



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

GUILDFORD AREA

# NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2018 ISSUE NO 70

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## A MESSAGE FROM CAROLINE

Dear Friends

A very warm welcome to all our new members and welcome back to everybody else. By the time you read this I hope to have met many new members at the New Members' Meeting at St Catherine's Village Hall

Some of our longstanding members have asked why we are using St Catherine's Village Hall rather than St Joseph's Church Hall for more of our larger meetings. I am aware that it is less convenient for some of you (including me), but I hope will be better for others. St Joseph's decided that they needed the hall for more of their own parish occasions, and we could not quarrel with that.

Julie Beattie, our Director of Studies, and the Programme Planning Committee have put together an enticing programme of groups this year. 117, a record number, and I defy you not to find something of interest to study. Some members were disappointed at Enrolment Day to find their chosen groups full, but please do not despair. We do not like waiting lists any more than you do; in some cases we can immediately run a parallel group. Often people sign up for more groups than they can manage to attend, grandchildren and illness disrupt the best laid plans, and waiting lists disappear miraculously. If, by Christmas, you are still waiting, you could gather the other waiters and start a parallel group yourself. Remember that U3A does not operate by experts telling others what, but by people with a common interest coming together to learn together.

Behind the scenes Justin Jackson, Vice-

Chairman, and supremo of all things digital, together with Sue Watson, our Membership Secretary, and more people than I wish to embarrass here, have changed our Management system to Beacon, a system set up by U3A members for U3As. This has been a heroic piece of work, and they deserve all our thanks. Just think of them, slaving away through the hottest summer on record at hot computers while the rest of us sat in the shade with long, cold drinks.

I would just like to mention the coffee mornings that Sandi Layton, Publicity Officer, organised during the long summer break, there were four, on different mornings, at different venues round Guildford, and each event attracted more people than the one before. She is planning to timetable more for half-term breaks during the winter, and would welcome feedback.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Best wishes

*Caroline*  
(Caroline Sawers, Chairman)

**VOTE 4 ME!**

**P.S. no politics please, we're U3A!**

Just a reminder – U3A is a non-political organisation, tolerant and non-judgemental. In your enthusiasm for your own viewpoint, please don't inflict it on your fellow members. This can be done unwittingly, by adding something to the signature on your emails for instance.

## U3A NEWS AND NOTICES

### FROM THE SECRETARY

#### **Guildford U3A Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM will take place on Monday 26 November 2018 at St Catherine's Village Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford GU2 4HF at 2pm and will be followed by an interesting monthly meeting, with Genevieve Kiley, talking about Community Mediation.

At the AGM this year a team of **three Hearing Champions** will be available. This scheme is aimed at reducing pressure on the hospital audiology department as well as making routine hearing aid maintenance much more accessible to hearing aid us.

The team will be able to discuss and maintain any current problems you personally have and also explain how the service works so that you can cascade the information to others - before and after the AGM during a short break and again, after our invited speaker.

We look forward to seeing you there.

#### **U3A Resource Centre**

To help our Group Leaders and after feedback from U3As across the country, the U3A Resource Centre function is being expanded. The service will now form part of the Education and Resources department within the Trust. DVDs will continue to be offered but will in future be expanded to include items such as educational downloads, TED talks and MOOCS as well as U3A generated material, courses, research and shared learning programmes.

If there is something in particular that you or your group leader would like to see included – please let us know, so we can feed back to the Resource Centre.

#### **Car pool/car share**

Many of our centres have limited parking. You may find there are members of your group living close by. It may be possible to share transport, keep your costs down and help the environment. Ask your leader for help with this, if necessary.

#### **U3A diaries**

We will no longer continue to stock diaries, but it is still possible to buy them direct on line through the national office. Go to [u3a.org.uk/resources/shop](http://u3a.org.uk/resources/shop); or [google/search](http://google/search) u3a diaries 2019 (I found this worked better). It is possible to buy 5, or if you scroll further down the page, one at a time. You will need to enter your credit card details and the diary will be posted direct to your chosen address.

*Sonia Ashworth (Honorary Secretary)*

#### **PHOTO COMPETITION 2019**



This year many of you featured in our publicity material – both on the posters and in our flyers. In all we showcased 6 groups, and 78 of our members, giving our U3A material a personable, lively and colourful touch!

The material was very well received, so we would like to use the same sort of approach next year. As such, we are launching our 2019 photo competition now, in this edition of the newsletter, to give you plenty of time to come up with some winning shots.

Again we are looking for photos that epitomise the very essence of Guildford U3A. These can be of photos of your group, places you visit, sports you play or something you make or do.

Anyone can enter, and a group can enter as many times as it likes- the more you enter, the more chance you have of winning!

Entries in JPG format, should be sent to [Publicity@guildfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:Publicity@guildfordu3a.org.uk) along with the name of the group, and that of the person submitting the entry.

Photographs submitted to the autumn and spring newsletters will automatically be entered into the competition too.

As last year, the Executive Committee will select the winning entry. There will be a prize for the

winners, and the winning photo will feature on the front of our 2019 flyers.

The competition closing date is **Friday 22 March 2019**, and the results will be announced shortly after.

We look forward to seeing all your entries – Happy snapping!

*Sandi Layton (Publicity Officer)*

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2018 – 19**

Are you one of the 200+ members who have not yet renewed their membership for this year after it expired on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018?

If you wish to continue your membership you do need to renew before the end of November after which your membership will be deemed to have lapsed. You will then no longer be permitted to attend any Guildford U3A activities. Please allow 10 days before the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 for your renewal to be processed.

If you have moved away from Guildford, or just want to take a year's sabbatical, please contact me so that the database can be managed appropriately.

Please contact me if you have any queries.  
Email: [membership@guildfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@guildfordu3a.org.uk)  
Phone: 07759021326

*Sue Watson, Membership Secretary*

## **THIRD AGE MATTERS (TAM)**



Some 350 of our members are currently signed up to receive this magazine that is published by the Third Age Trust, the umbrella organisation responsible for U3As worldwide, five times per year. All U3A members are entitled to receive TAM, the cost of which is included in our annual subscription, but individual U3As pay the distribution cost. In Guildford we have discovered that many members just binned their copy so we decided

some years ago to send only to those who are interested in seeing it so as to save postage - and trees. The next edition will be published on 12<sup>th</sup> November and be mailed to recipients during the two weeks after that.

For New Members who have joined Guildford Area U3A since 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and agreed to go on the distributor's list this will be a taster copy and you will need to contact me if you would like to continue to receive TAM. Those of you who do receive TAM please let me know if at any time you decide you DO NOT wish to continue.

Anyone who does not currently receive TAM is welcome to have a taster copy or sign permanently. To change your option please contact me, preferably by email with TAM as subject, with your name and Membership number or Postcode. Email: [membership@guildfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@guildfordu3a.org.uk)  
Phone: 07759021326

*Sue Watson, Membership Secretary*

## **U3A 2018 SE FORUM SUMMER SCHOOL**

In June I spent a few days at the SE Forum Summer School held at the University of Chichester. It was my first visit but I found myself to be in a distinct minority of first-timers. For many people it was an annual event – greeting old friends and renewing acquaintances. One person I met had been 15 times. It seems strange to me that such a large U3A as ours is so underrepresented. The journey is quick and easy and you can easily go all the way by bus for free. However, I only encountered one familiar face – our Membership Secretary, Sue Watson, although there were two other members neither of us encountered. Sue and I passed each other several times a day but group allegiance was normal.

This is one of a series of locally organised 'schools' which are available around the country with two organised by the Third Age Trust and what a marathon effort it takes to organise all of these. I found many people here attended other schools.

Subjects vary. I might have chosen Jazz, Psychology or Life Story, and the Ukelele had a

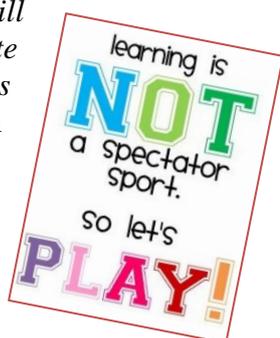
certain appeal. I would have discounted Knitting, anything with Art or Bridge, Mah Jong and The Joy of Maths and personally would not have chosen walking or Country Houses because of the proximity. I chose Culture and Ritual which was right up my street. It was very much interactional in structure, with two whole days, a half day and an introductory session. I enjoyed participating instead of leading and I did keep quiet some of the time. However, my intervention was appreciated because the leader was a sociologist (very left wing!) and so came from a different perspective of anthropology.

Chichester has a lovely campus and the rooms were excellent. So was the food. Lots of it too. My small student cell was fairly comfortable although my mattress springs continually 'pinged' and I was a bit worried about what the neighbours thought. I did wonder if it was a ruse to stop student shenanigans. We also had kettle and mug. Great. I was a bit alarmed on the last night when I could not even get into my building despite retesting my card. It seems that I had been checked out and that little bit of plastic was invalid.

There were around 150 participants and not surprisingly, there was a low percentage of men. What I found so remarkable was how friendly everyone was. Sometimes I would sit with someone unknown but not in silence. I have to admit that I am a somewhat chatty person, so I met some very interesting people. I can really understand the appeal and I shall return. Actually I will probably have to because it was suggested that I might like to be a tutor myself next year. I agreed.

*Sheila Darzi*

**Editor's Note:** The next South East Forum Summer School will be held at the University of Chichester from Monday to Thursday 24-27 June 2019. An application form will be available from late November 2018. Access through the Guildford U3A website.



## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### U3A SINGING GROUPS: SUMMER CONCERT

On Monday June 25th, the combined choirs and invited guests enjoyed a wonderful afternoon celebrating the 25th anniversary of the birth of a singing group in the recently formed Guildford U3A.

From a humble beginning of a dozen or so singers to a fully fledged choir of approximately 80 members the group has come a long way - definitely something worth celebrating. On this beautiful summer's afternoon, Merrow Methodist Church hall was filled with the sound of joyous music ranging from show songs to classics ancient and modern. Led by John Varney and accompanied by Matthew Smith the choir and several soloists entertained a happy audience of family, friends and fellow members.



After the final heart-warming rendition of John Rutter's, "For the Beauty of the Earth", this glorious afternoon was brought to a happy conclusion with a bountiful supply of tea, cakes and good humour served by choir members and friends.

*Ann Monaghan*

### U3A SINGING GROUPS: CATHEDRAL COFFEE CONCERT

Two and a half weeks after the summer concert, on July 12, the Singing Groups united once again to sing at Guildford Cathedral's Coffee Concert. The coffee concerts are held once a month in the Cathedral and local musicians and choirs are invited to take part. This was our second year of performing at a coffee concert and quite a different experience. Last year due

to work being done in the Cathedral the concert was held in a marquee, this year we were in the Cathedral – giving quite a different acoustic and setting. A selection of pieces from the Summer Concert were performed and greatly enjoyed by the audience.

The coffee concerts start with tea and coffee at 10.30 followed by the concert from 11.15 to 12.00. They are free and open to all to attend, details can be found on the Cathedral's website.



*Jean Wickens*

### **SOUTH EAST ASIA STUDY GROUP**

Of the eleven members of the group, nine attended the first meeting on 2nd October at St John's Church Hall, Merrow. Reasons expressed for an interest in the East varied from being born and brought up there, to visiting as a tourist, or having family currently living in the region. Our area of study includes the Indian sub-continent, and we will also include some countries in the Far East in future sessions. There will be much to debate with our different perceptions based on our widely different experiences.

We agreed to start with a look at French Indochina, starting with Vietnam, led by Irene. She circulated an extract from a Vietnam Airlines inflight magazine providing a brief history of the country. It exemplified, by its omissions, the political interpretation it sought to give to passengers. There was no mention of the French occupation or of the Vietnam War or the former division between North and South. Discussion followed on how the Vietnamese regarded the "West" today and the crippling effect of unexploded ordnance to this day. Part two of the meeting focused on a Simon Reeves investigation on coffee growing in Vietnam. The country is a leading world producer – all our "Instant Coffee" comes from the inferior

Robusta plant. Coffee has contributed significantly to the growth of the Vietnamese economy, but has wrought destruction of the landscape in the form of land grab, deforestation, soil erosion, infertility, and loss of wildlife habitat. Southern tribal people, some of whom supported the Americans in the war, have been driven away in favour of regime-supporting northerners. Most planting was done some 20 - 30 years ago, so plants are now reaching the end of their productive life. The future for this cash crop in Vietnam, geared almost entirely to the Western (mainly UK) market, is uncertain. One of our group who had travelled in the highland areas, shared some of her photographs with us.

Another member showed a bottle opener he acquired from a deaf and dumb charity in Hue. The opener consists of a strip of wood with a bolt attached at one end. By selling these to tourists, the business boasts it advertises world wide. This is real enterprise, Vietnamese style. It tied in with the experience of another of us, who had visited a charity for deaf teenage boys in Vietnam, producing exquisite embroideries.



We look forward to exploring this fascinating and important part of the world further next time.

*David Bunting*

### **CHAMBER MUSIC GROUP**

I've been meaning to join various groups for several years, but as we all know, life intervenes! However, this term I promised myself I would join the monthly Chamber Music group, run by Iris. The sessions are held in Jefferies Hall, very convenient for me, excellent acoustics and ample parking for those from farther afield. What a joy it was, at the first meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October, to sit on comfortable chairs and actually be able to concentrate on a skilfully thought-out programme, presented by Ann Evans, of beautiful chamber works by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Mendelssohn and some

of Schubert's wonderful songs. When I listen to music at home I am invariably doing something else at the same time, feeling much too guilty to sit and listen when there is work to be done. No such distractions at these sessions. You can relax and allow yourself to be totally transported into a different and wonderful world. How often do we get the chance to stop everything and simply listen? I am already eagerly anticipating the next session.

If you would like to join please phone Iris Hawkins on 01483535986 or email [iris1@talktalk.net](mailto:iris1@talktalk.net)

*Irene Black*

### **SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY GROUP**

Sheila Darzi's Social Anthropology Group has been running for 14 years and continues to grow with over 60 U3A members signed up this year. There are at least 2 members who have repeated the course every year since it started, and many others who have repeated several years. Sheila began the course after completing a degree in Anthropology at Birkbeck College in London, when she retired from a career in Social Work. Each year Sheila gives us a grounding in what Social Anthropology is, often from the viewpoints of different writers on the subject.

Over the years, Sheila's talks have covered a huge range of topics about the way people live in different cultures around the world, and in this country as well. Talks often spark discussion (sometimes challenging) among members – often based on their own experiences of either living or travelling in other countries. Alcohol, its impact and use in different cultures, was a topic of particular interest for everybody. Other talks have ranged from Being English, Attitudes to Ageing, and the British Way of Tea to Medicinal Plants, World Religions, and Sugar Mummies. The group frequently has tastings of foods from different cultures and we have also visited places such as Hindu and Sikh Temples, Mosques, Scandinavian Churches and Christmas Markets and areas of cultural diversity in London.

*Jean Wickens*

### **WRITERS' WORKSHOP**

Don't be shy now! Come and join the Writers' Workshop. Anything goes. Pour out your memories onto paper, kick start that novel inside you, wax lyrical in verse, describe your latest invention or best holiday. Increase your self-confidence and have fun at the same time. We will welcome you into our circle. Contact me at my editor's email address or 01483 839428.

Look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

*Irene Black*

### **CHAUCER GROUP**



Truth be told, I wasn't expecting such a huge response when I floated this idea nor such enthusiasm even before we started.

Our first meeting a couple of weeks ago was very positive and I am looking forward to the next one when we continue reading and discussing *The Prologue to the Canterbury Tales*. Early days yet, but it is always a good sign when people are so willing to contribute.

*Martin Hardman*

### **FLASH FICTION**

We have got off to a good start: two sessions in, and already there has been some excellent writing, using prompts from books and from dialogue. Next month we're trying monologue. Flash Fiction is very popular on line, with many competitions posted, so this year we have resolved to enter one or two and see what happens. We are also trying to improve editing skills, and being ruthless in eliminating unnecessary words, honing our work our work to keep it to the magic three hundred word limit.

It was lovely to see most of our group returning, and to welcome a new member. We are looking forward to an interesting and productive year.

*Christine Hardman*

## EARLY MODERN DRAMA

We are, at present, quite a select group (not by design!) and would like to welcome some new members. We explore the work of major Elizabethan dramatists as well as works attributed to Shakespeare in whole or part. This often sheds a great deal of light on both Shakespeare's achievement and his debt to contemporary writers and is certainly giving us a better understanding of the context of Elizabethan/Jacobean theatre. Each month we discuss one play and a new play is introduced.

We meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month (2-4 pm) in each other's homes. If you would like to join us, please contact Jennifer – 01483 569884.

*Martin Hardman*

## UKULELE GROUP

We are an established group of players, with about 60 or so numbers in our repertoire and more in the pipeline. We now boast a baritone ukulele section and this has added a new dimension to our arrangements. Above all, we very much enjoy playing together and exploring the potential of this under-estimated instrument.

*Martin Hardman*

## FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### OUTING TO KENSINGTON MUSEUMS

On **TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER.**

**Cost** coach only £15.00

**Leaving** ARTINGTON AT 9.30 with possible stop at the Spectrum

**Leave** London at 4.30

OPEN TO ALL

Our main aim is to tie up with the History of Drinking in the Anthropology Group by visiting the extensive collection of drinking and serving vessels at the V&A. In addition to the floors of beautiful objects, there is a free Exhibition marking the end of Film Censorship 50 years ago. Then for £11 you can visit the 'Fashioned from Nature (from 1600)' Special Exhibition.

**OR** Cross over to the Natural History Museum to re-visit favourites or see the 'Life in the Dark' feature for £8.50 or see 'The Wild Earth' and 'Wild Life Photographs of the year' for free. There is the Darwin film but this is evenings selected afternoons and VERY expensive.

**OR** Visit the Science Museum with its usual fascinating displays and call into 'The Sun: Living with our Star' for £8.50

And as if that is not enough, there is always the Royal College of Music in Prince Consort road with its Museum.

All the museums have restaurants and there are many in South Kensington. Also suitable for a packed lunch.

Please send for application form from [Sheila\\_darzi@yahoo.com](mailto:Sheila_darzi@yahoo.com) or phone 01483 898080

*Sheila Darzi*

## U3A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Wed 12th December 2pm

St Nicolas' Church

**Combined Guildford U3A Choirs**

At the time of writing, we have just started rehearsing music for the Christmas Concert. This year we shall sing some items that are particularly special. Two years ago we sang "The Candlelight Carol" an exquisite Carol by Simon Mold. I have since been in contact with him and discovered more of his music. Simon has very generously and graciously composed a new Carol specially for the Guildford U3A Choirs and dedicated it to The Choirs and myself, called "A Galley will I build me" This has a lilting and rocking melody to a text by George R Woodward.

Then we shall sing a setting of the Magnificat composed in 2017 by Dr. Roy Massey. Roy has been a mentor of mine since the early 1960's. He is the Organist Emeritus of Hereford Cathedral and I have sung in choirs under his direction. The third special item we shall sing is a piece called "The Glow of Christmas" Words and Music by local composers Dorothy and Heather Kirkman. This was brought to my attention

recently and I was very moved by both the words and music. The piece was broadcast on Christmas Day last year. I have now met Dorothy and she is so thrilled that we are doing her piece. It is not generally available but she has produced the music for us. Dorothy and her daughter Heather hope to attend our Concert.

Along side all this will be music by John Rutter (The Christmas Composer!) and of course other seasonal music and readings, some with audience participation.

We shall also have the joy of the BellePlate Group and the Instrumental Ensemble with us again. It promises to be a wonderful concert which I am particularly excited about. I look forward to seeing you there.

*John Varney*

## **CONCERT VISITS**

The response to the autumn selection of concerts was disappointing. I was surprised that the Anvil concert in October had to be cancelled as I believed members wanted to go to this more inaccessible venue. It was a tuneful concert with a great young pianist Benjamin Grosvenor. The cost of the ticket was only slightly higher than last year and about the same you could pay for a concert at G Live. Let me know if you wish to try another concert at the Anvil.

I hope that you may feel like joining the Spring visits proposed on the booking form enclosed with this circulation. The Barbican is always a bit more difficult to reach and members told me they like a visit to the superb LSO there. The concert selected marks the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the great conductor Haitink in Mozart and Mahler.

The February concert at the Royal Festival Hall contains 2 dance suites by Kodaly and Dvorak, inspired by folk music. Combined with Grieg's Piano Concerto this should be very pleasant listening.

I hope to see you at one of these concerts

*Iris Hawkins*

## **MORE COFFEE MORNINGS**

Following the success of our Summer Coffee Mornings, we thought you might like some more dates to meet up again, during the quieter holiday months when many U3A classes take a quick break.

**All events will start at 11.00** – do add the dates to your diary now, so as not to miss out.

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Dec**

**The Horse and Groom**, Merrow GU1 2RG  
*Wear or come as a Christmas decoration*

**Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Jan**

**The Beefeater**, The Parkway, Guildford  
GU1 1UP ( adjacent to the Spectrum)

**Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Apr**

**The White House pub** Guildford GU2 4AJ  
(opposite Debenhams, over the bridge)

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**The Weyside** Guildford GU1 3XJ  
(near the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre)

There is parking close to all the venues, and all are on local bus routes. In the New Year, we will put some dates in the diary for the 2019 Summer Coffee Mornings. If you would like to suggest a venue, that can seat 40 people plus, both inside and outside, that has ample parking facilities, and is on a local bus route, then do let us know at: [publicity@guildfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:publicity@guildfordu3a.org.uk)

Hope to see you at a coffee morning or two.

*Sandi Layton*

## **ADVANCE NOTICE: GUILDFORD U3A ANNUAL LECTURE 2019**

**1st April 2.00pm University of Surrey**

**The Magic of Colour** presented by Andrew Hanson, Senior Research Scientist, National Physical Laboratory

The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) is the UK's National Measurement Institute and is involved in ensuring all walks of life function smoothly through the use of the National Measurement System. Andrew will briefly

discuss what he feels are the top 10 strangest things NPL has been involved in, that he is allowed to talk about.

Andrew will then elaborate on his own area of work – colour measurement. Colour informs, influences consumer choices, warns us and comforts us. It needs to be measured to ensure good communication and confidence in manufacturing processes for a diverse range of goods from pills to paints. But how do we ascribe numbers to a human perception which is incredibly versatile and variable? Be warned! This demonstration talk will contain surprises – there is a lot more to colour than meets the eye.

For 25 years Andrew has been professionally measuring colour, from evaluating the appearance of ornamental plants, to building the world's first national standards telespectroradiometer to calibrate the colour of visual display units and a machine to measure the shininess of cats. He is currently Outreach Manager and Occasional Senior Scientist at the National Physical Laboratory, the UK's National Measurement Institute and is past Chairman of the Colour Group of Great Britain.

## **FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS**

### **Mon Nov 26th**

St Catherine's Village Hall 2pm

**Annual General Meeting** followed by

**Monthly Meeting:** *Community Mediation*

Genevieve Kiley Community Mediator. Talk about the West Surrey Mediation Services

### **Mon Jan 28th** St Catherine's Village Hall 2pm

**Monthly Meeting:** *The history of Burpham.*

Moira MacQuaide Hall, U3A Group Leader Exploring Local History Group, author.

### **Mon Feb 25<sup>th</sup>** St Catherine's Village Hall 2pm

**Monthly Meeting:** *Secularism Protects*

Charlie Yianoullou Member of the Guildford and Woking Humanists and partner of the Humanists UK. Talk about basic principles of secularism and how it sets out to protect us all.

### **Mon Mar 25<sup>th</sup>** St Catherine's Village Hall 2pm

**Monthly Meeting:** *The Old Odeon* Bryan Richardson and David Corrie, retired managers

of the Guildford Odeon talk about the history of the Guildford Odeon.

## **SURREY U3A NETWORK STUDY DAYS**

Open to all U3A members. Held in the Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon; 9.30am - 4pm. Fee including coffee/tea and biscuits, £10, non-U3A guests of members £12. Bring a packed lunch. Prior booking essential. For booking details visit <https://u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/events> or phone John Kennedy on 01372 273561.

**Fri Nov 16th** *Landscape, Society & Agriculture*  
Presented by Dr Richard Baines, Royal Agricultural University

**Fri Feb 15th** *Philosophy in a Day!* Presented by Marianne Talbot, Oxford University

**Fri Mar 15th** *Mediaeval Times - The Bayeux Tapestry & Other Topics* Presented by Imogen Corrigan, Lecturer for The Arts Society

**Fri Apr 12th** *The Aztec - The Eagle Warriors of the Sun* Presented by Maria Chester, Subject Advisor on American Archaeology & U3A Member

## **MEMBERS' NEWS AND VIEWS**

### **SURREY HEALTHY AGEING RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP**

Many Guildford U3A members have been to the seminars held by SHARP at the university. This project has been under way for 3 years now and covers all aspects of healthy ageing. Some very interesting talks have been given; this year's discussed changes to the eye during the ageing process and the similarities between rheumatoid arthritis and heart disease. We have put in a request for ears next year!

Information about their latest research into cognition in older adults can be found at [b.toovey@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:b.toovey@surrey.ac.uk).

*Julie Beattie  
(Director of Studies)*

## MY FIRST REGISTRATION DAY

Although I joined the U3A Guildford a few years ago, this year's registration day was my first, as I had always enrolled online because the day usually clashed with another annual event.

It was an 'ordeal by fire', as I wasn't only enrolling for the next year, but also taking names for a group of which I am a leader plus looking after two other courses for Irene who couldn't attend because she was in Laos. Good excuse that!

I hadn't realised the event was so buzzy – yes, I mean that, although it was busy as well. I arrived early, as instructed, to find my table, but also enrol myself. With that out of the way, I was handed forms to record those who wanted to join my group, and forms relating to the two other courses and told how to find my table.

Registration



Already there were many people milling about, with helpers rushing around with charts, spreadsheets, directions and maps. Each leader had their own table in different rooms and the first test for a new member of U3A was to navigate around the building's myriad classrooms to find their subject and the leader. There were friendly greetings and chats going on all over the place and many visitors stopped to ask me what my course was about, as it was described as early modern drama by my predecessor who set it up two years ago, which in some ways didn't really explain the course.

Irene's students came to chat and many others came and discussed what her south east Asian course involved, even though they had read the blurb she left with me.

Although it seemed chaotic, with the forms I was given I realised the organisation was well run with systems in place that helped me do my job.

*Jennifer Margrave*

## WHOOOPS! NEARLY LOST A MEMBER...

Guildford U3A member David Mayne writes: We had a really enjoyable two weeks in Stintino, NW Sardinia, where the swimming was brilliant and there was plenty to see. Apparently there are 250 U3A groups in Italy. I nearly quit Guildford to take up residence in Alghero in Sardinia where, as the photograph shows, U3A is alive and well!!



*U3A Secretariat in Alghero, Sardinia*

Have you written any books, won an award, achieved a lifetime's ambition or done anything else that you would like to share in order to demonstrate the huge talent and wide-ranging expertise among members of Guildford U3A? Please email the editor with your story.

**THE DEADLINE** for the **SPRING 2019** newsletter is **15<sup>th</sup> MARCH**. But please send your contributions to the editor at any time before then. **However, anything sent after the deadline will be held over until the next newsletter** – if it is still relevant then.

Preferably please submit your contribution by email as a Word.doc or a Word.docx file in Times New Roman 12 point font, single spacing. Photos as individual jpg files please.