



Now that the holiday season is over normal life can resume once again. I hope you coped with the recent weather, extreme heat and torrential downpours. Since many members were taking a break in August we did not hold our regular monthly meeting but quite a few interest groups still took place and were well attended.

As announced at the July meeting, we are incurring increased costs making available an audio visual link between the Hardwicke Hall and the Heritage Hall each month. To cover these additional costs we are asking members attending the monthly meetings to contribute a voluntary donation of £1 at each meeting. I hope this will not deter anyone from attending and stress that the donation is purely voluntary.

Finally, a big welcome to all our new members who joined us over the summer months.

Jackie Gellert, Chairman

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Pulsatillas! bloom in Hardwicke Hall

Members were thoroughly entertained at our July meeting by local revue artists, Sarah Harrison and Ros Holbrow, aptly named *Pulsatillas!* after one of the largest colonies of pasque flowers in the country on Therfield Heath.

The duo's unique blend of wicked wit, knockabout comedy and honest sentiment included whimsical life observations from *Kitchen Calypso*, about the current fashion of TV cookery programmes, to an aria in *Kid Street Speak*. With changes of hats, facial expressions and original musical compositions their clever banter went down well with the audience.

Two particular items in their performance caught everyone's attention: *Queen Bee* about the 'One-in-Charge' who is always right, she cracked the whip and left no-one in any doubt that there

were always two options, the wrong way or her way!

And, the item that everyone could relate to was their fast moving narration about going out for a group meal and then arguing over the bill at the end to identify who had what!. We've all been there!

The ideas, the words and the music were all cleverly put together.

Mel Chammings



PULSATILLAS! featuring Sarah Harrison and Ros Holbrow

Coping in a crisis

Taking swift action in an emergency can save lives – but how many of us would know what to do?

At a special U3A session Helena Bluhm, a retired Queen Alexandra Nursing Corps officer, stressed the importance of knowing basic first aid. With the assistance of her daughter Olivia, 13, she demonstrated how to react in a range of emergencies and explained that first aid is a simple skill but it has an incredible impact.

Whatever the crisis her message was clear - on how to assess the situation, calling for help, keeping calm, reassuring the injured person and staying with them.

"If you master these, you can save someone's life," she said.

Although it was only a short session Helena's clear and straightforward instructions

helped to give us confidence and made us realise that knowing what to do in an emergency can make all the difference.

Pam Dajda



Demonstrating how to use a defibrillator in an emergency

Bletchley Park's top-secret WW2 codebreakers

'where the start of modern information technology began'

Forty members took a trip to the fascinating Bletchley Park for an insight into the once top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers.

We wandered through the interesting exhibitions and displays, experiencing the sights and sounds of life in the 1940s.

We saw where some of the smartest minds around like Alan Turing, Gordon Welchman and Bill Tutte helped turn the tide of war.

We took a free one-hour guided tour where we learned about the extraordinary achievements of the men and women who worked there.

Bletchley Park is a place of exceptional historical importance. It is where the start of modern information technology began and has helped shape life as we know it today.

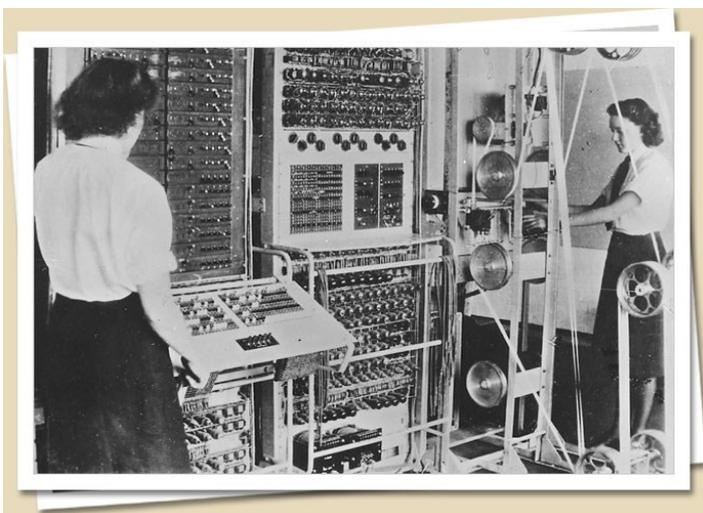
Highlights of our visit included the restored codebreaking huts, with

their WW2 interiors faithfully recreated and hands-on displays in the blocks where the masterminds from the Government Code & Cypher School (GC&CS) cracked seemingly impenetrable enemy codes and ciphers.

Slightly less important but nevertheless quite essential, the Mansion Tea Room made a welcome break from the information overload.

A big thank you to Annette Guttridge for organising such an interesting visit.

Ralph Gellert



Colossus, the world's first practical electronic digital and information processing machine, in operation in 1944 - the forerunner of the modern computer.

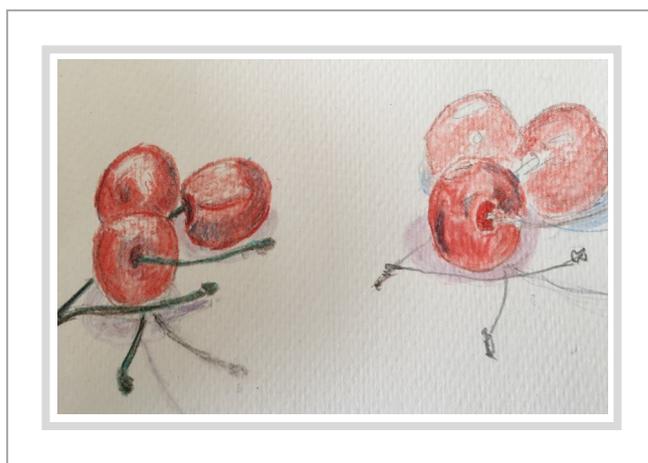
Getting creative with the Art group

'Sylvia is very encouraging and she finds something to compliment about in everyone's work'

Several years ago I joined a six week watercolour course in Stevenage. We started with enthusiasm but weekly our numbers dwindled as we learnt so little. I put my paints away until this year when Sylvia Jordan agreed to lead a course using various mediums.

I learnt more from Sylvia during our first session than I did during six weeks at Stevenage. Sylvia is very encouraging and she finds something to compliment about in everyone's work.

We may not yet be Monet but we each made a credible effort at painting water lilies.



Recently we used watercolour pencils for the first time and drew cherries followed by watercolour wet-in-wet method (above). I am delighted that Royston U3A has found such a

great teacher who makes everyone feel that they can have a go at painting anything. Well, maybe not a self-portrait. Too scary.

Eric Heaton

A most grand 18th century English house

On a perfect sunny day in July forty-nine Royston U3A members travelled to north Norfolk to visit Holkham Hall. As we were ahead of the school holidays the roads were fairly clear with just a modest amount of traffic. The temperature was ideal for an enjoyable and not too strenuous day out.

At the heart of the 25,000 acre estate is the magnificent 18th century Palladian hall which is the seat of the Earls of Leicester and is still in the custodianship of the founding family and very much a lived-in family home.

Thomas Coke, the first Earl of Leicester, inspired by a six year long Grand Tour, conceived Holkham Hall as his vision of an Italian villa on the north Norfolk coast. It is an exceptional place with a treasure house of artistic and architectural history and the panoramic beauty of the surrounding park-land is epic.



Holkham Hall with its magnificent marble entrance hall (left)

Other big attractions at Holkham Hall were the 'Field to Fork' interactive experience that describes where our food comes from and the beautiful six acre 18th century walled garden with its stunning array of flowers, fruit and vegetables.

The day got the thumbs up from all who went and special thanks to Sandra Walker for arranging the visit as well as the water and sweets provided.

Jackie Gellert

Refreshed after a 'cuppa' at the Courtyard Café

'an exceptional place with a treasure house of artistic and architectural history'

Market day needs the ukulele!

Shoppers on Royston Market have been enjoying some summer musical entertainment - thanks to the Royston U3A Ukulele group.

Members have been strumming along in a couple of sessions as part of the promotion to revive the town's Saturday market.

After the first gig in July group leader John Bishop said: "We had a beautiful summer morning and most of our group played, some with amplifiers. My wife Sue did a bit of market research on our behalf and everyone seemed to enjoy our performance. We played two half hour sets with a beer at the Bull in-between."

Rob the market manager has booked us again, we had a couple of other enquiries for gigs and also an enquiry to join our group."

The group meets every Tuesday at 12noon at the Coombes Community Centre and new members are welcomed.

'everyone seemed to enjoy our performance'



Entertaining Royston Market shoppers



Raindrops on roses

On a very wet June day, 35 members of the garden group braved the weather to visit Peter Beales Roses and Fullers Mill Garden.

Arriving at Peter Beales we had about 20 minutes to admire the stunning planting of swathes of colours of roses matched with clematis and wonderful under planting before the heavens opened.

Happily the general manager, Ian and his brother Vaughan, head of propagation, gave us a free and very humorous talk about the history of roses. Many beautiful blooms were passed round for us to hold, smell and admire.

We were taught to recognise the difference between carpet, bush, ramblers and climbers and

how to prune each variety. We then learnt how they propagate the roses. Peter Beales Roses have won 27 Chelsea Gold medals and we could see why!

After a lunch break we moved onto Fullers Mill, once an old felting mill on the River Lark near West Stowe. This is Bernard Tickner's garden and was gifted to Perennial in 2013, a charity that supports people who work with plants, trees and grass through their working lives and into retirement.

The garden, now run by volunteers, is a seven acre space combining a water-side garden with dappled woodlands. There are many rare and unusual shrubs, perennials, lilies and marginal plants to create year round interest.

Not dampened by the weather and with a hot drink and homemade cakes we returned in good spirits.

Val Fairbanks

'Peter Beales Roses have won 27 Chelsea Gold Medals and we could see why!'



Cheerful despite the rain

What a drama!

Twenty-six theatregoers went to Cambridge Arts Theatre to see an amazing production of Willy Russell's *Educating Rita*. Many remembered the iconic film with Michael Caine and Julie Walters but Stephen Tomkinson and newcomer Jessica Johnson put on an outstanding performance.

Rita was brash and yet so desperate to make something of herself. Frank, her tutor, portrayed a sad figure no longer writing his poetry and always having a bottle of the hard stuff on his bookshelf behind Chekhov or Forster. Their relationship was very touching and comical.

We all agreed that we had seen a great play. It is on tour so if you come across it on your summer / autumn travels go and see it - you'll love it!

Thank you to everyone who came along and hope to see all again soon.

Deirdre Smith

'an amazing production of Willy Russell's Educating Rita'

Time to get Quizzing

If you like testing your knowledge come and try a brain teasing session with the Quiz group. To tempt more members to join, group leader Sharon Camilletti has compiled this six question challenge from the latest quiz: *What's on the menu?*

"We had great fun and everyone certainly seemed to enjoy it. Drinks, sweets

and prizes all added to a very sociable afternoon," she said.

In the meantime try these questions and if you want to know the answers come along to the Quizzers' next meeting on September 26 at 2pm in the Conservative Club or see the bottom of the final page for the answers.

What variety of soup is on the menu?

1. Cow's fly swatter
2. Gallic tear jerker
3. Highland Mix

And for the fish course?

4. Pay when the goods arrive
5. Go on an ice rink
6. I'm part of the location.

Confronting the knife crime crisis

Knife crime. It's increasing alarmingly and so many deaths, wasted lives - isn't that right? Well, not quite. The statistics are interesting as Current Affairs group members discovered at a recent meeting.

They show that knife crime and hospital admissions for knife assaults tend to go in cycles. It has increased over recent years and with the internet, social media and 24-hour news, we are more likely to hear about it.

The figure for knife-related homicides, which rose sharply in 2017-18, was the highest since 1946. Around 25 per cent of victims were black - way above their presence in the population. And 20 per cent of perpetrators are under

18 - the highest number for eight years.

We discussed possible reasons for this increase - police budget cuts, the reduction in stop and search, gang violence, disputes between drug dealers, the lack of male role models in some young lives, lack of discipline, lack of youth facilities, parental disinterest, deprivation, the decline of religion, budget cuts and austerity.

We agreed that there is no one solution. Glasgow has adopted a multi-agency approach, drawing together police, health and social services, schools and colleges and over the last decade the city has seen a good reduction in knife crime.

Knife crime tends to be more prevalent in large cities, particularly in London.

As they say on *Crimewatch* – sleep well!

Marion Sweet

'We discussed possible reasons for this increase'



Dates for your diary

September

Tuesday 24, 2pm
Hardwicke Hall at
Royston Town Hall

Pauline Martindale
former prison officer
will give a talk on
**Life as a
Prison Officer**

October

Tuesday 29, 2pm
Hardwicke Hall at
Royston Town Hall

Ian Keable
will give a talk on
**Charles Dickens
Conjurer**
Includes some Dickensian
tricks performed by Ian

November

Tuesday 26, 2pm
Hardwicke Hall at
Royston Town Hall

Come along & listen to
**The Buckden
Handbell Ringers**
The perfect way to get
into the Christmas spirit!

December



Easy Guide to Interest Groups

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM		Art	Fitness	Birding	Walking: Strollers	Book Club 2
		Golf Croquet	Seated Exercise	Book Club 3		
				Five Mile Walks		
				Patchwork		
				Short Stories Reading		
PM	Solo Sundays	Current Affairs	MONTHLY MEETING last Tuesday of month	Clay Shooting	Gardening	Classic Novels
		Curry Club	Book Club 1	Film	Golf	Petanque/Boules
		French Conversation	History	Wine Appreciation	Mixed Crafts	Pilates
		Pottery (Hand Building)	Ukulele		Quiz	
		Tai Chi				
EVE				Jazz Appreciation		

For frequency and contact details about all interest groups please see the chart on the final page or check our website for more information. Announcements about future Events & Outings and Theatre Trips will be posted on our website when details become available.

Interest Groups

Don't forget to check our website for regularly updated information

GROUP	DAY	TIME	FREQUENCY	GROUP LEADER	CONTACT DETAILS
Art	Mon	10:00am	Monthly 3rd Mon	Sylvia Jordan	sylviahjordan41@gmail.com 07599 212882
Birding	Wed	8:30am	Monthly 1st Wed	Carol McGeoch	carol.mcgeoch@hotmail.co.uk 01223 207354
Book Club 1	Tues	2:00pm	Monthly 1st Tues	Deirdre Smith	deidreroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 244700
Book Club 2	Fri	11:00am	Monthly Variable	Janet Burton	janet.a.burton@gmail.com 07984 600295
Book Club 3	Wed	10:30am	Monthly last Wed	Elizabeth (Lee) Towers	ladytowers@gmail.com 01763 241488
Classic Novels	Fri	2:00pm	Monthly 3rd Fri	Sue Biggs	biggs1633@gmail.com 01763 847200
Clay Shooting	Wed	2:00pm	Variable	Frank Martin	thoefmartin@outlook.com 07831 898234
Current Affairs	Mon	3:30pm	Monthly 3rd Mon	Marion Sweet	marion22roystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 273806
Curry Club	Mon	12:00pm	Monthly 2nd Mon	Reg Hounsell	regroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 241805
Events & Outings (open to all)	Variable	Variable	Occasional	Sandra Walker	sandraroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 241896
Film	Wed	2:00pm	Monthly 1st Wed	Carla Bailey	carlaroystonu3a@gmail.com 07968 261101
Fitness	Tues	9:30am	Weekly	Kathy Hounsell	kathyroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 241805
French Conversation	Mon	1:00pm	Monthly variable	Barbara Fielden	fieldenbarbara@hotmail.com 07850 455211
Gardening	Thurs	2:30pm	Monthly Variable	Val Fairbanks	t.fairbanks@ntlworld.com 01763 230724
Golf	Thurs	1:00pm	Weekly	Ralph Gellert	ralphroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 248097
Golf Croquet	Mon	10:00am	Weekly	John Bishop	bishop190@btinternet.com 01763 246703
History	Tues	2:00pm	Monthly Variable	Reg Hounsell	regroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 241805
Jazz Appreciation	Wed	7:30pm	Monthly 2nd Wed	Reg Hounsell	regroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 241805
Mixed Crafts	Thurs	2:00pm	Monthly 3rd Thurs	Rosie Cowsley	rosie.cowsley@ntlworld.com 07809 047380
Patchwork	Wed	10:00am	Monthly 1st Wed	Maureen Strugnell	maureen.strugnell@ntlworld.com 01763 241967
Petanque / Boules	Fri	2:30pm	Fortnightly	Sue & John Bishop	bishop190@btinternet.com 01763 246703
Pilates	Fri	1pm & 2pm	Weekly	Kathy Hounsell	kathyroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 241805
Pottery (Hand Building)	Mon	2:00pm	Fortnightly Variable	Rosie Cowsley	rosie.cowsley@ntlworld.com 07809 047380
Quiz	Thurs	2:00pm	Monthly last Thurs	Sharon Camilletti	sharonroystonu3a@gmail.com 07725 847303
Seated Exercise	Tues	10:45am	Weekly	Kathy Hounsell	kathyroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 241805
Short Stories Reading	Wed	11:00am	Monthly last Wed	Mel Chamings	melroystonu3a@gmail.com 07713 837086
Solo Sundays	Sun	12:00pm	Monthly 2nd Sun	Sandra Restall	sandra.restall@gmail.com 07775 508533
Tai Chi	Mon	3:15pm	Weekly	Reg Hounsell	regroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 241805
Theatre Trips	Variable	Variable	Occasional	Deirdre Smith	deidreroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 244700
Ukulele	Tues	12:00pm	Weekly	John Bishop	bishop190@btinternet.com 01763 246703
Walkers: Five Mile	Wed	9:45am	Monthly 2nd Wed	Eric Heaton	ericroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 242989
Walkers: Strollers	Thurs	10:15am	1st & 3rd Thurs of month	David Walker	djwalker3@aol.com 01763 241896
Wine Appreciation	Wed	2:00pm	Monthly Variable	Jackie Gellert	jackieroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 248097

Royston U3A Committee

Chairman
 Vice Chair
 Treasurer & Speakers Secretary
 Secretary
 Membership Secretary
 Minutes Secretary
 Existing Groups Co-ordinator
 New Groups Co-ordinator
 New Members Contact
 Publicity
 Royston U3A News
 Co-opted Committee Member

Jackie Gellert
 Sandra Walker
 Barbara Andrew
 Karen Heaton
 Marion Martin
 Sylvia Fuller
 Joan Westcott
 Mel Chamings
 Carla Bailey
 Pam Dajda
 Ralph Gellert
 Eric Heaton

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 joanroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 220812
 melroystonu3a@gmail.com 07713 837086
 carlaroytonu3a@gmail.com 07968 261101
 pam@dajda.net 01763 246234
 ralphroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 248097
 ericroystonu3a@gmail.com 01763 242989

Get it in the News

If you're involved in a group why not publicise it in Royston U3A News? Send in a short report of your latest meeting or outing - photos welcomed too - to Pam Dajda at pam@dajda.net or phone 01763 246234

Next deadline for submissions:
 Wednesday October 16, 2019