

Testimonial 4 – Andrew M – French Intermediate

Tuesday evening waiting for the talk on Tangmere Airfield to start, Mrs Jones is sitting next to me, 'I'm with the Dorking u3a' she says.

'How about that' I reply, 'I was born and brought up in Dorking'.

'I actually live just outside Dorking in Newdigate ', She adds.

'Even more extraordinary. We moved there in the early 1980's – we lived in Peartree Cottage'.

'Well, I live in Spring Cottage – I was your next-door neighbour. Wasn't it Harry and Mary Morgan?'

What a small world. This is how extraordinary conversations begin here at the SE u3a Forum Summer School.

We were blessed with beautiful weather at The University of Chichester's campus, Monday 4th – Thursday 8th September. Plenty on offer for the 150 attendees, from archaeology to yoga – something to suit almost everybody. I was in the French group among 10 ladies from all over the country with Susanne as our truly lovely tutor. Nous avons bavardé, discuté, lis, écouté, regardé, traduit en fait nous avons passé de très, très bon moment – c'était top!

The accommodation was in the student flats which were fine for three nights (though my mattress was far from comfortable) and meals in the campus restaurant. I was particularly pleased to find delicious pain au chocolat for breakfast. Generally, I thought the catering was very good.

After dinner each evening we had some entertainment. A quiz on Monday – our table (8) were middle ranking but thanks to Beryl her table were the champions winning a packet of chocolate fingers. Tuesday was the excellent talk on Tangmere with a film as an alternative if you didn't fancy the talk. On Wednesday Jane Glennie, who specialises in theatrical talks, presented 'Violet's Titanic Escape' about how Violet Jessop a ship's stewardess survived the sinking of the Titanic and then the sinking of her sister ship Britannic. It was totally enthralling, I have never known an hour fly by so quickly.

All in all it was a fabulous 4 days not only for the courses but for all the different people that you meet.

Finally, an enormous thank you everyone involved in organising it. I know that many, many hours of hard work went into it.

Andrew - Meopham u3a