



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

# Sarratt & District News

www.sarrattu3a.org.uk

Newsletter No. 75: April/May 2019

Copy for next newsletter (June/July) should be submitted by 20 May 2019

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## A word from the Chair

Dear Members

As my Time as Chairman comes to an end, I wish to Thank everyone for their support. Over the last 4 years I have had so much encouragement from the Committee, Group leaders and Members it has made my life very easy in this role. This is the last newsletter item I will be writing in this capacity so you will not have to put up with my rambling on after this.

The AGM will soon be upon us and it will be up to you to nominate the required officers and members to the committee which oversees the running and the success of our U3A so please be involved with all that is required. I if elected, will help for a further year to give support with the other elected members of the committee. I wish the New Chair and Vice Chair all the best for their 2-year stint in their roles. The same for our Treasurer who I am sure will be re-elected.

If you have any ideas for new groups large or small please put

them forward, there is plenty of help to start up new groups. This is all part of being involved with the U3A organisation, it is what you signed up to.

We had a successful new member's meeting on the 4th March at which I ate too much cake, it was great to meet and greet most of the new members and included some of the Committee and Group leaders. Thanks to all involved in setting it up.

With the membership standing at 326 for the coming year I feel it's a number which still keeps our U3A to a friendly manageable size.

I wish every success to next year's committee and hope that as Members of our U3A you will enjoy the coming years activities.

Wishing you all the best of everything,

Colin.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS DIARY 2019

Meetings held in Sarratt Village Hall at 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

8th May	Annual General Meeting	
5th June	'Miss Savage Moves House'	Christine Adams
3rd July	'Medical Detection Dogs'	Jan Grant
14th August	'Protecting Yourself Against Frauds and Scams'	Steve Roberts

## ROUND THE GROUPS

### TABLE TENNIS

We meet twice a month, on the first and fourth Monday afternoons, at Rickmansworth Lawn Tennis Club. We have a couple of places available and new budding players are welcome. We operate a waiting list. We have two tables and have now been playing together for 18 months, so the standard has improved.

**Contact:** Marilyn West

### WALKING GROUP

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, beginning each walk at 10.00am. The walks are about 10 miles long (shorter in the darker months) and include a coffee stop and a pub lunch.

So far this year we have been enjoying familiar routes close to home, around the Sarratt area, Kings Langley, Ashridge and the Rickmansworth Aquadrome. The weather has mostly been kind to us; we narrowly avoided a heavy snowfall, have experienced only one soaking (and soon dried out in the pub!) and were even walking in our shirtsleeves in February – all so much better than the Arctic conditions last year. Now, with the longer days, we shall be extending our range to favourite haunts in the Chilterns, Thames Valley and beyond.

Walking together gives us plenty of time to talk, and conversations range from grandchildren to politics, TV programmes to opera, sport from skiing to rugby, travel and much more. We are of course (!) also mindful of the educational aims of the U3A: the walk leaders usually manage to find an interesting topic of local history to explain, and for those interested, there is always plenty to follow up on our return home: places we've seen, plant identification, or the latest book/theatre recommendations.

If this appeals to you, we have a few spaces in the group at present; or would be happy to help several of you set up a new group. We have plenty of recorded routes to get you started.

**Contacts:** Frances and Neil Ashley

### GARDENING

At the March meeting of the Gardening Club, we were entertained and highly amused by Hugh Grainger who talked about inventions.

There was much laughter from the 45-strong audience, (great to see so many!). However, his talk was also interspersed with some dire warnings about the dangers of certain artificial sweeteners and the consequences of the spread of GM crops.

It was a very informative and enjoyable morning.

### PROGRAMME

**April 8th** Neale Holmes Smith **Talk**  
Discovering Hertfordshire's Wild Life & Landscapes  
Spring Table for members flowers Sarratt Village Hall

**May 13th** TBA **Visit** to a member's Garden  
TBA

**June 10th** Car/Bubbles **Visit** to "Panacea  
Museum" Bedford

**July 8th** Car **Visit** to "Alison Green's  
Garden"  
As featured in RHS Magazine Enfield

**August 12th** Car/Bubbles **Visit** to "Jordans Mill",  
Gardens, Working Mill & Cafe Biggleswade

**September 9th** Coach **Visit** to "Wimpole Hall"  
National Trust, Gardens, House, Shops, Restaurant &  
Tea Rooms Cambridgeshire

**October 14th** TBA Sarratt Village Hall

**November 11th** TBA Sarratt Village Hall

**December 9th** Fun and Games with Mince  
Pies Sarratt Village Hall

**Contacts:** Gill, Chrissy and Jane

## CITY EXPLORERS

What we have been doing this year so far.

January 24th 2019

First trip of the year was to the Natural History Museum.

Having met at the Coffee House within the main building we then moved on to the special exhibition "Life in the Dark". Here we experienced how the animals, birds, insects etc. adapted to life at night by sight, smell and touch. Then everyone was able to explore the wonderful exhibits in the museum, visiting areas of their own choice.

February 28th 2019

Second trip of the year was to the Royal Albert Hall.

Having met at the Café Bar we then divided into two groups for our general tour of the building.

This wonderful building was modelled on the classic entertainment structures of the Greek & Roman times i.e. colosseums & amphitheatres.

The idea conceived by Prince Albert to bring the Arts & Sciences to the general public had to be completed after his death by Henry Cole.

We were able to see where the Royal entrance and stairway were sited and also to watch packing up of the staging of Cirque du Soleil.

Opened in 1871 with 36 shows, there are now about 400 shows per year, in the auditorium and many more around the building as in the Elgar Room, a small scale performance space, and recitals in the Italian Kitchen "Verdi" Restaurant; also there are sports, dancing, dining, singing, music of all genres: the Messiah, Jazz, Eric Clapton, Classic coffee mornings, story telling and music for 0-4 year olds.

There is entertainment for all, as Prince Albert imagined

March 28th 2019

Well it has to be the Science Museum.....at least we know how to get there

!!!!



**Contact:** Penny Bulgin

## EXPLORING LONDON GROUP 1

### 5 April – Architecture and the City of London - £10

We meet our guide Kim at 11am outside Bank station by the steps to the Royal Exchange. Do you know the City of London? Visited St Paul's Cathedral? Familiar with the financial district? Well, today's the opportunity to get to know it better and to bring yourself bang up to date. See some of the newest buildings in London, the latest art installations and the best view that's freely available with no booking and find out who won the Sterling Prize and decide for yourself which is a carbuncle! The walk finishes at St Paul's so Café 101 beckons for our lunch.

Suggested route: 9.35 Met line from Chorleywood, 9.39 from Ricky to Finchley Road, Jubilee to Bond Street, Central line to Bank.

### 3 May – Stephens House and 2 course buffet lunch - £16

Meet outside Finchley Road station at 10.15 and we will journey onwards together by bus. We will have a guided tour of the Grade 11 listed house, which was bequeathed 100 years ago by Henry Stephens, the successful manufacturer of ink and stationery. Lunch is included in the price, a cold buffet and dessert trolley, as is a cup of coffee with biscuits on arrival. After lunch we are free to explore the gardens and there is also a small museum. Don't forget your bus passes today.

Suggested route: 9.35 Met line from Chorleywood, 9.39 from Ricky to Finchley Road. From there we will take a bus to the house.

### 7 June – In the footsteps of Matthew Shardlake - £10

We meet our guide Andy outside Chancery Lane station Exit 3 at 11am. Tracing the footsteps of C.J Sansom's Matthew Shardlake and his 'side kick' Barak through the streets of Tudor London starting with Staple Inn, a beautifully restored Tudor façade a stone's throw from Shardlake's fictional home in Chancery lane near Gatehouse Yard and his Chambers. The red brick Gatehouse from 1518 still stands today. Then to the dark heart of Tudor London, where his good friend Roger Elliard is found murdered in Revelation, Ludgate Hill where Tabitha the talking Parrot resides in Dissolution. The Shambles, Bladder Street, The Pope's Head Tavern, Grey Friars, the 'Hole' at Newgate Prison: we rediscover those "lost" streets and nodal points of Shardlake's world.

Suggested route: 9.35 Met line from Chorleywood, 9.39 from Ricky, to Finchley Road, Jubilee to Bond Street, Central line to Chancery Lane.

**Contacts:** Jan and Judith

## JAUNTERS' 2019 PROGRAMME

17th May – Vyne House (National Trust )

21st June - Trip to Windsor /Boat Trip

18th July – Denbies Vineyard /Polesden Lacey (NT)

8th August – Frogmore House /Savill Gardens

12th December - Winchester Christmas Market

Please watch out for the booking forms

**Contact:** Rosemary Daines

## ENGINEERING HERITAGE

Our first meeting of the year was a splendid presentation by U3A member Brian Hill of the many achievements realised by Isambard Kingdom Brunel; this followed by our popular annual lunch at the Plough in Belsize.

February at the Village Hall saw a film on the subject of "Industrial Revelations" kindly organised by member Brian Bloomfield.

In March we start our outside visits with a trip to the "London Transport Museum" situated in Covent Garden – organised and led by John Parton. There follows further exciting outings with visits to Kempton Steam Museum in April, the Morgan Factory in May and a tour of Lord's Cricket Ground in June.

**Contact:** Sheila Malin

## EXPLORING LONDON GROUP 2

We started 2019 with a trip to the Royal Albert Hall where we enjoyed an excellent guided tour. We were shown the Royal Box and the hospitality area for the Royals. We were amazed at how many extra 'entertainment' rooms there are and one we went into contained Elton John's red piano. The weather was superb and we enjoyed a walk back through Kensington Gardens in the sunshine.

In March our trip was Hampstead Spies. Our knowledgeable guide, Stewart Purvis CBE, enlightened us on the activities of Russian spies going back to the 1940s.



**Contacts:** Marilyn and Mike West

## MUSIC GROUP

Sept. 2018 – Feb. 2019

We continued Music Group meetings in September after a break for the August Bank Holiday, with our personal choice of music. Ladies in Lavender, Bryn Terfel singing O Ruddier than the Cherry, St. Louis Blues sung by Nat King Cole and The White Rose of Athens sung by none other than Nana Mouskouri gave us a wide range of musical genre. October and November we concentrated on a theme of Nature so had everything from The Nightingale and the Cuckoo by Handel, a Pocketful of

Rainbows sung by Elvis to Autumn, from The Four Seasons by Vivaldi. The November session was the last before Christmas so anything Christmassy went into the CD player. Mince pies excepted as they went "down the hatch" so to speak!

It is always a challenge to think of a new theme but Movies and Musicals was one we hadn't previously explored. January and February found us reminiscing with My Fair Lady, Oklahoma, Evita, and West side Story, Blue Hawaii (Elvis of course), Around the World in 80 Days and Les Miserables amongst many other well liked tunes. We shall continue in March with this theme but have a break in April as our meeting date coincides with Easter.

We would welcome new members so if you are interested please get in touch.

**Contact:** Irene Oulsnam

## ART GROUP

We are a small, friendly group now in our sixth year and average 10 - 12 members per session. We welcomed a new member last month and look forward to welcoming another on Friday.

Unfortunately, we heard last week that our entry for the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy did not make it through to the first round. A bit disappointing but, never mind, it was fun to do and kept us busy for a while.

Last month, inspired by a visit to the Tate, Roz set up a still life group 'Bonnard style'. Pierre Bonnard liked intense colours which he combined in his paintings in a completely individual way that gives them great intensity. He could give the sense of bright sunlight outside, as well as artificial light indoors. Lots of his paintings include a window, giving a view of outdoors as well as an indoor scene. There were some great efforts, although our view through the window was probably not as inspiring as Bonnard's!

Next month we have our oil painting workshop with Andrew Schofield, a very talented local artist. Our subject this time will be something furry, a bit different from feathers and flowers so we are looking forward to that.

Later on in the year we are planning a visit to the Leonardo da Vinci Exhibition which opens towards the end of May at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace. Marking the 500th anniversary of his death, the exhibition brings together more than 200 of the Renaissance master's greatest drawings in the Royal Collection, forming the largest exhibition of Leonardo's work in over 65 years. I'm sure it will be a day out to remember!

**Contacts:** Agnes Bonwick and Scilla Roe