

IN TOUCH JULY/AUGUST 2023

News Updates

Dear all,

Writing this each month reminds me of one of my tasks in teaching: the writing of reports – never a much-loved task as I inevitably lost inspiration for what to write for some of the students I taught.

So, looking back through my u3a folder on the computer [where else?!] for inspiration, I see that last July we were looking forward to our third venue in just over 12 months! How the year has galloped by, or so it seems! We certainly seem to have settled down well at the New Remembrance Hall at Charlton, and hopefully will be there for a long time. My thanks to all those who ensure that we can enjoy the meetings, including refreshments and dealing with the sound system.

This last month has seen some lovely summer weather, though I am sure that the gardeners amongst us have been having concerns about keeping pots, tubs and troughs watered. The recent rain has thankfully ensured that our water butts have now been filled up for the time being.

Please may I remind you that the members' lunch takes place on 3 August at the Royal Chase Hotel. Can you return your menu choice and payment to Barbara Hurst as soon as possible.

Finally, please accept my apologies for non-attendance at the July meeting: we will be in Northumberland for a break.

I do hope that you have a good month and look forward to catching up with many of you at the members' lunch in August.

Liz Greenway.
Chairman



Shaftesbury and Gillingham

Forthcoming Events

6 July – u3a Talk
Sandrine Maubeche
The History and Study of Nine Paintings
– 13th –19th Century

3 August
Summer Lunch
Royal Chase Hotel

6 September 2023
Oxford Day Trip

7 September – u3a Talk
David Bickerton – 'Operation Husky –
The Invasion of Sicily

Here is the links to our web page
<https://u3asites.org.uk/sgu3a/home>

Next u3a Talks

Monthly open meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 10.00 for 10.30am start at The New Remembrance Hall, Charlton, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0PL. A small charge of £2 per person is made, to cover the cost of speakers and refreshments. Open meetings provide an opportunity to have a coffee, socialise and to enjoy presentations from invited speakers. Non-members are welcome to attend one open meeting, free of charge, to sample what is on offer.

Details of speakers for the coming year can be found on our website; the next two are shown below.

Thursday 6 July

Sandrine Maubeche – The History and Study of Nine Paintings 13th –19th Century'

It is difficult to choose a selection of paintings from the National Gallery that hosts 2300 paintings from the 13th to 19th Century, and has one of the finest collections of European Art. Although the collection is relatively small, the pieces are all masterpieces by famous artists, and the following selection spans six centuries of History of Art: Cimabue, Jacopo Di Cione, Van Eyck, Holbein, Botticelli, Rembrandt, Velazquez, Turner and Constable.

Sandrine was born in Paris and after gaining a Baccalaureate in Philosophy, Art and History of Art, she went on to study Architecture, Art and History of Art at La Sorbonne, Paris. Now settled in Wiltshire and raising a family she has used her artistic talents in producing portraits of children, adults and animals, as well as houses, heritage properties and classic cars. Sandrine also worked in parallel as a French teacher at Port Regis School, Shaftesbury and a T/A at Ralph Allen School, Bath. She has been a Longleat House guide and in 2012 qualified as a Blue Badge guide. Is a member of the Guild of Tourist Guides. Now guides and lectures on Art, Folklore, Geology, Archaeology, Literature, Music in the West Country in various languages and works both in the UK and abroad as a Tour Director

Thursday 7 September

David Bickerton – 'Operation Husky – The Invasion of Sicily'

Operation Husky was the codename for the Allied invasion of Sicily with landings taking place in July 1943. General Patton commanded the US Seventh Army and General Montgomery the British Army. Despite the terrain favouring the defenders, the campaign took just 39 days although the Allies failed to prevent the Axis evacuation across the Messina Strait. It's worth noting that 2023 sees the 80th anniversary of the event.

David is a retired civil engineer living in Waterlooville, Hampshire, and since retirement, in addition to investigating his parents' wartime experiences, he has researched his own ancestry. Now researching into people's ancestors has become something of a consuming hobby and has now researched around twenty other peoples' ancestry. David's interest in Operation Husky was inspired as his father commanded HMML 338 during the Sicily landings.

Group News

The Trip That Never Was

The process is easy. You tell the coach company what you would like, they arrange it, you pay for it. This time around we did all the research, we were fully subscribed and all deposits were paid.

Then came the bombshell. The coach company had booked an inaccurate combination of hotel rooms and at such short notice there was no alternative accommodation anywhere in Norfolk. This was a great disappointment and I had to cancel.

South West Coaches have apologised wholeheartedly and have offered us, as a gesture of goodwill, a free day-trip to Oxford. This is offered firstly to those who had booked the five-day visit and am now opening it up to all u3a members. I hope it will be a great day out – details below.

Day Trip to Oxford Including a Guided Walking Tour

Wednesday 6 September 2023

Departures: Waitrose Gillingham 8.00am or Bell Street car park Shaftesbury 8.15am

Return: Shaftesbury 6.45pm and Gillingham 7.00pm

Cost – no charge

Itinerary

- Depart Waitrose Gillingham 8.00am or Bell Street car park Shaftesbury 8.15am
- 10.30am Arrive in Oxford
- 11.00am meet guides outside Ashmolean Museum for 1 hour 'Oxford Highlights Tour'
- 12.00–4.00pm Time at leisure
- 4.15pm Meet the coach ready for 4.30pm departure
- 4.30pm Set off for home, making a comfort stop at Chieveley Services
- 6.45pm Arrive in Shaftesbury
- 7.00pm Arrive in Gillingham

Points of interest

Bill Clinton went to University College.

Oscar Wilde went to Magdalene College.

The Bear Inn has a world-famous collection of ties.

Oxford Castle – current a luxury hotel but was previously a prison!.

The Turf Tavern, the Three Goats' Heads and The Tickety Press are all quirky pubs.

Blackwell's Bookshop is in Broad Street.

The Covered Market has run continuously for 250 years.

If you would like to join us, please send me your email address, mobile phone number, pickup point and yes/no for guided walking tour. Allocation is on first come first served basis.

Steve 01747 834466 or halerysm@gmail.com

Churches/Places of Worship

Our new group aims to visit interesting churches and other places of worship four times a year. The first will be a guided tour of St Nicholas's Church in Moreton, on Thursday 13 July. The church has strong associations with T E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia). Nearby, is a lovely Walled Garden, which has a café, so you can make a day of it if you wish.

The tour will commence at 2.00pm, and the postcode for the church is: DT2 8RH. I encourage ride-sharing and can offer a lift to one more person from Gillingham myself.

Barbara Hurst

barbara@pbhurst.com or 01747 825646

Art Workshop Group

It is with much regret that the Art Workshop group will not be continuing after September due to poor take-up. I hope that the members that did attend enjoyed the short time we had together.

Joan Stewart

Garden Group

A lovely day for our garden visit to Old Down House near Wimborne. Our Hostess Pip was most gracious and took time to chat about her borders which were full and brimming with colour. Quite a few arbours with roses tumbling through them. The frontage to the house had two beautiful beds either side of the grand door and exhibiting an unusual plant the 'Jerusalem Sage'.



Our next venue is 'North Cottage' Tisbury. Although a more modest garden it is full of interest. Lots of different plots all differing in style and feel, and this augmented with pottery and woodwork handmade by the owners. From the intimacy of the garden, it's possible to wander the orchard and ponds with a walk through the coppice wood. I think there is going to be lots of inspiration here.

Irene Gordon

Philosophy

In Today's World What is the Ultimate Nature of Reality?

Reality is the state of things that actually exist, as applied to an idealistic or notional idea of them.

In today's topsy-turvy world, the substantive noun 'reality' seems to have morphed into the word 'real' which is in fact its adjectival cousin. At present, 'virtual reality' is the real thing. However, the two words have very different meanings.

'Real' has throughout been seen as a quality opposite to fake, or something that is tangible. Reality' has an indication of an abstract, undefinable quality and philosophers from the Ancient Greeks through to Kant and Wittgenstein and beyond to this day have all given different definitions. Thus, it can be said that the term 'realism' concerns abstract ideas that have their own existence, whereas real is physical.

We interface with the world using our senses. In general, when our senses tell us something we tend to believe that it is the true. However, can we trust our senses? Let me give you a simple example. Before I could join the army, I needed to have a medical, that included a test for colour blindness. I played a game with another potential recruit and we took it in turn to ask the colour of something we both could see. We laughed a lot, and we both got everything correct. We then did the formal tests; he failed, I passed. The problem was not that he was confused that Red was green etc. The problem was that while I could easily see a person in a bright red jacket in a distant green field, he would have difficulty.

Does this problem overlap into our other senses? I love Christmas dinner, but while others enjoy eating brussels sprouts I detest them. Is this because our sense of taste is different? The deduction here is that we cannot trust our senses (taste, sight, smell, touch, hearing) to tell us reality. So how do we establish something that is true?

Observations can be misleading. Stand outside and observe the heavens and it becomes obvious that the reality is that the earth is the centre of the universe. The sun, moon and planets go round us. That is the geocentric view. Copernicus disagreed, and said the answer was the earth was spinning. Archimedes supported that view.

The scientific evidence supports the idea of Climate Heating. Geological evidence indicates that similar things have happened in the past. In particular rising sea levels have led to mass extinctions. However, politicians have great difficulty believing, and rising to the new reality. Indeed, actions such as letting licences for the extraction of fossil fuel from the North Sea indicate that they do not accept the implications of this new reality; or deliberately exploit the opportunity disregarding the costs.

Chris Spencer

Other groups / items for interest

AUDIBLE

I thought I would include an article about Audible. I am partially sighted and would be lost without this marvellous piece of technology. I loved reading, but now it is far too hard for me to use a conventional book and whilst I have access to a library from RNIB's 'Talking Books', I find the simplicity of Audible combined with *Alexa* much better. Audible is an Amazon-owned company that offers audio books, podcasts, and other audio content. It's one of the most popular streaming services for audiobooks and podcasts, and it's easy to get started. Here's a guide and how to make the most of it.

Signing Up – The first step in getting started with Audible is signing up for an account. To do this, you'll need to visit the official website and click on the 'Sign Up' button. From there, you'll be asked to provide some basic information such as your name, email address, and payment information. Once you've completed this process, you'll be ready to start exploring all that Audible has to offer. There is a 30-day free trial and thereafter you pay £7.99/month. On top your choice of book you get lots of free stuff and special offers such as £2.99 sale and buy one get one free.

Exploring Content – Once you've signed up for an account, you can start exploring all of the content available on Audible. The homepage of the site features a selection of featured audiobooks and podcasts that are updated regularly. You can also search for specific titles or browse through categories such as fiction, non-fiction, business and finance, crime, health and wellness, and more.

Using Your Account – Once you've found something that interests you, you can add it to your library by clicking on the 'Add to Library' button. This will add it to your account so that you can access it whenever you like. You can also manage your library by deleting items or adding new ones as needed.

Using Different Devices to Play Audible – If you have a smart phone, you can download the Audible App; from this you can access and listen to all the books in your library. You can also connect to *ALEXA* via echo devices, in your car or via iPad. It becomes really magical if you have a number of echo-dot devices throughout your home as you can pause in one room and then re-start in another.

If you are finding it hard to read books for whatever reason, I would recommend joining earlier than you feel you need to, so you can be familiar to how it works long before you need it.

Dorset Museum Dorchester

Festival of Archaeology | Events

July 2023

This month, current exhibitions including Artist Rooms: Louise Bourgeois. There's lots to look forward to over the summer, with Wildlife Photographer of the Year arriving at Dorset Museum on 21 July, and an exciting programme of events planned for the Festival of Archaeology.

Meet the Vikings

16 July 2023, 11:00am – 4:00pm

Life Drawing at Dorset Museum – Six-week course led by James Meiklejohn

17 July 2023, 2:00pm to 4:30pm

Dating the Cerne Abbas Giant | Martin Papworth Lecture

20 July 2023, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Wildlife Photographer of the Year – Special Exhibition

21 July – 29 October 2023

Roman Dorset: Town and Country – A Day School

22 July 2023, 9:30am – 5:00pm

Dorset Museum Music Society

Iyad Surghayer, Pianist

26 July 2023, 7:30pm

Roman Town House Tours

Throughout July

For more information visit their website at: <https://www.dorsetmuseum.org>

.....and finally

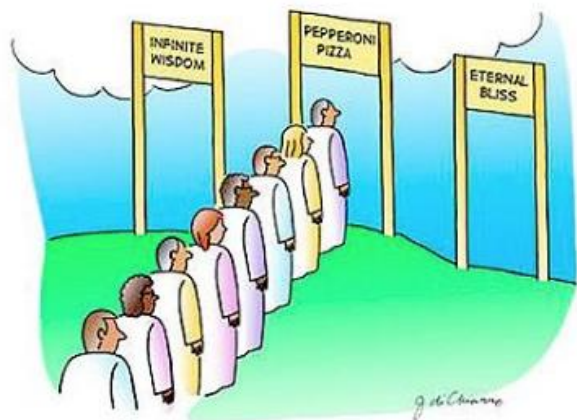
When we were kids, I used to be afraid of the dark.

But now I am grown up – the electricity bill makes me afraid of the light!

The other day, my girlfriend asked me to pass her lipstick, but I accidentally passed her a glue stick.
She still isn't talking to me.

My wife told me she'll slam my head into the keyboard if I don't get off the computer.

I'm not too worried – I think she's joking.



Group	Date	Leader	Website
Art Appreciation	2nd Monday 2-3.30pm	Barbara Hurst	click here
Art Workshop	1st & 3rd Monday 2pm-4pm	Joan Stewart	click here
Canasta	1st and 3rd Monday – pm	Hazel Baker	click here
Digital Photography	3rd Thursday – am	Andy Newton	click here
Embroidery	3rd Wednesday – pm	Lesley Frost	click here
French for Fun 1	Tuesday/fortnightly 10-11.30am	Ron Beard	click here
French for Fun 2	Wednesday /fortnightly pm	Chris Stotsbury Elizabeth Lewer	click here
Garden Interest	2nd Monday – am	Irene Gordon	click here
Genealogy	4th Monday – pm	Liz Greenway	click here
German Conversation	Wednesday / fortnightly – pm	Robert Light	click here
International History	3rd Wednesday – am	Richard Sim	click here
Literature	1st & 3rd Monday 10.30am on Zoom	Peter Rolfe	click here
Lunch Club	Last Friday	Ros Ham	click here
Mahjong	2nd & 4th Friday – am	Marion Pace	click here
Music for Pleasure	2nd & 4th Thursday – pm	Eileen Haddleton	click here
Natural History	2nd & 4th Wednesday 10am to 12.30.	Marion Hammond	click here
Philosophy	Monthly Tuesday pm	Chris Spencer	click here
Poetry & Play Reading	1st Thursday – pm	Audrey Cross Janet Botterill	click here
Reading Group	1st Friday 11am -12pm	Barbara Hurst	click here
Rummicub	Weekly Tuesday – pm	Avril Fletcher	click here
Scrabble	Weekly Friday – am	Yvonne Hill	click here
Spite & Malice	3rd Monday – pm	Sue Walker	click here
Table Tennis	Weekly Thursday 2pm	Elizabeth Lewer Chris Stotesbury	click here
Walking Group	1st Tuesday – am	Barbara Robson	click here

In Touch is published by Shaftesbury and Gillingham u3a (Sgu3a)

Registered Charity No 11078452

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