

# Romsey & District U3A



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



## Newsletter – August 2018

Web site: [romseyu3a.org.uk](http://romseyu3a.org.uk)

### Monthly Meeting Speakers

All meetings start at 10.30 am.

**19 September**     **Tony Davies**  
**The Iconic Vulcan Bomber**

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**17 October**        **Dr Andy Russel**  
**Excavating East Street, Southampton**

The excavation took place under the old East St. shopping centre, revealing medieval Southampton's poorest suburb. This talk will also cover the Black Death and Victorian slums.

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**21 November**     **Miriam Nicholls**  
**It's a Good Day for Flying a Kite**

Miriam has been working with birds of prey for 19 years and joined the Hawk Conservation Trust in 2011. The talk discusses the history and beginnings of the park to the current day.

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**19 December**     **John Pitman**  
**The Pantomime**

To quote John: "My talk is like a one-man pantomime!" He will trace the history, make-up and costumes of pantomime, some of which will be on display.

## Chairman's report

What a summer we have been experiencing! I suppose we are never happy with our weather but I am sure most of you have felt the prolonged heat too much. I just hope the gardens, particularly the grass, recover. I am sure the farmers are experiencing more problems than us.



Now that our renewal period is finished, the committee have met and decided that because our numbers have gone down we can accept new members to our U3A once again. This is really good news because we always need “new blood” with fresh ideas to keep our U3A flourishing. One good result of this closure is that a new U3A has been successfully formed in Romsey. The Romsey Archway U3A already has about 180 members and they have had to change their monthly meeting hall to the Crosfield Hall because of increasing numbers.

Your committee has met with all the Group Leaders in April and discussed many issues which have risen this year. Amongst them are the finance of each group, the General Data Protection Regulations, the U3A Insurance and the new Beacon Database. All of these topics have meant certain changes within each group. A big thank you goes to all the Group Leaders for the work they do in running their group and the way they have dealt with the issues arising from these changes.

It was good to see so many members attending our AGM in May. It is an important meeting to inform you of how the year has gone and the way the committee is keeping our U3A running smoothly.

However as a result of this meeting, we still have no Vice-Chairman and so we are short of one committee member. Have any of you thought of becoming a committee member? After all, it is your U3A so why not let this committee have the benefit of your views on matters that arise. We meet every other month to plan and make sure that all areas of our U3A are following the ideals and policies of the movement run by the Third Age Trust. We also receive feedback from each member of the committee who has a specific job title and responsibility.

The number of vacancies on our committee for next year is very worrying and we need your help. I, as chairman, have to resign because the constitution says that I can only be in the post for a maximum of 4 years. Also our Treasurer is resigning after being in her post for 4 years. We would dearly like to have 2 people shadowing these positions this year so that they can take over at our next AGM. Without these positions being filled our U3A will fold. Please think seriously about this and let me know if you can help; you will receive our full support.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and look forward to meeting some of you in our groups in the Autumn.

**Marion Fowler**

## **News from around the Groups**

### **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

The Digital Photography Group offers inspiration, and a challenge, to photographers of all abilities to develop their photographic skills. Each month we have a theme to photograph that allows a broad interpretation, to stretch your imagination and take photographs you may not normally consider. With the theme to guide you, and a bit of thought, you will surprise yourself with what you can achieve. Some recent themes have been History, Reflections and Your Neighbourhood.

We meet on the second Thursday morning of each month and, over a cup of coffee, show our efforts, without criticism, to other members of the group; we are a social group as well. These interpretation sessions provide inspiration to other members, and we all learn from each other, which is the ethos of the U3A movement.

If you would like to get more from your camera or mobile phone come and join us, we have a couple of places left. Just give me a call on 01794 513649 or 07491 407970 or send an email to [malcolm.heathcote@talktalk.net](mailto:malcolm.heathcote@talktalk.net).

Here are some photographs from members of the group to inspire you. If we can do it, so can you.

**Malcolm Heathcote**



## ARCHITECTURE & LOCAL HISTORY

Our year started with two talks, the first in January by **Nan Keightley** on the **History of Local History**. Starting with William of Worcester in the 13th century, the story moved through time to the development of a true academic discipline in the 20th century. As Nan pointed out, there is nothing that cannot be included in the subject, because even national and international events and decisions have effects at a local level. Whether it is tracing the history of a village, studying the background to an industry or business, studying migration, or even looking at how the promise to build Homes Fit For Heroes after the first World War created the council house, there is enough material out there to keep local historians busy for many centuries yet.



The second talk was given by **Paul Gardner**, local speaker in the arts and humanities. Paul gave us an entertaining and informative account of **Lord Palmerston (Henry John Temple the 3<sup>rd</sup> Viscount)** - the man, the statesman and lover of Broadlands. Palmerston, handsome and the subject of gossip for his many affairs, had a long political apprenticeship as a junior minister before becoming Foreign Secretary in his forties. He pursued with vigour what he considered to be British interests. Eventually heading his own administration in 1855, he was considered to be the first Liberal Prime Minister. He died 10 years later while in office and was buried in Westminster Abbey after a state funeral. Paul also described Broadlands which the group will be visiting in August.

Our first visit this year was to **Sandham Memorial Chapel** in Burghclere, Berkshire, a classical building of the 1920s designed to house the stark paintings of **Stanley Spencer**, depicting his experiences in the First World War in this country and on the Macedonian Front in Salonika. His resurrection panel is particularly powerful.





After lunch in Lambourn, we went on to **Ashdown House**, built on the Berkshire Downs by Lord Craven in the 17<sup>th</sup> century as a refuge from the London plague. It is Dutch in style with large windows, dormers, a balustrade and cupola. We climbed the hundred steps to the windswept balustrade where we were rewarded with a sweeping view over the downs. The family gave the house to the National Trust in 1956.

Our May trip took us to Dorset to follow in the footsteps of **Lawrence of Arabia**, visiting his cottage at **Clouds Hill**, and Moreton cemetery to see his grave and Moreton church where his funeral took place. We were also able to admire the window engravings by Laurence Whistler in the church. After lunch we had a conducted tour of **Wareham** taking in the Saxon church which holds an effigy of Lawrence and the museum which has a Lawrence exhibition.



June saw us at local **Houghton Lodge**, home of the **Busk** family since 1910. We were shown round by the owner, Daniel Busk, which gave an intimate feel to the visit. The property is Grade 2 listed, built around 1700, originally as a fishing lodge. It has beautiful grounds sweeping down to the River Test. The architecture is known as '**cottage omée**' which demands

principal rooms on the ground floor with French windows leading to a sheltered veranda. The internal decoration is impressive with beautifully carved wood much in evidence. It is clearly a much-loved family home. We even wheeled our way into the cavernous kitchen, an eclectic mixture of old and modern design and appliances.

Eight members went to **Exeter** by train for the group's first



overnight stay. Our main focus was the **Gothic cathedral** with the longest continuous medieval stone vault in the world. Another gem was its unique 14<sup>th</sup> century Minstrels' Gallery. We lingered not only to admire the architecture and take in the peaceful atmosphere but to escape the July heat. The next day we had a very spirited town guide to show us the town when we slowly realised the extent of its destruction by "revenge" bombing in the Second World War. Much of Exeter's architecture was lost for ever. The modern developments do not seem to do the town justice.



Some group members help with the organisation and give talks if they feel inclined but it is not a requisite for joining. Many thanks to those who have come forward. **Shirley Rogers**

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## **Wine Appreciation**

Since our last write up, the U3A Wine Group has enjoyed and experienced a food and wine pairing at a local B & B which had us tasting five different wines with a five course menu.

One of the surprises of the evening was a white Châteauneuf-du-Pape which was enjoyed by our 20 members who attended this evening.

Other recent meetings have included wines from Australia and other wines from around the world, and, very recently, Hampshire cheeses. All very enjoyable and informative.

Our coming months' programme includes an afternoon tea and fizz, a visit to a local vineyard, and tasting session.

**Derek Morley**

## SHORT DAY TRIPS

At the end of **May**, 43 members gathered on a coach for a trip to **Arundel**, mainly to view the amazing **Carpet of Flowers** in the centre aisle of the **Cathedral**, which was laid by the local parishioners to celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi. It was quite magnificent, as were the many other flower arrangements around the Cathedral. We then had a couple of hours to enjoy the rest of this quaint little town and, despite a weather forecast of heavy rain and storms, we only had a brief shower, which made our extra clothing superfluous. A good day, enjoyed by all.

**Midsummer Day**, and with perfect summer weather we had a **Tea Party at King John's House**. After a welcoming glass of Pimms, the Tea Room provided delicious scones and cakes, with endless pots of tea. The enjoyment was completed by a performance from the **Romsey Ukulele Group** who



played a rousing selection of well loved songs. It was a very pleasant way to spend a beautiful summer afternoon. We extend very special thanks to Mark and his team at King John's House for making this such a lovely event.

**Anne Scarborough**

On a very warm morning in **July** about 40 Short Day Trippers set off for **Breamore House** near **Fordingbridge**. On arrival we enjoyed a light lunch at the delightful tea rooms before visiting the Countryside Museum. This provided a fascinating insight into the days when a village was self-sufficient: a village schoolroom, shop, garage and bakery were inspected as well as a large number of farm implements dating from the early 20th century. Exclamations of 'We had one of those!' or 'Do you remember...' were heard.

Then it was back on the coach for the short trip up the drive to the house itself. Here two excellent guides gave us a potted history of the House, which is **Elizabethan** and has been lived in since the early 18th century by the **Hulse** family. We were able to see the drawing rooms, the servants' dining room, the kitchens (with a fine array of copper saucepans), and three Tudor bedrooms. Family portraits and photographs were much in evidence.

Back at the tea rooms there was a welcome cup of tea. Some of the party visited the little 11th century church, which is still in regular use. A pleasant ride home through the New Forest completed a very enjoyable day.

**Yvonne Goodridge**



## Members' contact details

Are your **Contact Details & Emergency Contact Details** correct?

In recent weeks, it has been discovered that the emergency contact details for some members were out of date. Either the name and/or address and telephone number for the contact (usually a relative or friend) was incorrect.

It is important that the Membership Team is informed of any changes so that they can keep your details up to date. If you have moved home, have a new phone number or your emergency contact details have changed in any way, please contact the Membership Secretary - preferably by email:

**[membership@romseyu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@romseyu3a.org.uk)**.

Thank you.

**The Membership Team**

## General Data Protection Regulation

As you are all aware, as from 27 May 2018 we now have a new regulation to protect our personal data. Your committee is very aware of this and have had a workshop with our group leaders to ensure that the personal information you give us is safe.

Our U3A have a privacy policy which you may read on our website.

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\* **Newsletter Comment** \*  
\* Please send **copy** for the **NOVEMBER** newsletter to: \*  
\* **Barbara Butcher : 01794 367539** \*  
\* **barbarabutcher.1@btinternet.com** \*  
\* **The deadline is Friday 26 October 2018** \*  
\* **but please send any copy as soon as you have it!** \*  
\* **Newsletter Team** \*  
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## Interest Groups News

1. Unfortunately the **Tenpin Bowling** group has folded due to lack of regular attendance by sufficient numbers. Many thanks to **Bob Wren** for setting up this group and for running it for the past two years. His hard work and enthusiasm are most appreciated.
2. The group leader for **Table Tennis Intermediate** has changed from **Simon Spurrier** to **Roger Farmery**. We would like to thank Simon very much for all the hard work he has put in in running this group for several years and wish Roger good luck in his new role.
3. The group leader for **Italian Improvers** has changed from **David Llewellyn** to **Marjorie Blundell**. Many thanks to David for running this group so successfully in recent years and to Marjorie for taking on this new role.
4. We will be launching some more new groups in the next couple of months, so watch this space - all suggestions welcome. One of these is likely to be "**Strollers**": a walking group for shorter distances than the existing walking group, perhaps with the use of a bus pass involved (ie use the bus pass to a particular destination, do a short stroll and catch the bus back). We will probably wait until September's meeting to start signing people up, as many members are now on holiday.
5. Please be aware that the U3A are **not** permitted to pay for teachers of any groups, so for any suggestions you have, you should bear this in mind. This particularly applies to groups like keep-fit, yoga etc. where a qualified person would be necessary to run the group.
6. Two new groups are in the process of being established: **Cinema** and **German Conversation**. If you would like to join either group, please contact either Jo or Margaret as below or sign up after the monthly meeting at the groups desk in the annex.
7. The proposed new group of **Play Reading** has not attracted enough people so will not go ahead at the present time.

### Interest Group Coordination Team

**Jo Morgan : 01794 514134**

**Margaret Marchbank : [margaretmarchbank@btinternet.com](mailto:margaretmarchbank@btinternet.com)**

## News from around the Groups continued

### ART APPRECIATION

#### A whirlwind guide to some of Bath's attractions - May visit

Just over an hour by train from Romsey station, **Bath** is a small spa city brimming with historic attractions, wonderful architecture and museums galore to explore and meander through.

The **Holburne Museum** exhibits a permanent selection of artefacts - some exquisite silver and porcelain amongst other intriguing treasures - all collected by Sir William Holburne (1793-1894) on his travels. The Victoria Art Gallery has varied exhibitions throughout the year and also displays stunning works of art by Gainsborough, Turner and the Moderns.

Not to be missed are the magnificent stained glass windows in **Bath Abbey**. The Abbey also has the finest fan vaulted ceilings in the world which are quite breath-taking. A place for worship for more than 1,200 years, the Abbey holds regular services for everyone throughout the week.

A step away from the Abbey are the famous **Roman Baths**, built by the Romans around Britain's only hot spring. The complex included a magnificent temple to Sulis Minerva – the remains of which can be seen today - and an underfloor heating system. To take you back in time and hear about a Roman way of life, audio guides are available.

A short walk from the town centre are some splendid **Georgian town houses** built for wealthy aristocrats. **No 1 The Crescent** has been re-created in true 18<sup>th</sup> century style, with ten furnished rooms to view, giving a first class insight as to how affluent society lived 250 years ago.

**Regency Bath** is depicted at the **Jane Austen Centre**. Jane spent some time in Bath and the experience of living in the city is clearly portrayed in some passages in her novels. For followers of Jane Austen a festival is held in Bath every year.

Tranquil **Sydney Gardens** laid out in 1795 was once the place to be seen, boasting a stunning replica of the Temple of Minerva and ornate iron bridges built over the **Kennet and Avon canal**. An ideal place to relax and enjoy the peaceful garden setting and perhaps plan another visit to the absorbing City of Bath?

# Creative Writing

## It's a Small World – a short story

Everyone in the social circles in which I moved knew I was a widow. Every man in those circles also felt me to be attractive, knew I was very wealthy, the right side of thirty-five and without children. Most of those men were wealthy themselves, either side of fifty and looking for a mistress.

Before he became ill, my husband Marcus had explained to me in a Kensington bistro that he felt very proud to be sitting with me, knowing full well that other, much younger and more handsome men in their early twenties were looking at me - in certain knowledge that I was the kind of woman they wanted ten years from now, but was out of reach for them; a woman only to fantasise over, out of their class.

'It's the way you were brought up. It's in the breeding you see,' Marcus had informed me.

When he was dying, he explained that he'd like me to marry again someday. Not too distant - and have children - if the right man came along. He'd die happier if I would promise him that.

The trouble was the right man hadn't bloody well come along and three years after he died, I really felt I wanted to pick up my life again. Oh yes, I **seemed** my usual happy and abandoned self. I went to plenty of parties, do's and functions, friends' weddings and long weekends in the country, skiing in the New Year. I even went back to working for a publisher. But inside myself I was lonely and unfulfilled. I wanted to love and be loved again - and I wanted children before it was too late.

The men who did come along, and there was no shortage of them, needed an ego trip with me. Politicians and publishers, stockbrokers and financiers – they all needed to score with me and relate the experience over their fifth double brandy at the club. I was brought up to deal with that sort of man; it was in the breeding you see.

When he did appear, I knew it at once. I'd not seen him before: he wasn't a friend of a friend, or in publishing; he didn't row apparently, or own racehorses. I made discreet enquiries but nobody knew who he was. I drew a blank. In his late thirties I thought, and he looked a quiet man in every way but there was strength in the blue eyes. His clothes were also quiet but comfortable, his manner and bearing suggesting a man at ease with himself, not needing to make an impression but somehow a little shy and courteous of the feelings of others. He stood in

the background with a small group of guests.

I caught his glance at me as he made a casual pleasantry and then he looked again and couldn't take his eyes off me. He was discreet about it. No glaring but he seemed to have eyes for no-one else. He didn't make a move, so I sidled round to where he was standing and placed myself within reach. Nothing; no reaction. I moved away, he didn't follow.

I checked for a wife or mistress. Maybe he was spoken for but I had to know. I couldn't introduce **myself**, it wasn't my way. Most modern women saw what they wanted and grabbed it. I could never do that; that had not been my training.

Maybe I reminded him of somebody he knew. Maybe he didn't fancy me at all. Maybe he was gay. I didn't actually want a relationship anyway. I could manage quite well on my own. Who the hell was this stranger? How dare he upset me like this? Why didn't he push off? I felt a little tear at the corner of my eye ... damn!

I looked up and he was gone. "Thank God," I said aloud. Turning to leave the room I bumped into someone. "Sorry," I said. It was him...

There was a long silence. Then he spoke. "Look, I won't introduce myself because we may never meet again and there'll be no harm done, but I just have to say that I think you're the most beautiful woman I have ever seen and I'm about to fall in love with you." He paused. "So please put me out of my misery quickly if you have to and we'll say no more about it."

I looked at him and his face became a blur as **both** my eyes started to fill with tears.

He looked concerned. "I'm so sorry if I've upset you. I couldn't pluck up the courage to speak to you but, well, it's just that I could never live with myself if I didn't say it. Please forgive me." He turned to leave.

"No, please, don't go." I took hold of his arm. "I'm not tearful because of you. Well, yes, I am really. You see, I saw you across the group and I saw you look at me and well, I was upset when you seemed to ignore me. I didn't want you to ignore me." I felt myself blushing but didn't care. I went on, "Sometimes there's a moment, just once or twice a lifetime when it seems right. Many people don't have such a moment, ever. It's just that I thought this might be ...."

He interrupted, "Listen," he said gently, putting his hand on mine. "I honestly felt I had no chance with you. I've been watching you. You seem to be so confident, so well connected, so sophisticated – all the

things I'm not. So I decided not to set myself up for a fall but I felt so strongly for you. I just had to tell you before you were gone for good, and I meant every word, and I'm glad I said it. But you see I felt there was a huge hurdle between us; it's in the breeding you see."

I gave a little shriek. It was shrill enough to stop the conversation of every group around us and turn heads towards me. There was an embarrassing silence. I flung my arms around the man whose name I didn't even know and shouted as loud as I could, "Sod my bloody breeding. I love you, you idiot."

There was a well-meaning but rather embarrassing round of applause from the other assembled guests, and as I recovered from my outburst, I suggested that as I'd committed myself to him in front of witnesses, I ought to at least know his name.

He smiled. "Fair enough," he said, "I'll tell you mine if you'll tell me yours. Mine's Marcus, what's yours?"

**A Creative Writing group member**

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## **TRAVEL – Capital Cities of Scandinavia**

Early on a Sunday morning towards the end of May, eight travellers met at Romsey Bus Station, where our very comfortable taxi was waiting to whisk us up to London for the start of our adventurous **Rail Journey across Scandinavia**. On our arrival at **St Pancras** it was time for breakfast; next the dreaded passports and border control, but our very thoughtful leader had arranged special Assistance so we were soon through, with only one person (no name mentioned) setting off all the alarms. The lady on security was not amused at the reason given by the offender.

The **Eurostar** brought us to our first stop in **Brussels**, arriving right on time. A 2-hour wait for the connection was spent finding a snack bar where we had a very refreshing drink and wandering round the square. The train to **Cologne** was on time, both leaving and arriving. We were lucky to find a taxi that took us all to the Hotel Coellner Hof where the rooms were fine, but as it was Sunday, the restaurant was closed. After a







quick wash and brush up, a short walk found a precinct with restaurant tables outside, where we enjoyed Weiner Schnitzel and a beer.

Next morning we had a leisurely start, being close enough to the station to walk back through the precinct and under the old walls, admiring the architecture and various shop windows. We had time for a quick look at **Cologne Cathedral** that took 500 years to build and is reputed to be the resting place of the Three Wise Men.



We boarded the train for the next stage of our journey and were lucky to find eight seats in a rather warm carriage, as there were no reservations on this train. It was an ICE (Inter City Express); very fast but it still took four hours to reach **Hamburg**. Here we had a 30-minute stop over before carrying on to **Denmark** across the landscape of the **North European Plain**, which was very flat and mainly agricultural with many wind turbines. Sad to say that this train did not come up to our expectations as the air conditioning had broken, and there was no buffet car or trolley service. This was to be a 6-hour journey and we had few supplies; luckily the guard was excellent supplying everyone with bottles of water throughout the journey.



We arrived in **Copenhagen**, physically and mentally exhausted, only to find no taxis available so we walked to the Tivoli Hotel. It took about 25 minutes, with the weather getting warmer, only to find on arrival that our reservations could not be found! We were upgraded to executive rooms: very posh. After an excellent meal in the Brasserie before it closed, we retired for a well-deserved sleep.

Tuesday saw us up early and by 9.30 we were on an open-topped 'Hop-on Hop-Off' bus for a city tour. We stayed on again to reach the stop for the waterways boat tour of the Canals, so seeing the



city by land and water. After lunch we split up: some visited the **Thorvelt Sculpture Museum**; some walked in the city; others strolled along the busy attractive water front with its shops and stalls and saw the beautiful **Royal Yacht** that was taking the Crown

Prince of Denmark and many friends on a tour around the bay, to celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Surprisingly there were no armed police or security people even though the Prince and friends were within hand-shaking distance. The **Little Mermaid** was also visited. We returned to the hotel exhausted but very pleased with all we had seen.



Wednesday: this time we are off to **Gothenburg** via the **Oresund Bridge** which connects **Denmark** with **Sweden**. This is a must-see bridge: 5 miles of road and rail, one above the other; 2.5 miles of tunnel and crossed in a matter of minutes. The whole journey took three and a half hours. Luckily there were taxis available at the station, but at the hotel some rooms had to be changed. We found a cafe for a late lunch then, avoiding the trams, most walked down to the river, passing the **Opera House**. A four-masted vessel called the Barken Viking is now a restaurant and conference centre - which the sailing people



amongst us thought a waste of a good ship. It was a hot, sunny afternoon strolling through the **Maritime area**, returning by the old town. We welcomed a drink before dinner in the hotel's rooftop bar because for once we had plenty of time - no rushing – and then sat outside for a relaxing dinner.



Thursday's train was not until 13.00 so after an early breakfast, we again split up. Some visited the old wooden buildings and cobbled streets of **Haga**, before climbing up some 200 steps to the C17<sup>th</sup> fortification of **Skansen Kronan** for superb views of the city. Others went back to the river to walk the whole length

of the waterfront. After the problem on the way to Copenhagen we made sure we were had plenty of snacks and water for our next train; we picked up our luggage from the hotel and taxied to the station.

This was to be our penultimate train ride to **Oslo, Norway** again by ICE. Our seat bookings were in a 'quiet' carriage (silent!), and after four hours the guard suggested that there was plenty of room in the rest of the train if we wished to chat. (At least we are allowed to chat in our quiet carriages, but we got the message and promptly shut up whenever she appeared.) This part of the journey was wonderful with beautiful scenery - still very green even though the weather was getting warmer every day. Once again another good hotel and a good night's sleep.



Friday was one of the days we had all come to Scandinavia for. After a very hearty breakfast we took a taxi to the **Viking Ship Museum**. The largest of three C9<sup>th</sup> Viking ships was discovered by a farmer in 1903 when he dug into a burial mound; it took 21 years to prepare and restore. They found two wealthy women's bodies: one in her 70's who had died of cancer and a younger in her 50's thought to have been sacrificed to accompany the other. There were plenty of amazing grave goods, including a cart made of oak for the frame and ash for the two shafts, probably from around 800 AD.



We then took a bus to the **Kon-Tiki** and **Fram Museums**. In 1947, the explorer **Thor Heyerdahl** sailed with five men, in a balsawood raft named **Kon-Tiki**, across the Pacific Ocean from Peru to the Polynesian Islands. In 1970, he built and sailed a reed boat



named **Ra II** from North Africa to the Caribbean.



Across the road is the **Fram Museum**, shaped in an 'A' to take the mast height and length of the polar expedition vessel **Fram**, the strongest wooden ship ever built that has sailed the farthest north *and* the farthest south. It is a very hands-on exhibition where you are able to visit inside as well as on deck, with a vast number of exhibits from full-size polar bears to little penguins.

All three museums are on the **Bygdøy Peninsular**, near to the Royal Family's summer residence - though we didn't see anyone – and are well worth the visit if you are ever in Oslo. By now we were 'museumed-out' so caught the ferry back to the Town Hall, where half the party walked back to the hotel and the rest bussed.

Whilst sitting in a bar recovering, one male member was tasked with checking out a couple of restaurants. He was gone for quite a while but eventually returned with a menu from a **Japanese** restaurant – what else would you eat in Norway! It was a delicious meal and very filling.

After a very good night's sleep followed by a substantial breakfast, we left our packed bags with reception and went for our last walks: round the old walls of **Akershus Fortress**; by the **Norwegian**



**Parliament**; to the **Royal Palace** to see the changing of the guards and walk through its vast gardens; and to visit the **Ibsen Museum**. This proved to be a good end



to our visit to Oslo.

Our final train ride was cross-country through pine forests and across lakes and rivers; five hours later we were back in **Sweden** again, in our hotel in **Stockholm** where a drink then bed for the night was all we needed.

On Sunday morning our aim was to catch the 'Hop-on Hop-off' bus but we were thwarted by road works and it was an hour later when we reached the **Vasa Museum**, where the actual C17<sup>th</sup> warship **Vasa** was on display (Sweden's counterpart to our Mary Rose). On 10<sup>th</sup> August 1628, after great ceremony, the ship left its moorings on its maiden voyage. Minutes later a gust of wind pushed the ship so far over that the open gun ports filled with water – and it sank! She went straight down and was buried in mud which preserved her. The wreck, re-discovered in the 1950's, has been expertly restored to its former glory; covered in beautifully carved sculptures from Greek and Roman Mythology and the Old Testament. It would have been very colourfully painted in reds, blues, greens and yellows. Obviously not a ship that would be impossible to miss - but dangerously unstable and top-heavy. It is an amazing display on four levels.



The 'Hop-on' boat took us around the harbour to see various islands and attractions before we bussed back to the hotel, unfortunately missing our stop again because of the roadworks. We found a restaurant a short walk away that served our last but very enjoyable meal.



Monday morning saw us packing for the last time this trip; then taxi and the Arlanda Express train to the airport. Back at Heathrow the Assistance staff treated us like royalty and we whizzed round the airport, through passport and baggage reclaim, to our taxi that was waiting for us; by 17.00 we were back in Romsey. Not bad for a bank-holiday Monday.

We had a wonderful holiday with beautiful scenery, comfortable beds, good food and great company. Thank you Jane for all your hard work in organising such an exciting break.

**From seven very grateful travellers**



# Romsey and District

## Committee Members 2018-19

Chairman	Marion Fowler
Secretary	Janet Moody
Treasurer	Janet Payne
Membership Secretary	Brenda Sennett
Programme Secretary	Ann Jackson
Interest Groups Co-ordinator	Jo Morgan
Committee Member	Liz Holloway
Committee Member	Michael Koscian
Committee Member	Elaine Rockell
Committee Member	Jean Stone
Committee Member	Chris Webster (Mrs)

## Other Appointments

Webmaster	David Thwaites
Newsletter Team	Glenda Taylor