

# IN TOUCH

Dear All,

As I write this, the date tells me it is exactly 2 months since Christmas Day, and as Himself Indoors reminded me, only another 10 months until the next Christmas Day! Needless to say that was not well received!

However, spring seems to be getting ever nearer: the daffodils are beginning to bloom, our snowdrops under the hedge are looking a trifle "tired" and, joy of joys, the days are drawing out. There have been some lovely sunsets recently, haven't there? I find I begin to feel more optimistic as the daylight hours lengthen, and the prospect of warmer weather dimly begins to beckon!

I do hope that you enjoy this edition of "In Touch". Many thanks to Bill for putting it together. Please don't forget that we welcome contributions whether they be photos or poetry - even doggerel will do, or accounts of group activities. It is always pleasant to read and look at the contributions especially what the various groups are up to.

Yours,

*Liz Greenway. - Chairman.*

## Philosophy and Discussion Group

Having recently looked at the question of the Role Of Government, and concluded that it was maximising contentment in both the long and short term, we have now investigated Fascism. We looked in some detail at the rise of Fascism in Mussolini's Italy. Then viewed at how it provided the blue print for other dictatorial rulers. They gained power by the ruthless violent bullying of opposition, including murder. Hitler was the most obvious, but unfortunately not the only one, but the overall approach seems common.

In March we will look at the impact on society of isolation. - both of the individual and of the state.

**Chris Spencer - Group Leader**

## New Art Workshop

We are delighted to announce a new group for the artistically inclined. Under the leadership of Joan Stewart, the Art Workshop meetings will be held in the committee room at the New Remembrance Hall, Charlton, on the first and third Monday of each month, from 2.00pm till 4.00pm, beginning 6<sup>th</sup> March.

These will be informal sessions where people can bring along their individual projects and work on them in a friendly, supportive environment. While there won't be any instruction or lectures, it is quite likely that members will learn from each other's experience—and have fun at the same time.

To book your place, or for further information, contact Joan:

[joanstewart216@btinternet.com](mailto:joanstewart216@btinternet.com)  
or 01747 824063

<b>Group</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Leader</b>
Art Appreciation	2nd Monday Afternoon	Barbara Hurst
Art Workshop	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday Afternoon	Joan Stewart
Canasta	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday Afternoon	Hazel Baker
Digital Photography	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday Morning	Andy Newton
Embroidery	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Afternoon	Lesley Frost
French for Fun I	Tuesday alt. weeks Morning	Ron Beard
French for Fun II	Wednesday alt. weeks Afternoon	Chris Stotesbury Elizabeth Lewer
Garden Interest	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday Morning	Barbara Hurst
Genealogy	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday Afternoon	Liz Greenway
German Conversation	Wednesday alt. weeks Afternoon	Robert Light
International History	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Morning	Richard Sim
Literature	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday Morning	Peter Rolfe
Lunch Club	4th Friday	Ros Ham
Mah Jong	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday Afternoon	Marion Pace
Music for Pleasure	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday Afternoon	Eileen Haddleton
Natural History	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Morning	Marion Hammond
Philosophy	Arranged by Agreement	Chris Spencer
Poetry and Play Reading	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday Afternoon	Audrey Cross Janet Botterill
Reading Group	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Morning	Barbara Hurst
Rummicub	Weekly Tuesday Afternoon	Avril Fletcher
Scrabble	Weekly Friday Morning	Yvonne Hill
Spite & Malice	3rd Thursday Afternoon	Sue Walker
Table Tennis	Weekly Thursday Afternoon	Elizabeth Lewer Chris Stotesbury
Walking	1st Tuesday Morning	Barbara Robson

**All leaders can be contacted via the website**

**Autumn holiday to Norfolk**  
**Monday September 4th - Friday September 8th 2023**  
**All inquiries to Steve Hale please NOT the editor**

Please find below details of this year's visit and a reply slip if you wish to join us. In an effort to keep prices down I would like to use mobile phone numbers and emails as much as possible, please. There shouldn't be more than a 200m walk at any one time and the coach can carry some mobility scooters.

Dates to remember!

Non-returnable deposits of £60 to me by FRIDAY APRIL 21ST 2023

Final payment of £350 + £40 single room supplement if applicable by FRIDAY JULY 21ST 2023.

Cheques should be made payable to SHAFTESBURY AND GILLINGHAM U3A.

**ITINERARY**

Monday September 4th - Day 1.

Depart Waitrose Gillingham 08.00 or Bell Street Car Park, Shaftesbury 08.15.

Stopover in Oxford. Leave Oxford at 13.30 and continue our journey to our hotel in Great Yarmouth.

Anticipated time of arrival 17:00-17:30.

Tuesday September 5th - Day 2.

am. Visit Fellbrigg Hall and Gardens. Later in the afternoon we will visit the seaside town of Cromer.

Wednesday September 6th. Day 3.

Whole day guided coach tour in Norfolk.

Thursday September 7th. Day 4.

Day at leisure in the city of Norwich. We will enjoy a ride on an open topped bus as part of the hop on, hop off service.

Friday September 8th. Day 5.

Depart hotel at 09:00. Stopover in Cambridge. Depart Cambridge 14:00 to arrive in Shaftesbury at 17:30 and Gillingham at 17:45(dependent on traffic).

(Days may be swapped round)

**YOUR HOTEL**

**The Waverley Hotel** in Great Yarmouth, a two minute walk from the sandy beach, has 47 rooms with ensuite bathrooms. The hotel holds a 3-star accreditation from the AA. There is a guest elevator for the comfort of the guests. Accommodation includes 4 nights' single, twin or double room and half board. There is a single room supplement of £40.

PRICE

£410 per person + £40 supplement for a single room.

Look forward to seeing you in September.

**Steve Hale Group Leader 01747 834466/ [halerysm@gmail.com](mailto:halerysm@gmail.com)**

.....  
(Please return with non-returnable deposit of £60 to Steve Hale, 19 Hawthorn Avenue, Gillingham Dorset SP8 4ST)

Name(s).....

Mobile number.....

Email.....

SINGLE TWIN OR DOUBLE ROOM NT member YES or NO

Preferred pickup point GILLINGHAM SHAFTESBURY

(Please circle as appropriate)

Any dietary or other requirements

.....

I enclose deposit of £60 per person made payable to

**SHAFTESBURY AND GILLINGHAM U3A**

## Alan's Humour column

### **Is this how a war starts?**

This is a transcript of a radio conversation between a U.S. navy ship and Canadians, in foggy weather off the coast of Newfoundland in October 1995.

Canadians: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid collision.

Americans: We recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid collision.

Canadians: Negative you will have to divert 15 degrees to the south to avoid collision.

This is the Captain of a United States navy ship I say again, divert your course.

Canadians, I say again, you will have to divert as suggested.

Americans: This is the Aircraft Carrier US Abraham Lincoln, the second largest in the U.S. fleet, three destroyers, three cruisers, and numerous support vessels, I demand that you change course or serious counter measures will be taken to ensure the safety of my ships.

Canadians: We are a Lighthouse, the decision is yours!

A group of elderly ladies who went to the same school met up to celebrate their birthdays. For a persons 40th they went to the Ocean Grill, because the waiters were so sexy. For a 50th birthday they went to the same place, because the view of the ocean was superb. For a 60th they went to the Ocean Grill yet again because the dishes were so easily chewable. For a 70th birthday they went to the same place because the restaurant had easy wheelchair access. And finally for an 80th birthday they all went to the Ocean Grill because they had never been there before!

## Shaftesbury in Bloom

Shaftesbury won Gold in its Britain in Bloom category 2022 and will welcome anyone to join the team and keep up this high standard. You can give any time to suit yourself or help out with a work party.

Please contact the Secretary for more details  
[yvonne.jenkins101@gmail.com](mailto:yvonne.jenkins101@gmail.com)

## Speakers for March & April

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**

**Professor Karen Hunt - "Women's Suffrage in Dorset: Forgotten Stories"**

Dorset is not a county usually associated with the long campaign for votes for women that culminated in partial enfranchisement in 1918. However, that does not mean that women (and men) of the county were indifferent to women's lack of citizenship. This talk explores where in Dorset women chose to organise, what they did and the effects it had locally. Why did suffragism blossom in some places and not others; and how did the experience of this campaigning affect Dorset women once the vote was won?

Karen is an author of several books on the subject of Women's Suffrage internationally and also a book about life on the Staffordshire home front in the Great War. Karen is the Chairman of Bridport Museum Trust and Professor Emerita of Modern British History at Keeble University.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Brian Margetson - "The Search for the North West Passage"**

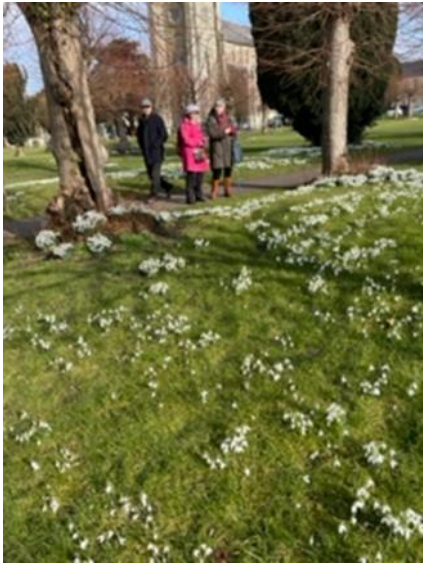
This is the story of the exploration of the North West Passage. The booming trade with the far-east spurred on by the Industrial Revolution had the one major pitfall. To break out of the Atlantic Ocean and reach the far-east (before the Suez or Panama Canals existed) required a hazardous voyage around the Cape of Good Hope. Discover how a succession of brave explorers attempted to discover a shorter sea route around the top of North America. The final link of the "North West Passage" remained elusive. Hear how two competing expeditions, a state sponsored mission led by Sir John Franklin and a more modest affair led by John Rae, a privateer, attempted to discover this missing link. There could not have been a greater difference in their respective outcomes.

After spending a career designing buildings and other structures Brian has now semi-retired allowing him time to focus on his other interest, public speaking. He has a great deal of experience in presenting and has previously been President of Bristol Speakers Club. He has given talks to audiences as diverse as The NHBC, Civic Societies, Women's Institutes and Retirement Homes. His passion is to make his presentations entertaining and lively. He strongly believes any topic can be interesting if well presented.

## Garden Interest Group

### Snowdrop Walk(s)

For our February meeting, 16 of us met for coffee and a chat at



The Grosvenor Arms in Shaftesbury, before setting off, in small groups, to explore the walks developed as a lasting legacy from the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The weather was kind and, while

there isn't a Snowdrop Festival this year, there was plenty to enjoy, including a few pretty shop displays and an art exhibition at the Arts Centre. Highlights for our group included Trinity Churchyard and the strip of woodland alongside Stoney Path, which was well worth the steep climb up Gold Hill to bring us back to the High Street.

### March Meeting

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March, in the Vicarage Schoolroom, when I'll give a presentation on Gardens in Art. The meeting will start at 10.00 for refreshments, and I plan to bake some cakes! The charge is £3 and non-members of the Garden Interest group are welcome.

### April Meeting

The following meeting will take place a week earlier than scheduled on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, to avoid the Easter bank holiday. This will be our annual plant swap, hosted by Sheila Osburn at her home in West Knoyle, so if you plan to come, please make a note of that date. I will provide details nearer the time.

**Barbara Hurst — Group Leader**

## The Art of Seeing:

### An exhibition of photographs by

### Dorchester Camera Club

**Sat 18 February to Thurs 22 June 2023**

**Location — Alice Ellen Cooper Dean  
Community Space, Dorset Museum**

The Club is delighted to have the opportunity to exhibit some of their members' prints in the Dorset Museum together with an audio-visual presentation.

Founded in 1936 by a small group of local photography enthusiasts, Dorchester Camera Club has now become one of the most successful photography clubs in the southwest and the UK. The Club and individual members have achieved notable success and awards in regional, national, and international photography competitions.

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The next edition of ***In Touch*** will be published in April. Deadline for submissions is 22nd March 2023.

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Remember you can view a copy of this NEWSLETTER on our web page at:  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/squ3a/home>