

Romsey & District U3A



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



Newsletter – February 2019

Web site: romseyu3a.org.uk

Monthly Meeting Speakers

All meetings start at 10.30 am.

20 March **Richard Jordan-Baker**
Managing a Large Country Estate

17 April **Ian Caskie**
S.S. Great Britain

From the launch of the world's first transatlantic liner in 1843 to her incredible salvage and re-launch in the 1970's, an illustrated talk which tells a remarkable story.

15 May **Annual General Meeting**
followed by
Countess Mountbatten Hospice

About the wide range of services and support for adults facing life limiting illnesses, their families and carers, respecting and encouraging individuality, dignity and self-esteem.

19 June **Graham Bryant**
Debunking the Apollo Hoax

On the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing, an examination of the hoaxers' claims and the facts.

Chairman's report

I hope that those of you who attended our December monthly meeting enjoyed the humorous talk entitled "Pantomime" by John Pitman and the seasonal refreshments afterwards. A big thank you must go to Jo Morgan and Glenda Taylor and their team for preparing such a wonderful spread. Another thank you goes to Lois Dare and Margaret Eades who every month provide us with refreshments after our monthly meetings with the help of their team.



This edition of our newsletter is preparing us for our AGM in May and includes the minutes of our last AGM in 2018. Once again we are looking for **new committee members**. We would welcome new faces to our team and encourage our new members to come and join the committee. If you are interested, you would be most welcome to come and sit in at one of our committee meetings. If you wish to do this then please contact me on 01794 518469.

On 1 April, it is time for everybody to renew their membership. We ask that you **complete the renewal form** and return it with your £10 fee to our membership secretary as soon as possible. Those of you who have this newsletter by **email** will have the **2 page form** as an **attachment**. If you have no printer, then ask the membership secretary for a form. If you have a **printed** copy of this newsletter, then a renewal form will be **enclosed** with it. The membership of those who have not renewed by the end of May will be deemed to have lapsed and it will be assumed that they no longer wish to be members.

Once again this year, our **Programme Card** will include your **Membership Card** and will be **posted** to you on renewal. It is printed so that you can cut out the Membership Card if you wish to keep it separately.

Your committee have organised quite a few extra meetings in the next few months. They are all advertised here in the newsletter and I hope you will be able to join us for some of them.

Our Interest Group Coordinators have been very busy setting up new interest groups. If you have any new ideas for groups then please contact them. Remember it is your U3A, so have a look at the centre pages and see if there is anything which interests you. If a group is full, it is always our aim to start another group.

Marion Fowler

LAST FEW TICKETS REMAINING!

Interest Day

Saturday 23 March 10.30 - 3.30, Crosfield Hall

'Why Britain Looks As It Does'

with Andrew Davies

£25 including lunch

Phone: **Marion Fowler : 01794 518469**

News from around the Groups

Architecture & Local History — Aug to Dec 2018

The latter part of our 2018 programme saw our group at **Broadlands** in August – a follow-up to Paul Gardner's talk about **Lord Palmerston** (the one in the Market Place!), one-time owner of the country house. Indirect succession brought ownership to the **Mountbatten**



family about which our guide was as informative as he was about the house itself. Broadlands was given a major architectural makeover in the late C18th by **Capability Brown** and later by his son-in-law Henry Holland resulting in the Palladian-style mansion of today. Although elegant, the rooms had a domestic feel as did the various collections that reflected the family history. The assassination of Lord Mountbatten in 1979 devastated the family and tragedy stalks its members to this day. With its royal

connections, Broadlands still fascinates. We look forward to a talk later in the year about Broadlands and its connections with **Romsey Abbey**.

In early September we enjoyed a guided fascinating walk round the centre of **Salisbury** when we learnt that it was built as a planned city with the central parts based on a grid pattern, known locally as Chequers, with timber-framed buildings built on the wealth of the wool and cloth industries. Behind today's apparent Georgian facades of some of the buildings we saw the original timber infrastructure. We visited the C18th **Guildhall** with its Banqueting Hall, Grand Jury Room and Oak Court (until 2010 the Magistrates Court) and, from the portraits, learnt about the many prominent citizens over the centuries before proceeding to the C15th **St. Thomas's Church** to see the Doom Painting and the roof decorated with nearly 100 carved angels. Our last stop was the C15th **Hall** of a rich wool merchant **John Halle**, hidden behind the Odeon Cinema.



October took us to hidden gems in Test Valley: three churches no longer used for regular worship and now in the care of the **National Churches Trust**. Liz Hallett was our capable guide. **St Mary's, Ashley** dates back to the C12th and stands adjacent to Gains Castle, a tell-tale ditch revealing its one-time powerful presence. On to **All Saints, Little Somborne** with its Saxon origins, later superimposed by Norman alterations. Liz pointed out the foundations of an "anchorage" or locked cell attached to a church where a person who has withdrawn from secular life follows a monastic routine, relying on the congregation for food and other bodily requirements! **Sir Thomas Sopwith**, the pioneer aviator is buried in the churchyard alongside his wife. After a welcome lunch at The Crown Inn, Kings Somborne, our last stop was the C12th church of **St John the Baptist, Upper Eldon**, the prettiest setting of the three, being in the garden of Eldon House. The church was rescued after its ignominious use as a cowshed in the C19th!





The year's visits culminated in a 24-strong group trip to **Kelmscott Manor**, the Cotswolds summer retreat of the renowned Arts and Crafts founder **William Morris**. Morris delighted in the "organic" nature of the C16th

limestone-built farmhouse which gave him inspiration for some of his designs. The interior abounds with his works and possessions as well as those of such friends and associates as **Edward Burne-Jones**, **Rossetti** and **Webb**: furniture, textiles, paintings, ceramics, carpets and metalwork. It was almost sensory overload. After a hearty lunch at Lechlade Riverside Inn, we departed for the long journey home.

November 5th was rather appropriate for Stephen Ings' talk on **Fritham Gunpowder Factory**. The site became available after the order for deer clearance in 1851. A German in Potsdam developed a smokeless gunpowder and the idea was taken up in this country. The process was extremely hazardous so where better than a hidden site in the New Forest to set up a factory? It also needed great quantities of water; eventually permission was given to dam the river to create **Eyeworth pond**. **Fritham** experienced a mini population explosion when the factory was in full swing. The powder was more suited to sporting guns and by 1895 the company had over 100 employees. Despite the dangerous work, there was no shortage of workers; wages were £1 a week, far more than the 12 shillings paid to agricultural labourers. The factory declined during the first world war and the company merged with others eventually becoming ICI (Imperial Chemical Industries). There is little to be seen of the once thriving factory but Eyeworth pond is now popular with visitors and walkers.



December is the month for planning the coming year. Group members put forward suggestions and are generous with their time in organising trips and looking after refreshments.

Shirley Rogers
Group Coordinator

Travel Group - New Year holiday in Mold

Sunday 30 December saw 9 happy travellers setting off on a Lucketts coach holiday to **MOLD** in North Wales to see in the new year in **STYLE!** Intrepidly driven by serving Marine bandsman Neil (on his holidays!) the coach rattled north on a scenic route with a lunch stop at Bourton-on-the-Water. Tea and barra brith together with quizzes awaited us on our arrival at the very pleasant hotel. The hotel staff were kind and helpful, and the vegetarian food was excellent, with silver service by the charming young staff.

In the evening we were serenaded by a local Male Voice Choir, ably assisted by **Ron Maidment** (*YES HE CAN* sing in Welsh thanks to many years in the Romsey Male Voice Choir). Next day: a trip to **Llandudno** with a bracing walk along the delightful promenade with lovely views of Great Orme head, a walk out on the amazing pier and trips to the convenient shops, then a short visit to the town of **MOLD** itself.

Home late afternoon to prepare for the main event! With Ladies in their sparkling glad rags, and Ron looking dapper in his DJ, the evening started with a glass of bubbles in Room 106, then



another glass on arrival at the dining room — and repeat! (I stopped counting after 3). A funny lady entertainer had us all singing, laughing and dancing. She was replaced by a dour DJ but undeterred, we danced and laughed the evening away and were all on the dance floor for “YMCA”, party poppers, the countdown and Auld Lang Syne. Can’t remember much after that!

A delicious leisurely brunch the following morning was supposed to be followed by a quiet day, but Neil wrangled the willing troops together and took us for a wonderful musical scenic drive through **Snowdonia** finishing in **Betws-y-Coed** for cuppa and cake! Wednesday: cases out by 07.30 am and we were soon on our way home, via a lovely drive through some magnificent scenery and a visit to the **National Memorial Arboretum**, near Lichfield.

Happy New Year everyone!

Janet Moody

Wine Appreciation

A second successful year has been held by the members of the Romsey U3A Wine Group. The year has seen the group maintain its membership of 25, with a few changing faces. We always seem to have a few people waiting to join us.

We have agreed dates and themes for the coming year's schedule, which can be seen on the U3A Website.

This year we have certainly widened our knowledge of, and interest in, wines from around the world, with many we would not normally have bought and tried.

Some memories of the year have been:

Food and wine pairing at a local venue with six different wines; this was a blind tasting, which caused a lot of laughs.

A talk and tasting from a local vineyard owner, followed by an invitation to visit his vineyard for more tasting.

Our afternoon tea/garden party with sparkling wine.

. . . and I mustn't forget the tasting of the Albanian wine that Pearl brought back from one of her many trips.

A big thank you must go to all members for their support and involvement, making my role of co-ordinator fun and joyful.

Derek Morley

* **Newsletter Comment** *
* Please send **copy** for the **MAY** newsletter to: *
* **Barbara Butcher : 01794 367539** *
* **barbarabutcher.1@btinternet.com** *
* **The deadline is Friday 26 April 2019** *
* **but please send any copy as soon as you have it!** *
* **Newsletter Team** *

Short Day Trips

It was a lovely sunny day in November when we travelled to **Poole** for a guided tour of the **RNLI College**. It has the largest training facilities in the country and welcomes candidates from far and wide to gain experience. There we learnt how crews are trained to deal with the varying and sometimes extremely dangerous conditions that can occur at sea. The main training operation transferred to Poole in the early 1900s, and many additional buildings have been added to enable the organisation to grow to what it is today.

We were divided into three groups and were shown the various areas of the college. We visited the tank where training is given on survival in the sea and instruction in handling the various lifeboats. An example of every lifeboat at present in service is available for use in training. We saw a selection of life-jackets, from the very early ones made of cork to the modern hi-tech equipment.

A highlight of the tour was a visit to the simulator room, where some lucky members were put in charge of a rescue mission. This simulated saving people overboard from a burning cargo ship off Dover port, with increasingly bad weather setting in. Fortunately, all ended well. All together a very interesting tour given by three interesting and enthusiastic guides.

Following our tour and a quick snack in the restaurant, we re-joined the bus for the short trip into Poole town centre where we spent a couple of hours before returning to Romsey. **Anne Scarborough**

BIRTHDAY PARTY

Romsey & District U3A 20th Anniversary

Join us on **Sunday 12 May, 3.00 - 5.00** at the **Crosfield Hall**
for a celebratory **Afternoon Tea**.



Tickets @ £5.00

on sale at the 20 March main meeting

(limited ticket numbers : doors open at 2.30)



If you have any photographs for the rolling screen, please contact
Glenda Taylor : glendat.co@gmail.com

WILL YOUR WISHES BE MET?

Wills, Powers of Attorney and Trusts

An informative talk by Bespoke Legal Services will take place at the **Crosfield Hall** on **Friday, 29 March 10.30 a.m. — 1.00 p.m.**
(doors open 10.00 a.m.)

Many reading this will be thinking 'been there, done that'. Good, but are you up to date with any changes? A fictitious family is used to present various scenarios and at the conclusion of the session every one attending will be given a wallet of information. Any solicitor can act for you, there is no obligation to use Bespoke Legal Services.

A few committee members attended one of these talks recently to judge if it could be of benefit to the U3A membership. We had some surprises: for example, changes in regulations mean that a power of attorney set up 10 years ago only applies to financial matters. In order for family or friends to have any say on where you might be sent (should you need residential care) they must have Power of Attorney for Health & Welfare. Otherwise they **may not even be allowed in the room** when the discussion takes place.

Individual questions cannot be taken during the session though you may be able to talk to a presenter afterwards.

This is a **booked** session.

To **reserve your place** please email

Chris Webster at wills@romseyu3a.org.uk

or if no email, phone **01725 513208**.



A Trick of the Light - A short story

When Dad died, I remember the terrible numbness and disbelief. He wasn't old enough. It wasn't his time.

I followed the coffin into church, hearing the hush, feeling the pain behind the sallow drawn faces of the mourners sat in rows with their heads bowed.

Sunlight streamed through the stained-glass window above the pulpit, highlighting the dancing dust motes and reflecting off the silver chalice filled with white lilies. It was so bright, so pretty, so inappropriate. Why wasn't it raining?

When the coffin was lowered into the ground, I saw Mum's whole body sag. My brother Tim reached out and held her, their faces grey, sunlight glinting on their tears.

Jane looked so thin and pale, I thought she hadn't eaten since Dad died. I worried for my sister. Her eyes were glazed and unseeing, she looked right through me.

The vicar's voice was clear and unfaltering. 'Ashes to ashes' I thought about what Dad had once said to me about where my unusual name had come from. 'When your Mum was expecting you, she regularly made a whole baking tray of sage and onion stuffing and quietly munched her way through the whole lot. We could hardly call you onion, so Sage you were called, little wise one'. He had chuckled then, his handsome face full of love. Oh, how I missed him.

I was standing opposite my brother as some of the friends and relatives behind began to drift away to attend the wake. I could hear what he was saying to Mum. 'It's a bit like having the funeral all over again too. That's what makes it so damn hard'. I know who he was talking about. I'd found it hard too. A couple of years ago now. So very difficult. But a lot had happened since then. Not all of it had been hard, there had been some very enlightening times. But the worst thing was not being able to communicate. If only I could really *talk* to people.

It was then a familiar hand took mine, a hand I had held hundreds of times. We walked up towards the church, passing the headstone of the grave next to Dad's. It was bedecked with yellow and purple flowers, glorious in the sunshine, my two favourite colours. Dad's hand squeezed mine as we read the engraved words. 'Sage Alison Johnson. 3.12.1992 to 15.1.2011. Beloved daughter, now an angel in heaven'.

I heard my brother talk to Mum again. 'You know. I could swear I just saw Sage walking hand in hand with Dad towards the church'. Mum looked at him kindly, squinting against the sun. 'Just a trick of the light, son,' she said.

Sarah Davis

What to do if you have an issue with your Tablet or Computer ?



Call Mike - Free of Charge
Group Coordinator U3A Technology Group

NEXT STEP SUPPORT

Supporting U3A Technology Group

Windows / Apple / Tablet / Computer support for all U3A members

I will talk you through the best way of resolving your tablet or computer problem and what is your next step

Mike G (Focus Technology)

mobile: 07734 311822 [please don't phone at un-social times].

email : s2kmike1@gmail.com

Interest Groups News

- 1. Welcome Meeting:** We would like to thank all the group coordinators or their representatives who attended this meeting on Wednesday 16 January to sign up new members. The session seemed to generate a lot of interest and some new groups have emerged from it.
- 2.** There are two exciting new groups: **Horticulture** and **Introduction to Computers** (non-Apple only). If you wish to join either group, please contact Jo or Margaret.
- 3. Short Mat Bowls:** available on Wednesday evenings in the Village Hall in West Wellow 7.15 to 9.30 pm. Contact Jo or Margaret for more details.
- 4. Spanish Intermediate** has now officially folded. We would like to thank Janet Scott, who ran the group successfully for several years, for all her hard work.
- 5. Strollers:** 60 members have joined this new group, which has now undertaken 4 walks. Anyone who is prepared to organise a short walk is very welcome to join the group.
- 6. Painting 1 :** the coordinator is now Janet Moody. We would like to thank Christine Jannaway very much for running the group for the last 8 years.

As always, if you have any suggestions for new groups, please see Jo or Margaret in the annex or contact them as below.

Interest Group Coordination Team

Jo Morgan : 01794 514134

Margaret Marchbank : margaretmarchbank@btinternet.com

News from around the Groups continued

Genealogy Group Library - Search for Missing Items

You may have heard recently that the Genealogy Group is sorting and rationalising the materials it holds in its library. The exercise has identified that a number of books and CDs are missing and we are trying to trace them.

If you have ever belonged to the Genealogy Group and have borrowed Books or CDs could you please assist by checking whether you still have that book, perhaps tucked away with your own researching resources?

If you do find one of the following items please contact Sue Edwards seedwards@ntlworld.com in confidence to arrange its return.

Books	
B 09	Making Contact with Relatives
B 11	Internet Genealogy
B12	Guildhall Library Sources
B 15	Merchant Seamen
B 21	Windows for Dummies
B 24	WW1 Army Ancestry
B 25	Your Surname Guide
B 26	Changing Your Name
B 27	UK Electoral Registers
B 28	No Time for History
B 30	A-Z of Genealogical Websites
B 31	Short Cuts in Family History
B 34	Uttlesford (Essex)
B 39	How to Research Your Family History
B 45	Dorset Archives

CDs	
CD 01	Surnames 1881
CD 04	Street and Trade Directories
CD 06	Practical Family History May 05
CD 07	Family Tree Maker – Scottish Parishes
CD 08	Genealogy Gateway
CD 09	Village Labourer
CD 14	Welsh Ancestors
CD 15	E Yorkshire Directory
CD 18	Who Do You Think You Are (2discs)
CD 21	West Country
CD 22	FT London
CD 25	1871 Stoke-on-Trent
CD 29	1871 Chester
CD 30	1851 Newbury Berkshire
CD 31	1901 Census Leominster
CD 32	1901 Census Bridgnorth Shropshire
CD 42	Cotton Workers

Sue Edwards

Photos in the Park

A short workshop on **Digital photography for beginners.**

When: Monday 1 April at 10.00 am

Where: Meet at the War Horse in the Romsey Memorial park,
only if the weather is fine.

To register: Contact **Mike Driscoll** for further details.

Tel: **02380 292178** Email: **mb_driscoll@hotmail.com**

Social and General History

Three Early English Queens - Politicians and Peacemakers

In July 2018, we enjoyed a thought-provoking, well-illustrated talk by Cecily Tilley, which stimulated a good deal of discussion. It was about three remarkable women who ruled England before the Norman Conquest: **Ethelfled**, **Elfrida** and **Emma of Normandy**.

In the first millennium A.D., England was a rural land with scattered villages and small walled towns: population about two million; life expectation around 40 years. Peacetime life was dictated by farming, the church and soundscape. By the year 1000, bears and wolves were either extinct or rare.

Anglo Saxons, **Danes** and **Vikings** struggled for control but trade and learning flourished and England's prosperity was unmatched in Northern Europe. The climate was warmer; vines were common. Large quantities of high-grade wool and woollen goods were exported; imported goods included purple cloth, gold, jewels, spices, oil, ivory and bronze. Timber framed houses were covered with **cob**, roofs were thatched, small windows had wooden shutters and dark interiors were lit by a fire and smelly tallow candles.

Language was a combination of **Norse** and **Old English** but very few written records survive. In modern English the hundred most frequently used words are of **Anglo Saxon** origin, although **William of Normandy** destroyed much Anglo Saxon writing

A few Wills surviving from late Anglo Saxon times show that women had a key role and were often property owners, with estates left to be run by a wife and daughter. In Old English the word for human being was **mann**, with an assumption of male-female equality, although their roles were clearly defined by the word **waepnedmenn**, i.e. armed person (man) and **wifmenn** (woman), **wif** meaning weaver. Men tilled the fields and looked after the livestock; women clothed and cooked for the family, and had a knowledge of herbs and remedies for sickness. They also ran monasteries, where both monks and nuns answered to the Abbess.

ETHELFLIED c 869 – 918. Lady of the Mercians, she was the eldest child of **King Alfred**, King of Wessex. The **Chroniclers** describe her as a person of extraordinary ability and mental toughness. Brought up in luxury, at about 15 she was married to **Ethelred**, ruler of **Mercia**. Hers was a political marriage, aiming to unite and strengthen Wessex and Mercia against constant Viking raids. Ethelfled became joint ruler, signing charters and sharing in decision-making; this lasted for 27 years. For seven years after her husband's death she ruled alone, arranging diplomatic agreements, presiding over courts and refurbishing many towns. When Ethelfled married, she continued her father's work of building **burghs** - fortified towns about 30 miles apart, where people could take refuge from Viking attacks. **Wareham** was one such burgh; **Tamworth**, **Stafford**, **Warwick** and **Runcorn** owe their existence to her efforts. When the Vikings attacked **Chester** Ethelfled gained a reputation as a military strategist. At **Tettenhall**, modern day **Wolverhampton**, she gained the reputation of a warrior queen when a **Mercian/Saxon** army led a massacre where three Viking kings were killed. In 917 she was head of an army that captured **Derby**, and while allied to two Scottish kings she held **York** against the Vikings.

She believed that her Christian God was behind her successes and, as a result, she invested heavily in church building. Her newly founded abbey in **Gloucester** received the bones of **Saint Oswald**, whose relics she had rescued from Viking held **Lincolnshire**. She died in 918 and is buried in **St Oswald's Priory** in Gloucester.

Her daughter succeeded her - remarkable for the times - before she was ousted by Ethelfled's brother, **Edward**, who was ruthless and much feared. In 924, Edward was succeeded by **Athelstan**, his eldest son, who had been Ethelfled's ward for much of his youth, and who later adopted the title **Rex Anglorum, King of the English**.

ELFRIDA c 945 – 1001. Coming from a powerful family in SW England, while still in her teens she was married to **Ethelwold** of **East Anglia**. When he died (in mysterious circumstances) she became the third wife of **King Edgar the Peacemaker** in

964. Edgar granted land to his new wife (he had not done so for his first two wives) and she appears regularly in government records, seeming to influence royal policy. From the beginning she was styled **Queen** and at Edgar's second coronation in **Bath** she became England's **first crowned queen**, receiving all the trappings that still today, mark a coronation in England. Thus Elfrida's influence came not just from her husband but from divine grace. Amongst many other things they, together, removed lax clergy and reformed the bishopric of **Winchester**. Edgar died in 975.

The ensuing power struggle pitted the son of Elfrida and Edgar, **Aethelred**, (then only 6 or 7 years old) against **Edward**, Edgar's son by his first wife. Elfrida wielded great power, but she was also power hungry, and was able to garner support for Aethelred. However, Edward was consecrated king in 975. In 978 whilst visiting Elfrida at **Corfe Castle**, Edward was killed, although there was no evidence to connect Elfrida to this crime. Aethelred became king, with Elfrida as regent until 984, when he came of age. Elfrida remained responsible for the care of Aethelred's children by his first marriage. In a will of 1014, **Aethelstan**, Aethelred's eldest son, prayed for the soul of the grandmother who brought him up. Elfrida founded **Wherwell Abbey** in Hampshire as a Benedictine nunnery, where she retired and died in 1001.

EMMA of NORMANDY c 985 - 1052. Twice Queen of England, mother of two kings, and aunt to **William of Normandy** (William the Conqueror), both her parents were of **Danish** Viking descent. Her father was **Richard** the fearless **Duke of Normandy**, who, in the year 1000, had sheltered a Viking army threatening England. To counter this threat, **King Aethelred** agreed terms whereby he would marry Emma as his second wife; she was about 12. She became hugely ambitious and, when she arrived, immediately became the axis around which English politics turned. She was only the second crowned Queen and on her marriage received properties in **Winchester, Rutland, Devonshire, Suffolk, Oxfordshire, and Exeter**. The marriage had disastrous consequences for the **House of Wessex** as she brought many **Normans** with her, who were disliked by the **English**; this accentuated Aethelred's waning popularity. Soon after her arrival Aethelred ordered the

massacre of all Danes in England, which is one of the reasons Aethelred became known as **The Unready** or **Ill Advised**.

Emma had two sons. The first was **Edward**, who was more Norman than English and encouraged the further settlement of Normans, giving them lavish gifts of land. In 1013, England was again threatened by a Viking invasion, this time by **Sweyn, King of Norway**. He was the father of **Cnut (Canute)**. Aethelred fled with his family but returned on Sweyn's death in 1014. Aethelred died in 1016 and, after various power struggles, Cnut became king. He was already **King of Norway** and **Denmark**.

For a while, Emma's fortunes waned, but then Cnut made her **his** Queen. He needed her stature, authority and knowledge of English ways. This was an unexpectedly happy marriage and they were generous patrons of the church. They donated a precious gold cross to **Winchester**, which contained relics of **St Peter** and **St Paul**, and which was probably destroyed at the **Reformation**. They were patrons of **Ely Cathedral** and gave lands and artefacts to various churches. Cnut died in 1035 and was succeeded by **Harold Harefoot**, his son by an earlier wife. Cnut's son by Emma, **Hardecnut**, succeeded Harold Harefoot and, finally, Emma's son by Aethelred, **Edward** (eventually known as **Edward the Confessor**) became king. Initially Edward rejected Emma because he believed that she had abandoned him when she married Cnut, but she recovered her position at court and was able to exert influence. She died in 1052 and was buried in Winchester next to Cnut. That same year **Duke William of Normandy**, eventually **William the Conqueror**, visited England but we do not know if he visited his aunt before she died.

This remarkable woman, Queen of two Kings and mother of two more, also commissioned her own history, probably the first time a woman had participated in the writing of history. The **Encomium Emma Regina**, written in 1041-1042, is part history, part memorial and part justification of Emma's actions. The text reveals an active and forceful medieval woman and is a precious source for **English** and **Scandinavian** history.

The scene was now set for the invasion in **1066**.

Pat Bachelor

ROMSEY & DISTRICT U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the
Annual General Meeting of the U3A — Romsey & District
will be held in
Crosfield Hall, Romsey
on **Wednesday 15 May 2019** commencing at **10.30am**.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 16 May 2018.
2. Matters arising from the minutes.
3. Chairman's report.
4. Treasurer's report.
5. Secretary's report.
6. Election of Committee:
 - Chairman**
 - Vice Chairman**
 - Treasurer**
 - Committee Members (8)**
7. Other Appointments:
 - Newsletter Team Representative**
 - Web Master**
 - Examiner of Accounts**
8. A.O.B.

MINUTES OF ROMSEY & DISTRICT U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 16 May 2018

1. ATTENDANCE: 178 members + 8 Visitors present (total 186)

2. APOLOGIES: Had been received from: Colin and Elizabeth Crang, Jane Hargreaves, Celia Moretti, Jo Morgan, and David Thwaites.

3. MINUTES of AGM held on 17 May 2017: Members unanimously approved these minutes: Proposed by: Michael Allison, Seconded by Mike Koscian. The Chairman signed them as a correct record.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Marion Fowler

Marion reminded members this was her third year as Chairman. Under the Constitution she is only allowed to serve for four years, so will have to stand down from May 2019. It is a rewarding position and Marion felt honoured to see the fantastic progress that R&DU3A had made, not just with the large group of members but with the enthusiasm of the interest groups.

It had been a very challenging year with many changes coming from National Office and the Charity Commission. We have migrated onto the Beacon Database which is more secure and enables us to have all our membership information in one programme. It is still in its early days but we are seeing its value all the time. The Charity Commission has toughened its regulations which means we have to make a small change to our constitution and the way we report our finances in the coming year. Many of our forms have been changed to comply with this, requesting your permission and keeping your data safe.

Marion warmly thanked members of our organisation for keeping everything running smoothly: Brenda Sennett and Jean Stone who deal with membership renewals and putting the information on the new database. Marion reminded everyone if they had not renewed yet then please do so by the end of May, otherwise their membership would lapse. Please let Brenda know, as soon as possible, if you are not renewing your membership. In July our membership numbers will be reviewed and a decision will be made regarding re-opening our membership to new members again.

Marion thanked Mike Koscian, our Beacon Administrator, Kieran Jones and Carole Cox who dealt with the immense task of the changeover from our old Access Database to the new Beacon database.

Marion thanked Janet Payne, who had come to the end of her third year as Treasurer and had given a year's notice that she will be retiring in 2019. Marion also thanked Ron Maidment for his work on our number 3 account, which is a separate account for the Travel Group, Questers and the Theatre group.

Marion thanked Janet Moody our secretary who had been a great support to her and the committee, producing minutes and keeping us in touch with the Third Age Trust. Ann Jackson had once again found some excellent speakers for our monthly meetings, worked hard on our Solstice and Christmas Celebrations, and held our very successful first Interest Day on "The Changing Faces of London".

Our Interest Group Coordination team of Jo Morgan, Margaret Marchbank and Jennie Mortelman look after the interest groups which are the lifeblood of our U3A, helping everyone to learn new things, contribute to other members learning and to make new friends. Marion thanked “The 3 M’s”.

Our Interest Group Leaders put in a lot of time over the year to enable us to learn and enjoy new experiences every month. Marion thanked them on behalf of all the members.

Marion thanked David Thwaites who looks after our website and asked interest group leaders to let David have up to date details about their groups.

The rest of the committee Kieran Jones, Liz Holloway, Elaine Rockell and Glenda Taylor, have all contributed tremendously to the running of our U3A and Marion thanked them all for their support.

Glenda Taylor and the Newsletter team were thanked for the work they do in producing and distributing an interesting newsletter, which keeps us up to date with our U3A events. Thanks were also extended to Mike Driscoll and Colin Moretti for sending out the newsletter by email.

Marion thanked the “Meeters & Greeters”, organised by Barbara Rickard, who perform an important welcoming role at our monthly meetings. And Lois Dare and Margaret Eades and their team of helpers who organise the tea and coffee at our monthly meetings. Marion thanked Christine Burgess who organises the rota and all those who help out.

Marion thanked Colin Moretti and Roger Hunt, who organise all our technical matters, including setting up and working our projector at our monthly meetings. The rolling screen is a good way of keeping everybody up to date of the events in the groups.

Marion particularly thanked Kieran Jones who is retiring from the committee after 2 years. Kieran had been a tremendous support to Marion as Chairman.

We now look forward to another interesting and successful year.

5. TREASURER’S REPORT: Janet Payne

The Treasurer presented her Report to the meeting in detail. The Current Account Balance stood at £4,668.53 with the Deposit Account balance at £6,260.81 giving a healthy total balance of £10,929.34. The annual membership fee will remain at £10.00. Janet explained that the Charity Commission and the HMRC rules have both changed. In future the Charity Commission wants every penny to go through our accounts which will take us to £40,000 income. We have had some guidance and briefing from the Third Age Trust and as from 1 April 2018 the job of Treasurer needs an accountant or bookkeeper. From 750 members a volunteer is urgently needed. It would be helpful for this person to shadow Janet during her final year as Treasurer.

Members unanimously accepted the report and accounts: Proposed by: Bob Wren Seconded by Valerie Chandler.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT: Janet Moody

This had been another busy year for the committee and attendance at Committee Meetings had been excellent. The necessary procedures and paperwork had been properly completed during the past year, including another amendment to our Constitution, as required by The Charity Commissioners. Also a considerable amount of work on the General Data Protection Regulation which takes effect on 25 May 2018. The Chairman and Secretary had attended a Third Age Trust Workshop to get up to speed on this, and also on the other important issue of Insurance, together with Safeguarding, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion.

The Treasurer and two committee members also attended a special workshop on the important changes in Finance procedures. All this is to ensure The Committee, as Trustees, complies with the stringent rules laid down by the Charities Commission. The next task was to disseminate this information to the Group Leaders and the first workshop was held on 30 April. Sub-committees had worked on and advised us in these specialist areas. This had been particularly necessary because of the speed of these changes.

The secretary thanked the Chairman and committee members for their patience and support over the past year.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Marion reminded everyone of the importance of finding a Vice Chairman and a Shadow Treasurer as soon as possible so that they could understand the jobs before taking over in May 2019. R&DU3A cannot function without these two officers and Marion urged those with the necessary skills to volunteer.

The Chairman and Treasurer had both completed the third year of a 4 year term, and were eligible to serve a final year. The rest of the Committee were due for re-election. Nomination forms for Committee had been received as follows:

Officers:

Secretary	Janet Moody
Membership Secretary:	Brenda Sennett
Programme Secretary:	Ann Jackson
Group Co-ordinating Team	Jo Morgan

Committee Members:

Elizabeth Holloway	Mike Koscian	Elaine Rockell
Jean Stone	Chris Webster	

Co-opted Members:

Glenda Taylor	Newsletter
David Thwaites	Webmaster

There being no further nominations, the meeting voted unanimously for the committee en bloc. Proposed by Gill Allison, Seconded by Jackie Smith.

8. AMENDMENT TO OUR CONSTITUTION: In the February newsletter members had been advised of the revised wording Objects Clause in our Constitution. This is required to comply with the latest Charity Commission

Rules, and enables us to continue to claim gift aid. The membership unanimously voted to support this change to the wording. Proposed by Pat Batchelor, Seconded by Colin Moretti. The Constitution will soon be available on the R&DU3A website.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Colin Moretti warmly thanked Marion for her chairmanship over the past year.

10. MEETING CLOSED at 11.15am followed by a presentation on “Hidden Spain” by Ron Bachelor.

ROMSEY AND DISTRICT U3A COMMITTEE, 2019 - 2020

This year, we have vacancies for **Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and 8 more Committee Members** and we should like to receive nominations for all these vacancies.

As you all know, each U3A is autonomous and self-supporting. This can only be done by every Member being prepared to do their bit by helping to run an Interest Group, becoming a member of the Committee or an Officer of our U3A, or helping in some other way.

We are indebted to you if you already give your service but there is still a vast pool of untapped talent, experience and ideas from which we could all gain benefit. **Why not give it a try?**

Please contact **Janet Moody : 01794 517589** for a **Nomination Form**.

Our U3A needs you!

In Case of Emergency

Please make sure that you have let the Membership Secretary know who your **Emergency Contact** is (eg next of kin, friend or neighbour) and their contact details. We will **ONLY** use it for this purpose, but **YOU** may also like to keep this special **ICE** number marked as such on your mobile phone.

POETRY GROUP – 2018 - The Year Unravelled

Robert Frost suited January down to the ground
While 'Jack' caused havoc on every inch he found!

February and the Bard's lines resonate and sing
Measure for measure, he's definitely king.

March was struck by the 'Beast from the East!'
But we loved A E Housman, a structured feast.

Think of something different, perhaps outrageous
No April Fool! "Off the Beaten Track" was courageous.

He captured bird-song, rain and folks in hay
John Clare loved the countryside, scenic in May.

Elizabeth Barrett-Browning, passion with flair
Smell the roses in June, love is in the air.

"Liquid Assets" of the flowing, watery kind...and
July was splashed, but beer was banned!

Modern Simon Armitage, an august free-spirit
'Tell it how it is,' deserves great merit.

Tragic poet Sylvia Plath – her lonely touch
One of America's best and honored as such.

"Cosmos," we became spaced-out in October
Moon, Stars and Sky repeat over and over!

The heat had gone out of firework-frenzy
We had "Voices and Sounds" safe and cosy.

Christmas greetings! We're at Hilary's once more
But hey! Is that John heading straight out the door?

Patricia Morris