



**Newsletter**

**Wandsworth**



Trump's nothing like Hitler.

There's no way he could write a book.

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**NEWSLETTER TEAM**

Don Brind and Peter Martin are keen to hear from you.

Please email us at  
 u3anewsands@gmail.com

PM: 020 8672 8150  
 DB: 020 8673 1116

*A meeting about a very special place .....*

**“People are at their lowest ebb when they land in this place.”**

These are the words of a relative of a patient at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability in Putney. He was speaking in a video shown by the hospital’s CEO Paul Allen in a Zoom meeting that was joined by more than 60 U3A members.

Paul explained how the hospital improves the lives of the 230 patients, some of whom stay there for decades. Opened in the 1850s, with support from Charles Dickens and Florence Nightingale, it shed its original name of hospital for “Incurables” in the 1990s.

Although many of its patients are NHS-funded, it remained a charity in 1948 when the NHS took over most hospitals. The Royal treats patients with a variety of disabilities resulting from brain injuries and genetic conditions. It is fully staffed thanks to a recent recruitment drive in the Philippines. With 700 staff, it has to raise a staggering £3.4 million a year to stay afloat. It is also looking to raise £4m to refurbish its Victorian wards.

It prides itself on a family atmosphere with – in normal times – 150 volunteers and daily visits by relatives. This has been restricted by Covid but the RHN’s stringent controls have kept it virus-free since April.



**If you are going to raise £3.4m a year, then you’ll need to eat a lot of cake – and then perhaps ..**

**.. you run it off?**



<https://www.rhn.org.uk/support-us/donate/>

## The Dons are back in town!

Our local team is back: just over the border earlier this month AFC Wimbledon returned home, the Dons playing the first ever match at Plough Lane with cardboard fans present for a 2-2 draw with Doncaster.

The Dons, 18 years after being founded by Wimbledon supporters in response to the club's decision to move to Milton Keynes, signalled that football is coming home.



### A member takes a walk down Memory Lane

For Tooting & Mitcham supporters like myself the big game of the season was that against Wimbledon.

Not just a local derby: for Wimbledon was going onwards and upwards, so to beat them was a double cause for celebration. Me and my mate Alan had fish & chips at the shop near the Amen Corner police station and then up the road we went to Tooting Junction rail station for the short journey to Haydons Road. And defeat. Though there was that one occasion when we were 3-0 up at half time; then the floodlights failed; and when the match eventually resumed Wimbledon put four past us.

As the Dons abandoned Plough Lane, so Tooting left Sandy Lane for greener pastures. All I have left are my memories. I cannot even find my T&MUFC supporters club badge, last seen around the neck of one of my wife's teddy bears.

## COMMUNITY WORK

**It's not just about football:** the Dons Local Action Group and its 1500 volunteers continue to work across Wandsworth, Merton and Kingston, collecting in the street outside supermarkets and distributing food boxes, IT equipment and furniture to those in need during the pandemic. Seen outside Balham Sainsbury's this week despite the cold. Marcus Rashford would be proud.

## In Defence of Latin

I write to reply on behalf of the Eternal City after the piece Charles wrote (admittedly tongue in cheek) about slavery and the Latin language in last week's newsletter. Slavery was a feature of the Roman Empire just as it was of virtually every other civilization. A unique aspect of Roman slavery was the legal possibility of a slave becoming a free Roman citizen. Thousands of Romans were descended from slaves. And thanks to their gift of the Latin language we know their stories.

A particular example is the poet Horace whose father was a freed slave and who wrote exquisite poetry in beautiful Latin, poetry that has inspired countless generations of people since his time. Some things he wrote are 'carpe diem', 'nil desperandum', 'dulce et decorum est pro patria mori', 'nunc est bibendum' – and so many more. So, long live Latin!

John Hazel (Fidei Defensor)

## (New) Group News

Coming your way is a new group dedicated to **Art History and Art Appreciation**. Running on Zoom, each meeting will see a member presenting a talk on their favourite artist (or group of artists) – and, of course, showcasing some of their work. Both modern and classical will feature. The precise scheduling of the meetings is still to be decided but if you are interested, please email [andylynn.crane@gmail.com](mailto:andylynn.crane@gmail.com). Andy will be in touch to set up an initial meeting, probably launching in the New Year.

### London Region of U3As Winter Talks

Monday 30 November  
ART & ARCHITECTURE OF THE SILK ROADS

Monday 14 December  
QUIZ

<https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/events>