

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

Welcome to our January newsletter.

December started with our brilliant guest speaker getting us into the Christmas spirit and a lot of our members gave him a standing ovation at the end.

And then we had the snow!!!

A big thank you to all the members who answered my request for snowy pictures. As ever you responded brilliantly and throughout this month's newsletter you will all get a chance to enjoy their submissions.

Although the conditions weren't ideal lots of members ventured out to Michael's Jazz Christmas party which was followed the next day by Irene and the trips and events team hosting their afternoon tea with music from our amazing ukulele group.

Read on for December updates from groups, our plans for the New Year and some lovely snowy pictures.



Winter Picture Contributors

*Tina Stout, Chris Bruce,
Ruly Sandison, Ian Machen,
Rachel Raywood, Gill Munton,
Peta Hargreaves, Jo Sloan,
Jen Brzozowska, Sarah Clayton,
Gopal Srinivasan, Eileen Moore,
Neville Cossou, Sue Nicholas,
Pat Rutherford, Richard North,
John & Estelle Ryder, Sue Hill,
Pensri Wataranan, Marilyn Day,
Alan Williams, Jenny Powell,
David England, Brian Shimmell,
Hannah Dowling, Vinod Sharma,
Jill Ryan, Allison Fowler,
and of course, one from yours
truly of our back garden.*



For your winter submissions what better place to start than with the difference a few months can make. Gopal submitted two pictures which just shows how different our gardens look from summer to winter!!

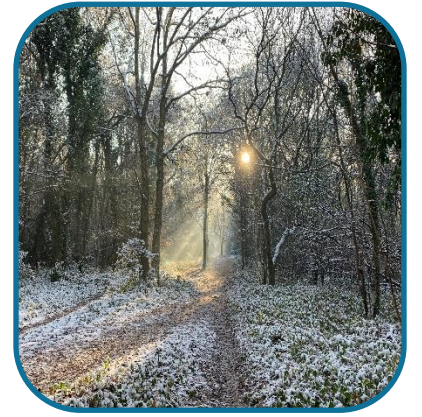


Enrico's All Star Christmas Party Band

Members of Michael Stevens's Jazz group enjoyed a brilliant afternoon of exceptional jazz with mince pies, mulled wine and a raffle in the intermission.

Check the Jazz group page of our new website for what Michael has planned for the coming months. *(Page 11 of this month's newsletter for January's plans)*





Walking a Christmas light trail in London's West End, with Jan Caruth.



Happy New
Year from
Exploring
London 11



Today (Friday 2nd December) 34 members of "Singing for pleasure" sang a melody of Christmas songs to Longmead members. We were accompanied by our pianist Janet Wheeler who plays at Epsom Methodist Church and Colin Smith on Guitar. We were so grateful to Janet and Colin giving up their time for us. After singing we then all got together for some Christmas Treats provided by Chef Anita at Longmead, after which we all enjoyed a Quiz from our brilliant Quizmaster Dilys which rounded off a memorable session. There certainly was a lot of laughter and fun.

Jenny and Dilys 



Gertie's Gardeners

Our gardeners have been very busy this year and the garden is looking lovely and a lot nicer place to sit and watch the world go by.

For November and December, we have been planting lots of spring bulbs and we're hopeful that in the spring the flower beds will be a mass of colour.

We don't do any heavy digging, we weed the beds, we prune the shrubs and we sweep the leaves.

In the new year we will be starting to think about the summer and how we want the garden to look. The residents of Birchgrove, in Ewell Village, have a beautiful brand-new greenhouse that Gary the manager is keen to put to good use, and we're hopeful that some of their residents will help Gertie's gardeners to grow some lovely plants.

Gertie's gardeners plan to meet on the third Tuesday of the month from January onwards. We meet at 10.00am to potter about in the garden and then we adjourn to one of the coffee shops in the village for coffee and chat. If you'd like to join us, please get in touch with Tony or Fiona.



Picture by David.



Maybe we can get some bird feeders for Gertie's



For December Alan led Exploring London 8 on a fascinating walk, starting at the Royal Academy, a walk up the Burlington Arcade and on to the Royal Institute. A fascinating morning, made all the more special by the curator of collections who opened Faraday's lab and allowed us access to this amazing gem of history. We felt very privileged.

Don't miss the Royal Institute Christmas lectures which are available on iplayer.

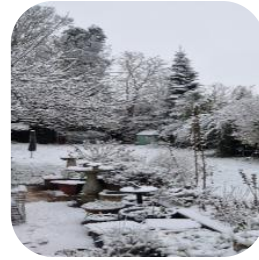




Snowy roads and gardens and plants making beautiful shapes for members to photograph.

Pillar Boxes, dressed with a colourful hat or just covered in snow.

Thanks to Hannah and Jen for the pillar box pictures.



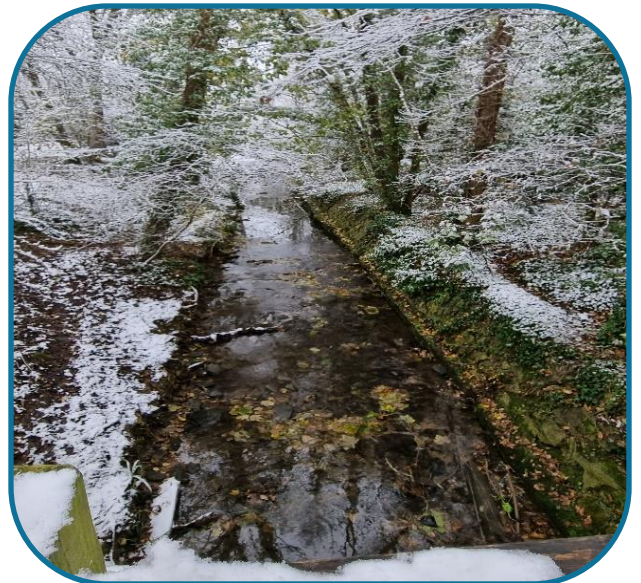
The picture on the right was taken by John and Estelle while coming in to land at a very snowy Gatwick airport.



The picture on the left of Epsom Downs was taken by Ian and is a scene that many of our members will be very familiar with.



It's a sad and poignant reminder of the last couple of years that we have lost so many loved ones during the pandemic.



Church Crawlers review of 2022

In 2022 the group have visited eleven churches.

Some of our discoveries this year have been:

A 1936 Olympic athlete buried in All Saints in Banstead. The Lumley Chapel which is kept locked, but the parish office allowed us to borrow the key. At All Saints in Carshalton we learnt about the stained-glass window trademark of Sir Ninian Comper in honour of his late father, and at All Saints in Kingston upon Thames we saw the great west window which depicts Christ in Majesty surrounded by the apostles, however the faces of the apostles are distinctly Victorian and are said to include the vicar, the curate and 'the man from the waterworks'.

We've visited St Mary's in Ewell village and met Father Mark the new incumbent, and we've learnt about misericord (mercy seats). The seats tip up giving a ledge for the lay clerks to rest on while they prayed for hours, however if they fell asleep and relaxed the seats would fall back down making a loud noise. We've seen the funeral hatchment of Lord Nelson which is in the church where he and Lady Hamilton worshipped (his pew is alarmed so we were careful not to sit down).

On two of our visits, we have worked around flower ladies decorating churches for weddings, some of the displays were beautiful and highly scented. We've discovered barrel graves and a prayer labyrinth, and discovered that Pepys was bored by the sermon told at St Giles.

Although we couldn't visit it, the first public library – The Cranston Library - is housed at St Mary Magdalene. (It's open on Heritage days.)

We finished the year at St Mary & St Nicholas where apparently the west door was widened to make room for the fire engine to be garaged!!

What will we discover in 2023?

Exploring London Group 13 December walk

We met at Waterloo station, took a bus to the Aldwych and, after coffee, took a look at the statues outside St Clement Danes church. We had a walk around this beautiful church and took a brief look inside the Royal Courts of Justice before heading across to Middle Temple Hall and Gardens. Having been told about the arms of each of the Courts we had fun spotting Pegasus (Inner Temple) and the Lamb of God (Middle Temple) on various parts of the buildings.

We also were able to visit St Dunstan's in the West, see the outside of Dr Johnson's House and admire the statue of Hodge his cat, who feasted on oysters.

We finished our outing at the Knights Templar pub for lunch. Thanks, Brian, for our outing.



The trips and events group hosted their Christmas afternoon tea party at Surbiton British Legion.



Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz

1.45 pm Tuesday 10 January 2023

All Saints Community Hall, KT19 9QY
with Chris Barber's star trumpet/cornet player

Hugh Crozier's Jelly Roll Three

with

Hugh Crozier (piano, vocals)
Mike Henry (cornet, trumpet)
Paula Jackman (clarinet, saxes)

free parking & tea break refreshments

£16 or £15 if you show your u3a membership card

All Saints Community Hall, Fulford Road, West Ewell, Epsom KT19 9QY

Frequent buses 418 & 467 from Epsom Clock Tower to West Ewell

Enquiries – phone or text to 0791 3655 458 or see email above

Non-U3A members are welcome for two trial meetings. Join our email list for u3aJazz news updates
at m.stevensatlap@gmail.com

Doors open from 1.45pm - Music from 2 to 4.20 pm

Future concerts

14 February - The Artful Dodgers - Geoff Hiscott's comedy band

14 March - Windy City Weatherbirds - Chicago style jazz

11 April - Frog & Henry from New Orleans – 7-piece band

Led by reeds maestro Ewan Bleach

9 May The Hot Teapots from Italy on their first UK tour - Hot jazz, ragtime, calypso, stomps and
jug band music. To be confirmed



During 2022 our Exploring London Groups have been out and about enjoying the sights and sounds of London. As you will have noticed some of our group leaders send in very interesting reports and photos of where their group have been that month. Most of our groups have between 10 and 15 members. This is an ideal size for wandering around in London and making sure that the group stay together. We've seen museums and galleries, and visited places that we haven't seen since our youth. Group 8 visited the Design Museum which, in a previous incarnation, was the Commonwealth Institute. Group 10 visited the Battersea Power Station to see how it has evolved. Some groups have struggled with the extremely hot summer and the never-ending rail strikes which have curtailed some of their activities but, never beaten, they have explored the outskirts of London instead which has been easier to reach. The changing face of London still holds a wealth of interesting history for us to explore in 2023.

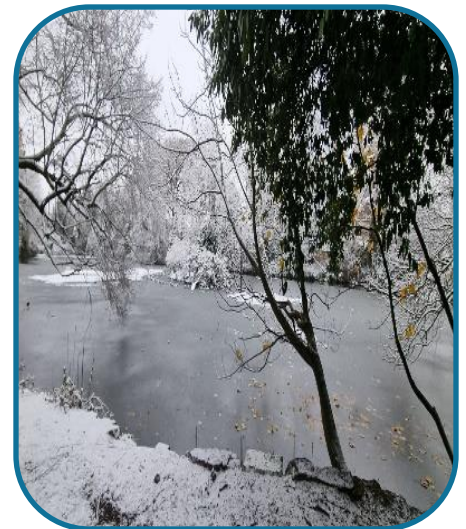




Ann's Exploring Architecture group have visited Kings Cross, Strawberry Hill, The Natural History Museum, The National Theatre as well as other places and her Garden Wanderers have enjoyed days out at Kew, Polesden Lacey, Dunsborough, Gatton Park and a few visits to their favourite garden at Wisley.

Meanwhile, Simon & Ann's Beer tasting group have not ventured very far from their favourite haunt in Carshalton which has supplied some fine ales for them to imbibe on a regular basis.

They have however ventured a little further afield at times to sample other fine ales or just to socialise with u3a friends.



MONDAY PRESENTATION

THE LIFE OF BRIAN

BRIAN MURPHY & LINDA REGAN

Bourne Hall Monday 9 January at 10:30



“Man About the House”, “George and Mildred” and “Last of the Summer Wine” - Brian’s TV, film and theatre roles have been endless in his long and very successful career. Brian will talk about his career as an actor and recount some of the many funny stories he has acquired over the years. He will be chaired by his wife, Linda Regan – actress, crime writer and former Hi-de-Hi Yellowcoat.
A double bill! Two for the price of one!



MONDAY PRESENTATION

THE CHANGING FACE OF VENICE

SARAH QUILL

Bourne Hall Monday 6 February at 10:30



In our imagination Venice is unchanging, but the modern world continues to leave its mark. In the nineteenth century, alterations were made to many buildings in Venice; and the city suffered bombing during the 1849 siege following the uprising against Austrian occupation. Sarah will describe some of the changes that have taken place in the lagoon city. Sarah is a trustee of the Venice in Peril Fund and has an extensive photo archive of Venetian architecture, sculpture and daily life a timely reminder of the importance of protecting Venice’s fragile environment.

A CHALLENGE FOR 2023

We'd like more input from groups about what they have been doing during the month.

What have our book and poetry groups been reading? Which opera was the highlight for the opera group? Which artist did the art groups study? What projects are our quilting groups working on?

You don't have to be the group leader, any member can submit an item, just a few lines to inspire others.



As we start 2023, we are beginning to plan our Open House which will be a bit later than usual this year as we celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III at the beginning of May. Open house will be on May 15th. Save the date!!

We hope the New Year is happy and peaceful for all of our members.

Take care and stay safe,

Tony



OUR MONTHLY BOURNE HALL MEETING

You no longer need to book your seat as we will have a list of regular attendees on the registration desk.

However, you do still need your membership card and more importantly your cup!!!!

