

# u3a Overton and District



## Autumn Newsletter 2022

This is an opportunity to catch up on what you may have missed, give notice of future talks and events and how you can help to ensure that our **u3a Newsletter** remains as interesting as possible.

### Summer Outing – July

#### Visit to Weald & Downland Living Museum or West Dean Gardens

We set off in Mervyn's coach to The Weald & Downland Living Museum, which is also the home of the Repair Shop, which has 50 historic



buildings ranging from AD 950 to the 19th Century.

There was a huge variety of things to see and do in the open-air and the weather was kind for us.

Some members chose to visit West Dean Gardens, a beautiful restored garden with Victorian glasshouses, Edwardian pergolas and walled kitchen gardens.



### August Tea Party



The inclement weather stopped us sitting outside in St Mary's Hall garden but a great time was enjoyed by all. It was an opportunity to meet up and chat with other members over a cuppa and a slice of cake. A big thank you to the WI who supplied a wonderful array of delicious cakes.



Members were able to buy cakes to take home for a small donation to The Kingfisher Day Centre, our chosen charity for this event.

Bob, our chair, took the opportunity to present gifts to committee members who had stepped

down, and thanked Jonathan, and Edith, our previous Chair and Vice Chair and Lizzie Lewis for the time they had served on the committee.



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## September Meeting



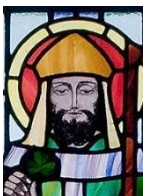
Our speaker was Lorna Thomas and her talk 'A Rebel, a Saint, a Nobleman and a Mercenary: the Legends of the Four Nations'

The talk focused on our common Celtic origins, shared history, heroes and enemies using four people who have captured the imaginations of generations and become legends.



The rebel was **Boudica** who in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD was a heroine fighting for the British against the Roman Empire in SE England. She was Queen of the

Iceni and led them and other peoples in a revolt against Roman rule. Although her forces massacred some 70,000 Romans and their supporters, they were ultimately defeated. British early advantage was mainly due to the design of their chariots, which were superior in battle. Boudica was imprisoned and little is known of her death.



The saint was **St Patrick**, who was not Irish but born in Britain and nothing is known of his parents. At sixteen he was taken prisoner and spent six years as a shepherd in Ireland. He escaped to Britain where he had a revelation telling him to return to Ireland, which was mainly pagan at the time, as a missionary. He began religious training, a course that lasted 15 years. He then went to Ireland and worked with the few Irish Christians and gradually converted many pagans to Christianity, but he did not, as legend claims, banish snakes from Ireland!



**Owain Glyndwr** was a Welsh noble and military leader who led the Welsh people for over a decade in a war against England, the aim of which was to end English rule in

Wales during the Late Middle Ages. The fighting continued during the reign of Henry IV and many Welsh were captured. However, Henry IV died in 1413 and was succeeded by Henry V who began to offer the Welsh rebels' pardons and made peace with the Welsh but Owain was the last Welsh Prince of Wales.



**William Wallace**, was Scottish and 7ft tall, a Scottish knight who became one of the main leaders during the First War of Scottish Independence. Although he served as a mercenary, he was not truly one.

Along with Andrew Moray, Wallace defeated an English army at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in September 1297. He was appointed Guardian of Scotland and served until his defeat at the Battle of Falkirk in July 1298. He was put to death in 1358.

## Future Talks

### 'October



#### 'Winston' (Churchill)

#### Speaker – Tony Harris

– a professional comedian, raconteur and actor, specialising in historical talks with a hysterical twist. Tony has visited our u3a before and his talk promises to be informative, but also entertaining.

### November



#### Springtime in Japan

#### Speaker:

#### Rosemary Le Grand

Travel with Rosemary around Japan to enjoy the exquisite gardens and fascinating culture. Her father, the late George Hyde, specialised in cross breeding azaleas and rhododendrons, and many of his award-winning plants can be seen at Wisley, Exbury, and

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Kingston Lacy. Rosemary's horticultural background and owning a nursery explain her interest in the spectacular gardens in Japan.

## December-

**A Christmas Cracker – Jonathan Jones**

## January-

**The Andes and the Incas – Paul Whittle**

## March-

**TBA**

## April-

**'DNA' and the Genome – Darren Gowers**

## May-

**The 'F' Word – Sue Flipping**

## June –

**The Story of English Freedom- Andy Thomas**

**July Summer Outing TBA**

**Any suggestions please email:**

[enquiries@overtonu3a.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@overtonu3a.org.uk)

## Extra Curricular

**28<sup>th</sup> November. 200pm SMH**

**Christmas Wreath / Decoration**

**Ikebana -Back by popular demand!**



The poster above is just to make you aware of the Community Café that you may like to visit if you happen to be in Basingstoke on a Tuesday morning, where you can have a drink and a snack.

## Garden Visits

Firstly, a big thank you to Maureen Tory for organising this year's series of garden visits from April to September. We have visited stunning gardens set in beautiful locations with some spectacular views and at the end of each visit we were treated to delicious teas and cake!!

We visited: Little Court, Crawley, Beechenwood Farm near Odiham, Spitfire House near Chilbolton, Church House, Medstead and Clover



Farm near Alton. Unfortunately, the July visit was cancelled as the hot weather had caused

devastation to the garden. Here is a selection of photos from the visits.



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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman: Bob Denny

Vice Chair: Margaret Aldgate

Secretary: Maureen Tory 01256 771953

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

David Carter

Groups Co-ordinator: Teresa Reynolds

Meetings Co-ordinator: Michael Humphery

Adrian Good: Publicity/Information / Sound

Ex-officio Newsletter / Posters: Lizzie Lewis  
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## Articles for the Newsletter

The editor would be delighted to receive short articles / reports of what you have been doing in your group activities and especially reviews of the monthly talks. Please email any contributions [to lizbettlewis@outlook.com](mailto:lizbettlewis@outlook.com).