

# ROYSTON u3a news

AUGUST 2023 Issue 41



Royston U3A is entering its ninth year since launch, and it just doesn't seem that long ago to me. As I commented at the AGM, I feel privileged to be Chair and I want to thank all our members for their continued support.

I would like to welcome all our new members as our membership continues to grow and we are almost back to pre-pandemic numbers. If we are to continue to be a thriving U3A we must keep up the momentum with flourishing interest groups.

We continue to look to start new interest groups with members willing to lead them. We also hope to eventually revive groups that were popular prior to the pandemic but are currently suspended as to date we have not found anyone keen to lead them. Nevertheless, I am happy to announce a new Canasta group is about to start led by one of our newer members, details to follow shortly on our website.

Our monthly meetings carry on being well supported by members, with speakers covering a wide range of interesting topics. If you don't come to the Town Hall or watch via Zoom, you are really missing out.

I hope you find this slightly larger than usual Royston U3A News a good read.

*Jackie Gellert, Chair*

## Life as a butler to royalty and the stars



### WILLIAM FRENCH

As a young gunner serving in the Falklands war William French could hardly have dreamed that he would end up on the Royal Yacht Britannia working for the late Queen and her family.

William was only 17 when he joined the Royal Navy as a steward, setting sail for the Falklands where he took part in six weeks of military action on board HMS Broadsword.

On his return in 1982 he became personal steward to Admiral Sandy Woodward, a senior officer who commanded the Falklands Task Force.

In a fascinating talk at our May meeting he described how he was then selected to serve on the Royal Yacht Britannia.

"I absolutely loved it," he said. "I was the royal steward for seven years and met most members of the royal family. They are

down to earth and friendly and it was an amazing place to work."

He went on to become breakfast butler for the late Queen at Buckingham Palace, and then butler for Charles and Diana.

During his varied career he was also butler for Lord Rothermere of the Daily Mail, members of the Saudi royal family and celebrities like Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

William has also appeared on television - teaching the late Paul O'Grady how to be a butler, joining Susan Calman in Secrets of Scotland, and showing Darcy Bussell round the Royal Yacht Britannia.

"I've always lived the dream and I've loved every moment," he said. "The pinnacle was being on the Royal Yacht Britannia but every job was different and I enjoyed everything I did."

*Pam Dajda*

## A guide to Lasting Powers of Attorney

Why is it that making a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a topic that we tend to shy away from?

Guest speaker Gaye Illsley delivered an expert presentation to the well-attended July monthly meeting. Explaining the importance of making an LPA, she said almost all of us will be affected by issues surrounding mental and/or physical capacity in some way during our lifetime, either personally or through a family member or friend. Gaye shared with us her

personal experiences of using LPAs to care for her mother and sister.

If you were to become incapable of managing your own finances and personal welfare, an LPA allows you to make provisions in advance of deterioration of health to ensure that your affairs are properly dealt with by someone you trust explained Gaye.

An LPA is an important part in planning for your future. Once registered with the

Office of the Public Guardian an LPA can be used instantly in a situation such as when there is an acute need for financial support whether that is to pay for treatment or simply to continue to fund living costs. Unfortunately, without an attorney being appointed the banks will simply not release funds.

The number of questions asked illustrated the level of interest in this excellent presentation.

*Ralph Gellert*



Raffle winner Annabel McLeod is pictured with Sarah Guest (left) and Hannah Fagan from Hotel Chocolat.

## Life is too short for bad chocolate

The sweet success story of how a Royston based company became a premium chocolate manufacturer and cocoa grower were the ingredients for an enthralling talk at our June meeting.

Hotel Chocolat produces 250 million chocolates a year, has over 120 stores and plans to expand internationally.

Members were treated to a taste of dark and milk chocolate batons provided by Royston U3A before settling down to hear the story of how it all began.

Hotel Chocolat speakers Hannah Fagan and Sarah Guest explained that Peter Harris and Angus Thirlwell met while working at a sales and marketing firm.

Spotting a gap in the market they launched the Mint Marketing Company in 1987 selling mints branded with company logos.

Branching into online chocolates, they founded Choc Express, becoming one of the UK's earliest e-retailers.

The Royston based business grew, employing many local people at its Mint House headquarters. The name change to Hotel Chocolat came in 2003; the first retail space in Watford opened in 2004 and there are now 124 stores in the UK, 40 with cafes.

It is the only company in the UK to grow cocoa on its own estate in St Lucia through its mission to encourage sustainable farming.

"Premium chocolate needs to have cacao at the centre - the best way to grow and package it. It's embedded in all we do," said Sarah.

"Biodiversity is hugely important to the crop. When it's grown in its right environment it doesn't need any chemical fertilisers."

Chocolate production is based in Huntingdon where new recipes are constantly tested by a team of in-house chocolatiers.

"The smells are incredible. You get to feel the buzz and excitement," said Hannah.

Looking to the future, the company is expanding to Japan and exploring the US market. It aims to open at least 50 more UK shops and is launching new products including a cream liqueur combining chocolate and alcohol.

"We've got loads more to do," said Hannah. "It's an exciting place to be."

The afternoon rounded off with a raffle won by Annabel McLeod who is pictured with her prize - a Hotel Chocolat selection box provided by Royston U3A.

*Pam Dajda*



# Royston U3A AGM 2023 Chair's Statement

After the past few difficult years, I very much hope that we have now come out on the other side from the terrible pandemic that affected all our lives. I hope that many of our members, despite finding the period isolating with some regrettably suffering bad health or even worse losing someone close to them, are now fully recovered and once again happy to be able to meet up and socialise with friends and family. We at Royston U3A remained contactable and continued to provide as much information and support as we possibly could to our entire membership throughout the entire pandemic period.

## HOW DID WE DO?

The pandemic taught us how to use the technology available to us so that we could maintain contact with the majority of our members ensuring, we hoped, that members did not feel isolated. In this regard, using Zoom for our monthly meetings enabled us to extend our range of speakers from local to national and also to international. Since lockdown ended, gradually members have regained the confidence to cautiously meet up again in the Town Hall and numbers for doing this have been steadily increasing which has been most reassuring. The interest groups were badly affected by the pandemic and the outdoor activity groups resumed as soon as it was felt safe to do so. Regrettably, some other groups have had to be suspended due to the

group leaders deciding after a period of inactivity and in some cases illness to stand down after a number of years. A big thank you to those members for being such great group leaders. Appeals have constantly been made asking members to come forward to lead a group either on their own or jointly with others. Please remember that the U3A is run by members for other members

Regarding our ongoing groups, the Outings and Theatre groups re-started with immense success. The Solo Sundays group has also re-convened with a team of three people running it and it continues to be very popular with car sharing being offered to those members who do not drive. Many of our other interest groups such as French, History, Current Affairs, Classic Novels, Strollers, Wine Appreciation, Five Mile Walks, the Book groups, Art, Active Keep Fit & Seated Exercise, Pétanque and Boules, Ukulele, Yarn & Chat, Golf Croquet, Clay Shooting and Golf have all resumed and are doing well. But I repeat, we need more members to start up new interest groups or be willing to restart groups that have sadly been suspended.

Our membership numbers were amazing at the end of the membership year. Sadly we did lose some truly valued members. However, I am delighted to say that since the commencement of the new membership year numbers have grown and continue to grow rapidly.

## THANK YOU'S

A big thank you goes to all my committee members for their ongoing commitment and work to keep Royston U3A running. I won't mention all of the committee but big thanks must go to Marion Martin our Membership Secretary whose record keeping using Excel is unbelievable, especially at membership renewal time. The same goes for our Treasurer, Barbara Andrew for keeping track of our finances. Further thanks must go to Pam Dajda and Ralph Gellert for ensuring that Royston U3A News and, during the pandemic, the Keeping In Touch publication continued to be issued with good and interesting articles despite quite a number of the group activities not happening throughout the year. We are extremely fortunate to have such talented individuals on our committee.

Due to our financial prowess, you will be aware that we have not had to increase the annual membership amount for the year 2023/2024 this is on top of having given members a free membership year for the year 2022/2023.

We have worked hard on behalf of members to find and secure some excellent speakers over the past year covering a range of topics. It is not always easy to provide speakers that appeal to everyone but we have tried our best.

## WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Regarding the future of Royston U3A, finding members to join the committee continues to be a real struggle not only for us but for many other U3As in the UK. We have a membership of almost 500 people and it is sad that hardly anyone is willing to put themselves forward. Last year we were delighted to welcome one person onto the committee, namely David Edwards; David has proved to be a most welcome and valuable committee member. I am also advising that this year my Vice Chair, Sandra Walker is retiring and I would like to thank her for her contribution over the past few years. Please be aware that as of the end of this year, ie June 2024, many of the committee will be standing down, so unless members come forward there is a risk that Royston U3A will not survive after that.

Finally, massive thanks go once again to my fellow committee members for their friendship, support and commitment as well as my indebtedness to all of them for everything they have done for Royston U3A and for me; without them we would have been sadly lacking.

On a personal note, what a great privilege it is for me being the Chair of Royston U3A. It has undoubtedly enriched my life and I would like to thank you all for your loyalty and support.

Jackie Gellert, Chair  
June 27, 2023



## A taste of royal life at Sandringham



In mid-July fifty members set out on a coach trip to visit Sandringham Royal Parkland, House and Gardens. Sandringham is in the tranquil Norfolk countryside and is an amazing place rich in history and the much-loved country retreat of the Royal Family.

On arrival, after a two-hour journey, we were welcomed by a Sandringham host. A guided walk around the beautiful grounds leading to the House followed. Our guide informed us that King Charles has recently designed and created a formal garden with nearly 10,000 plants and it is climate friendly (of course!). A maze is planned in the future.

Sandringham House, regularly used by the royal family, is exquisitely furnished with several rooms designed by individual members of previous Royal households. Each of the eight ground floor rooms we passed through was manned by an extremely knowledgeable guide who explained the fascinating details about the room they were staffing. We were told the red carpets covering all the floors when the house is open to the public are removed when the royal family are in residence and all the furniture in the rooms is moved so that it becomes a useable family home.

*top: Sandringham House nestled in 24 hectares (60 acres) of sweeping gardens.*

*right: Royston U3A members enjoying their afternoon tea in the Sandringham Restaurant.*

*left: Inside Sandringham House.*

Half the group finished off their visit with a 'yummy' afternoon tea in the Sandringham Restaurant before the homeward bound journey. Big thanks to David Edwards for organising this outing with Sandringham (with assistance from Deirdre Smith and to a lesser extent me) ensuring that the visit went without a hitch, and everyone returned with a big smile on their face.

*Jackie Gellert*

# The Duke of York and Mary Anne Clarke scandal



RICHARD TILL

An early 19th century scandal has a familiar ring about it and shows that corruption in high places is nothing new.

History group speaker Richard Till described how a love affair between Frederick Duke of York and Mary Anne Clarke rocked Britain and had far reaching effects.



Frederick Augustus  
Duke of York (1763 -1827)  
*National Trust  
Waddesdon Manor.*

The Duke of York was an army officer and George III's second son. He set his mistress up in a grand mansion but his fatal error was to keep forgetting to pay the rent. Mary Anne took revenge by selling commissions to officers, threatened to write her memoirs and began talking to opposition politicians.

The scandal escalated and the popular press had a field day with a series of cutting cartoons that the Duke was being run by his mistress.

The governing Tories were forced to hold a parliamentary inquiry and Mary Anne's appearance and testimony exposed corruption beyond the army, to buying seats in Parliament and raising issues with the East India Company.

Frederick was forced to resign as head of the army and the affair raised the issue of politics and women.

"For Mary Anne Clarke to be able to hold her own with the political establishment was remarkable," said Richard.

"This sex scandal reveals something about the attitude to women at the time. It tells you something about their role and also tells you something about politics."

*Pam Dajda*



Mary Anne Clarke (1776 -1852)  
Mistress of Frederick, Duke of York  
*National Portrait Gallery, London.*

## Hitting the road with the Ukulele group

Ukulele group members have been on the road strumming their way around the area at a series of venues.

The group meets for weekly rehearsals at Coombes Community Centre where members have been busy practising for a line-up of bookings.

Group leader John Bishop said recent gigs have included playing at Barley Town House for a pensioner coffee and biscuit afternoon, followed by a date at Shefford Methodist Church for a Coronation sing-along.

Their June calendar included a session at the Memory Café at Coombes and entertaining visitors at Melbourn Fete

A highlight was the group's appearance at a Royston Museum fund-raising evening at the end of June where the audience enjoyed a ukulele gig with a guitar/banjo duo, and a choir finishing with a combined act. The show was directed by Cathy Carlin and the other gigs directed by John Fowl

New members interested in learning to play the ukulele are welcomed along to Tuesday morning sessions.

"It doesn't matter if you can't read music or play any other instrument. Total beginners are welcome," said John.



*Ukulele group members strumming their way around the area at a series of venues.*

*From the top:-  
Barley Town House,  
Shefford Methodist Church,  
Melbourn Fete,  
Royston Museum.*

## Current Affairs

The Current Affairs group has found plenty to discuss - from Donald Trump and the US Presidential election to the monarchy, inflation and Partygate, as Sarah Hillman reports.

Trump's recent conviction for sexual abuse and the fact that it won't prevent him from running was a hot topic at our **May** meeting. Many US citizens like him because he puts "America First." Many dislike Biden because he's seen as too old, "letting in too many Mexicans" and Kamala Harris doesn't impress. No other runners are obvious candidates - yet.

We mostly agreed that the UK should continue as a monarchy, but the Royal Family needed a clearer, limited function and better management. We were concerned that Boris may stand again for PM though he doesn't seem to like hard graft - or detail.

We felt Nicola Sturgeon had fallen on her sword just in time, but more is to come out about the arrests of SNP managers and mismanagement of finances. This led on to juries not being allowed to look for evidence beyond that presented in court, for fairness sake. (We were relieved that you cannot serve on a jury from age 75!)



When we met in **June** the Commons were due to discuss the Partygate report. We thought that the party during lockdown at Conservative HQ showed their contempt for both the rules and the public. Did Boris and Liz Truss *really* deserve their £115K/year pension?

Inflation - now 8.7 per cent - is partly because of international lack of confidence in the UK economy affecting government borrowing and bank rates. In-fighting within government is another concern. Inflation should fall soon but prices won't, they will merely not increase as rapidly.

The NHS Productivity Puzzle report (Institute for Government) says that the extra £300+m a week the government has put in has made no difference. We noted that not focusing on getting things 'Right First Time' can add up to 40 per cent to a department's costs! This might account for some of this leakage. Another key issue is failure to make valuable, highly experienced staff want to stay.

Amazingly, Donald Trump could be President from prison under US rules! He sees the indictments as good publicity. Would he stop arms for Ukraine? Biden + Harris aren't scoring well and there seem to be few credible contenders. Sadly, populism often brings in leaders that we later regret.

Our meeting in **July** was lively and covered a lot of ground! From Huw Edwards' and the other victim's treatment by The Sun (and the BBC?), to the Prince of Wales wanting to stop homelessness, which has many causes and is almost impossible to solve.

The "LetsTalkRoyston" consultation about healthcare and wellbeing might be the best chance in decades to get improvements. HealthAid Royston had indicated that more suitable premises were a prerequisite for provision of better healthcare, but where could money for better facilities come from in the current climate? At least the NHS is gathering facts about needs *before* they do a plan this time.

The rail ticket office closures consultation seemed to ignore the needs of elderly and disabled passengers and those not online. How will we get advice on route-planning, or get any sense out of ticket machines?

We felt Artificial Intelligence needs to be embraced and managed - it can't be "un-invented." The promotional video *apparently* of Martin Lewis illustrated the danger. We'll need to verify what we are shown.

ID theft was also an issue for some, so frequently clearing your computer's browsing history, cookies and junk, is a good defence. "How Tos" were circulated. WhatsApp isn't foolproof either (B Johnson, note!)

**Next meeting –  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September,  
3.00 for 3.15 pm at Banyers**

## Singing for Fun



*Happy singers at their fortnightly singing session led by John Froggett.*

This new group is definitely hitting the right note judging by how many members are joining fortnightly sessions.

The singing is led by John Froggett singing along to a range of music including Frank Sinatra and Neil Diamond songs.

John provides words and backing music and enjoys sharing his love of singing. "I'm a crooner and get asked to sing at weddings and parties," he said.

He has even been on the BBC when he sang on

Radio 2's Elaine Paige on Sunday show three years ago.

"That was my 15 minute claim to fame. I've no musical talent apart from the ability to sing occasionally,"

Singing for Fun meets every two weeks at 11am in the Old School House in Market Hill. There's no need to be able to read music or be pitch perfect - just come to enjoy singing along with other members.

All those attending the group leave with a smile

on their face and all look forward to the next get-together.

Starting this group has been an ambition of Jackie's for the past five years and she is delighted that it has become a reality, thanks to John Froggett being willing to lead the singing. A real sign of its success is that since the group started numbers are growing at each session.

If you are interested in coming along to Singing for Fun please contact group leader Jackie Gellert.

*Pam Dajda*

## Solo Sundays

Solo Sundays is going strong with up to 30 members enjoying meeting up for lunch at venues in and around Royston, Brenda Brown reports.

"Since Doreen Howe and I have taken over the Solo Sundays group, assisted by Barbara Rout and Angela Stannard we have been visiting a few new venues with great success," she said.

"These include the Red House at Longstowe and the Fox and Duck at

Therfield. Our August booking is at the Woodman at Nuthampstead where we also hope to visit the Airfield Museum which is next door."

The lunches are friendly and informal and Brenda says everybody chips in.

"We don't sit with the same people. It's a good social get together and everyone enjoys it."

The group meets on the second Sunday of the month and is aimed at

members living alone. Newcomers are welcomed and more members who are able to offer lifts too would be much appreciated.

"We're trying to match people up with lifts and it would be nice to have a few more members who are prepared to help," she said.

To find out more contact Brenda Brown, Doreen Howe, Barabara Rout or Angela Stannard.



## Stepping out with Five Mile Walkers

The group is making the most of the summer weather after a succession of muddy outings earlier in the year, as Eric Heaton reports.



*Ideal walking weather at Latchford.*



*Not on the menu - Roman snail spotted during the Latchford walk.*

On a perfect July day just seven of us met at The Feathers Inn at Wadesmill. Peter Andrew had planned a walk through part of Hertfordshire's most picturesque countryside. In minutes we were in open country before reaching Sacombe House built in 1803-1806 and now being renovated.

We stopped at St Catherine's Church which stands on a wooded hillside. A church has been here for over a thousand years. We returned to the Feathers Inn for a welcome lunch.

On June 21st, the longest day of the year, we met at the Star Inn at Standon for a new walk on a lovely summer morning. Our route took us by the River Rib to Latchford through the stud farm then along the opposite river bank.

We finished with an excellent lunch at the Star Inn which we can highly recommend.

One of our photographs is of a Roman snail thought to have been introduced by the Romans and cultivated to eat. But as they are protected there may not be Snails Are Us takeaways just yet!

There were times over several weeks in April and May that we thought the rain would never stop. But when ten of us met at The Cricketers at Clavering the sky was clear and the temperature quickly climbed to make a very pleasant day. The going was still soft (lots of mud) but we all enjoyed it.

Our April walk had to be delayed by a week as heavy rain had made footpaths in Waresley Wood almost impossible to negotiate.

After a practice walk in which we were soaked I decided to be prepared, so wore waterproof over trousers and jacket. One walker suggested that I looked like a toddler ready to do some puddle jumping... which I suppose I did. However, at the end of a very enjoyable walk, I only had muddy boots and stayed dry.

The woods were a vision of bluebells and if you missed them put it in your diary for next year. You could follow our route from the Dunscombe Arms through Waresley Wood to Great Gransden.

*Eric Heaton*

Fascinating facts about 1066, former gunpowder mills now a fun family attraction, and seeking out the stories behind pub signs... all thought-provoking topics for the History group as Pam Dajda reports

## Did you know that?

There's one date in English history everyone knows - 1066 and the Battle of Hastings.

That dramatic day in October ended with the defeat of King Harold by William, Duke of Normandy.

But things are not always as straightforward as they seem, and Annette Guttridge explained that 1066 was an extremely complicated year.

Edward the Confessor had apparently promised that

William should succeed him. But the knights were opposed to a Norman ruler and decided Edward's brother-in-law Harold should be crowned.

Unfortunately for the new king another contender - King Harald of Norway - landed in the Humber in September 1066 to stake his claim.

Harold marched north and defeated the Viking invaders but then had to turn back to face the invading army from Normandy.

By that time he and his men were exhausted. Following Harold's death William was crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066, sealing a turbulent year.

We know all this from the Bayeux Tapestry, which dates from the 1070s.

"It was the story as told by the victors and we don't know if it's all true. It's a wonderful piece of work," said Annette.

*Pam Dajda*

*One in the eye for where Harold fell.*



## The Royal Gunpowder Mills

The Royal Gunpowder Mills started out as watermills in the Waltham Abbey area before being converted for gunpowder production in the 1600s.

Saltpetre made in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire was used for grinding, boiling and drying powder and for 300 years the site shaped military history.

Speaker Richard Thomas traced the history of the site, the expanding workforce and the development of revolutionary nitro-based explosives and propellants.

The canal system was extended to cope with transporting products and the First World War saw a huge increase in demand for more cordite drying stoves.

Because of the risk of explosions there were two hospitals in the complex - the second built in 1916 for 3000 women workers on the site.

The Mills closed in 1945, but remained as a research establishment. After decontamination and redevelopment, the remaining 170 acres opened to the public in 2001 as a popular heritage visitor attraction.

## How did British pubs get their names?

What's in a name? Quite a lot when it comes to pub signs!

Reg Hounsell took us back to 1393 when pubs were first ordered to hang a sign outside to make them easily visible.

As most people could not read, an illustration was often used – and at that time the White Hart was popular because that was the symbol of the king, Richard II.

Nowadays the most popular names are The Red Lion and The Crown, and we heard the intriguing stories behind so many pubs.

The Dirty Duck in Stratford-upon-Avon began life as the Black Swan, but was renamed either by actors or American GIs during the war.

The Bishop's Finger in Smithfield Market refers to the sign which pointed the way to Canterbury for medieval pilgrims.

The Anchor at Bankside where Samuel Pepys is said to have witnessed the Fire of London in 1666.

A fascinating talk - with a sample of local brews on offer to get members into the spirit of the occasion.



## Anyone for Croquet?

Royston U3A Croquet restarted in April after a winter break. Everyone was delighted to be back on the lawn again for gentle exercise, some skill but mainly lots of laughs, said group leader Sue Barnes.

The group meets on Monday mornings at Meldreth Croquet Club

lawn behind the British Queen pub. A course for beginners has also recently been introduced for members interested in learning to play.

"It's a very friendly group with players of all abilities and we all benefit from gentle exercise with lots of laughter," said Sue.

*Monday morning croquet at Meldreth Croquet Club.*

All equipment is supplied by Meldreth Croquet Club in return for lawn fees of £3 per person per session.

"We hope to hold further courses in the future so if you would like to be kept informed of when the next one will be please get in touch with me," she said. Sue can be contacted via the groups section on the Royston U3A website.



# ain't too proud

## THE TEMPTATIONS MUSICAL

The Theatre group went on its second excursion of the year to see *Ain't Too Proud* -The Temptations new musical at the Prince Edward theatre London.

Nineteen intrepid theatre goers set off and we were in for a treat! After we had all had lunches in various restaurants we gathered at the theatre. The atmosphere was expectant and buzzing!

We heard the story of how the Temptations were originally formed, the personal difficulties they encountered and how they had to break down barriers to be accepted across America. Of course this was to do with the racist elements of America and we even had mention of Martin Luther King.

Despite all these tensions they created fabulous music which had everyone's toes

tapping. At the end of the show we cheered the fabulous orchestra that had been playing brilliantly behind the scenes.

A great show to see with all the wonderful music and even better "moves"!

Thank you to everyone who came along and look out for further theatre trips this summer.

*Deirdre Smith*

## Dates for your diary

**AUGUST** No monthly meeting

### SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 26, 2pm at Royston Town Hall and via Zoom

### EVERY CONTACT LEAVES A TRACE

**Guest Speaker: Chris Truran**

Chris Truran joined the Metropolitan Police in March 1975 training as a Scenes of Crime Officer (SOCO). During his 38 years he examined over 25,000 crimes scenes ranging from shop-lifting to murder.

### OCTOBER

Tuesday 31, 2pm at Royston Town Hall and via Zoom

### A SOLO WALK ACROSS AFRICA

**Guest Speaker: Fran Sandham**

Fran Sandham took on the challenge of a lifetime by walking across Africa solo coast to coast. His 3,000 mile walk from the Atlantic on Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar was the first time on record anyone has crossed Africa solo entirely on foot by this route.

## Easy Guide to Interest Groups

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM			Book Club 1	Birding	Walkers: Strollers	Book Club 2
		Golf Croquet	Fitness	Book Club 3		
			Seated Exercise	Life Stories		
				Singing for Fun		
				Walkers: Five Mile		
PM	Solo Sundays	Art	MONTHLY MEETING last Tuesday of month	Clay Shooting	Canasta	Classic Novels
		Current Affairs	History	Film	Gardening	Petanque/Boules
		French Conversation	Ukulele	Wine Appreciation	Golf	
		Pottery (Hand Building)	Yarn & Chat		Quiz	
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

GROUP	DAY	TIME	FREQUENCY	GROUP LEADER
Art	Mon	2:00pm	Monthly last Mon	Sylvia Jordan
Birding	Wed	8:30am	Suspended	Carol McGeoch
Book Club 1	Tues	10:30am	Monthly 1st Tues	Deirdre Smith
Book Club 2	Fri	11:00am	Monthly variable	Janet Burton
Book Club 3	Wed	10:30am	Monthly last Wed	Elizabeth (Lee) Towers
Canasta	Thurs	2:00pm	2nd and 4th Thurs of month	Sue Clark
Classic Novels	Fri	2:00pm	Monthly last Fri	Sue Biggs
Clay Shooting	Wed	2:00pm	Monthly variable	Frank Martin
Current Affairs	Mon	3:30pm	Monthly 3rd Mon	Sarah Hillman
Curry Club	Mon	12:00pm	Suspended	
Events & Outings (open to all)	Variable	Variable	Occasional	
Film	Wed	2:00pm	Suspended	
Fitness	Tues	9:30am	Weekly	Kathy Hounsell
French Conversation	Mon	2:00pm	2nd and 4th Mon of month	Barbara Fielden
Gardening	Thurs	2:30pm	Suspended	
Golf	Thurs	1:00pm	Weekly	Peter Walden
Golf Croquet	Mon	10:15am	Weekly	Sue Barnes Bishop
History	Tues	2:00pm	Monthly 2nd Tues	Reg Hounsell
Jazz Appreciation	Wed	7:30pm	Suspended	
Life Stories	Wed	11:00am	Suspended	
Patchwork	Wed	10:00am	Suspended	
Petanque / Boules	Fri	2:30pm	Weekly	Jane Dottridge
Pottery (Hand Building)	Mon	2:00pm	Suspended	
Quiz	Thurs	2:00pm	Suspended	
Seated Exercise	Tues	10:45am	Weekly	Kathy Hounsell
Singing for Fun	Wed	11:00am	1st and 3rd Wed of month	Jackie Gellert
Solo Sundays	Sun	12:00pm	Monthly 2nd Sun	Brenda Brown
Theatre Trips	Variable	Variable	Variable	Deirdre Smith
Ukulele	Tues	12:00pm	Weekly	John Bishop
Walkers: Five Mile	Wed	9:45am	Monthly 2nd Wed	Eric Heaton
Walkers: Strollers	Thurs	10:15am	1st and 3rd Thurs of month	Christine Cawdell
Wine Appreciation	Wed	Variable	Monthly in-person or on Zoom	Jackie Gellert
Yarn & Chat	Tues	2:00pm	1st and 3rd Tues of month	Melanie Pluck

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

## 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 welcome too - to Pam Dajda at [publicityroystonu3a@gmail.com](mailto:publicityroystonu3a@gmail.com)

## Contacts

Please use the Royston U3A website contacts page to email us with any queries.

For general information about Royston U3A please contact the Chair.

For information about interest groups please select the option Interest Groups Co-ordinator stating the group in which you are interested.

For information about membership please select the option Membership Secretary.

For queries about our website or if you wish to send updates please select the option Website and Updates.

## Royston U3A Committee

Chair	Jackie Gellert
Treasurer	Barbara Andrew
Secretary	Marion Martin
Membership Secretary	Marion Martin
Minutes Secretary	Sylvia Fuller
Groups Co-ordinator	Joan Westcott
New Members Contact	Carla Bailey
Publicity	Pam Dajda
Royston U3A News	Ralph Gellert
Speaker Secretary	David Edwards

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