



Welcome to the Spring/Summer Newsletter which gives you an opportunity to catch up on events you may have missed and to find out what is planned for the next few months.

February

Ryland Lee, a volunteer with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance provided a fascinating talk about the service.



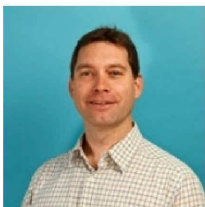
March



Colin Van Geffen gave us an enlightening talk entitled "The Lady who Saved the Nation" about Lucy Houston who died, on 29th December 1936, and so ended the life of

one of Britain's truly amazing women. Yet today she has all but disappeared into obscurity. This wonderful story was beautifully portrayed by Colin. He has other stories to tell - for another time.

April



Darren Gowers gave us a superb talk "DNA and the Genome Revolution" - a very complex subject. It was so clearly, carefully and succinctly explained. It is hard to convey

the enjoyment and pleasure we all gained by his enthusiastic treatment of the subject - we will be inviting him back to give us the second part of his series of talks.

May

Sue Flipping gave us a broad ranging and in interesting talk titled The 'F' Word.

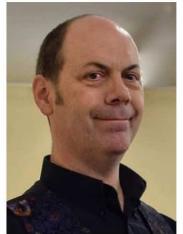
She outlined that funerals can be a truly uplifting occasion. She included a broad range of options coupled with information and advice. The talk had surprises, anecdotes, and more than a little humour.



Future Monthly Meetings

June

The Story of English Freedom, by Andy Thomas



From the rebellions of Boudicca against Roman invaders to Magna Carta, the Peasants' Revolt and the modern Poll Tax riots, from the revolutionary ideas put forward in Cromwellian times to influential movers and shakers such as Thomas Paine, the Suffragettes, and George Orwell, 'Freedom' has always been a key issue in English history. Andy shines a light on the most significant leaps of the centuries and sees how they still resonate today and why maintaining freedom matters as much as ever.

Andy Thomas is a leading researcher into "histories and mysteries" and author of many books, including 'The New Heretics', 'Christmas' and 'Conspiracies', as well as books on Sussex history and also unexplained phenomena. Andy widely writes and lectures and has made numerous radio and TV appearances.

In **September** we have John Pearson with "Blessed are the Cheesemakers", and for **October** Paul Tracy will tell us about "A pier for all seasons".

Future Events

The **Summer Outing to Portsmouth and the D-Day museum is on 19 July**. A few spaces are still available; contact Maureen Tory if you are interested.

Tickets are now on sale for the **Summer Barn Dance on 16 August** with the fabulous Banter Folk Band and caller. Contact Michael Humphery, for tickets.

Also on the cards is a visit to the **Newbury Races** in September, more details on the Website.



Reports

The Garden Group visited NGS Garden "Terstan" in Longstock, Stockbridge on 27 April. Owner Penny told us of how she and her late husband had developed it over 50 years to a 'garden for all seasons', with different areas of interest and profusely planted. Stunning tulips on display in pots,



swathes of delicate flowers in 'cottage garden' beds, pots in the greenhouse awaiting their turn outside, lots of seating areas, water features, showman's caravan and lush lawns. A real delight.



The garden is open again under the NGS scheme one Sunday each in June, July and September, should you wish to visit. Diana Churchill arranged this visit; Maureen took the pictures.



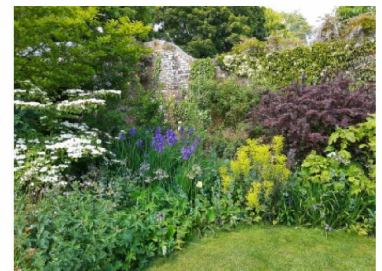
On 25 May, the Group re-visited NGS Garden "Bramdean House" near Alresford. We first visited in March, when we were treated to an excellent tour with their enthusiastic and knowledgeable gardener – but in torrential rain which really did put a dampener on our enjoyment! The garden was not yet established following the cold winter and spring,



but the May visit saw a transformation with fabulous wisteria and flourishing areas of beds and general greenery.



The garden opens again with NGS once in June and in September. Beryl Beckett arranged this visit; Diana took the pictures.



Our next visit – 22 June – will be to 1 Povey's Cottage in Baughurst. Maureen Tory is arranging this visit – and hopefully some pictures will follow!



Games Afternoon

We held the second of our Games Afternoons on the hot Bank Holiday Monday 29 May – despite this we had a much increased attendance. There seems to be growing support for this event and more are planned. Please keep an eye on the Website for the next date.

AGM

A good turnout on a bright but chilly morning for the Annual General Meeting at which new committee members, Diana Churchill and Madeleine Whitlam, were elected. Heartfelt thanks were given to outgoing members Maureen Tory and Lizzie Lewis for their steadfast service. A vote of thanks was also given to David Carter for his years of keeping our finances in order and unfortunately he also subsequently chose to leave the committee. All will be missed.

Your new committee is actively progressing the programme of events and meetings which we hope you will fully support and enjoy. I sound like a stuck record but additional assistance is always welcome from you, the members.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman: Bob Denny

Vice Chair: Margaret Aldgate

Secretary: Teresa Reynolds

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Diana Churchill

Groups Co-ordinator: Maddie Whitlam

Meetings Co-ordinator: Michael Humphery

Adrian Good: Publicity/Information / Sound

Website: Michael Humphery

General enquiries / contact committee members by email:

enquiries@overtonu3a.org.uk

**Don't forget you can always find information and details on our website:
<https://u3asites.org.uk/overton/home>**

