunny day. Hinton Ampner is a National Trust property in Hampshire, with avenues of sculptured topiary, rose borders and beautiful views across the South Downs.

With thanks to [Isabel Baker](#) for the photograph.





### Out & About 7's visit to Ifield Mill on 20<sup>th</sup> June

Having travelled to Buckinghamshire the week before, Out & About 7 stayed closer to home the week after for their visit to Ifield Mill. The Group very much enjoyed their time at the Mill, lunching at The Plough at Ifield afterwards.

Thanks to **Phil Light** for the photo and to **Gill Cooban** for suggesting the visit.

If you feel inspired to visit Ifield Mill, then why not go along to one of their Open Days? The dates are as follows: Sunday 30th July 2.30-5.00pm, Sunday 27th August 2.30-5.00pm and Sunday 24th September 2.30-5.00pm. Contact them either by phone on 01293 539088 or email

[office@crawleymuseums.org](mailto:office@crawleymuseums.org)



### Walkers Extra Nutfield walk on 22<sup>nd</sup> June

Walkers Extra enjoyed a walk of nearly 5 miles around the Nutfield area, grateful for the shaded woodland sections on what was a very warm, humid day. When the walk was over they headed to the Dog and Duck at Outwood for some much needed refreshment.

Thanks to [Jan Morris](#) for sending me the photograph.



### Fred Olsen discount for u3a members

Did you know that u3a members receive a 5% discount of the cost of a cruise with Fred Olsen Cruise Line? The discount is probably available at the time of booking the cruise. I would suggest that if you decide to take advantage of this it would be advisable to have your u3a membership number to hand when booking. Its web site for those who may be interested is:

<https://www.fredolsencruises.com/>



## **VoCall voice activated dialler**

We have received the following offer from a member whose late mother suffered with severe macular degeneration and was registered blind.

She was very independent and lived on her own and to help her use a telephone they purchased the VoCall voice activated dialler (costing £160) which fits between the incoming BT landline and a standard telephone handset, which once programmed, allows anyone to make telephone calls without physically seeing and dialling any numbers, just by saying a name into the handset mouth piece.

Our member would be happy for someone to have the benefit of this, with the following conditions:

1} they would look after it and use it, free of any cost, no catches, but be prepared to hand it back to them, when it is no longer required.

2} if broken or damaged whilst in their care, they agree pay any repair/ replacement cost

Or if they wish

3} try it, then buy it, for £50

If you are interested in this device, or know someone who might find it useful, then please contact me via [sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueparker5@yahoo.co.uk) and I will forward your details on to the member who has made this generous offer.

## **Scamwatch**

### **Protecting your smart devices this summer**

Every device that is connected to your Wi-Fi is also transmitting data which could be of interest to criminals, not least your speakers, voice assistants, cameras, intruder alarms, cameras, door locks and security lighting. To find out how to protect your smart devices, read the Get Safe Online advice in the link below:

[https://www.getsafeonline.org/smartdevices/?utm\\_source=nwemail&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nwjune23](https://www.getsafeonline.org/smartdevices/?utm_source=nwemail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nwjune23)

## **Welcome to new members**

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

Carol and Neville Brandon, Diane Bryant, Jane Chapman-Andrews,  
Christine Cole, Ruth Grantham, Reginald & Barbara Grigg,  
Christine Langford, Dennis Lavers, Hilary Munt, Douglas Naldrett,  
Valerie O'Donnell, Heather Parks, Graham Pashley,  
Silvano & Eileen Rebecchi, Clifford Richardson, Pamela Roberts,  
Denise Scott, Irene Selby, Pauline Stokoe, Joanne Talbot,  
Peter Temple-Smithson, Christine Willows, Veronica Wilson

Please note that there will be no newsletter in August.

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

I hope that you all enjoy our summer break, although several groups will be meeting in August.

Sue Parker

Newsletter Editor

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