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## Chairman's Update June 2023

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**u3a** Epsom & Ewell

<https://epsomandewellu3a.co.uk/>

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*LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE*

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Welcome to our June newsletter.

May started with our Open House at Bourne Hall. This is our showcase event which is open to the public as well as our members. The committee worked very hard planning this event and our group leaders were brilliant. Our Really Useful Group were as ever in attendance, starting with Cynthia from the RUGS group on the door, handing out leaflets and directing members through the Rose Room to the start of the event. Our committee were very involved, David and John were press-ganged into manning registration which was definitely a challenge but they coped. Helen was in the Rose Room with information about groups that had vacancies, and some that were not attending Open House this year. Marie was helping Peta on the membership desk; Sue was manning the table informing members about the Surrey Network Study Day, Trust Online Learning events and our new Social Committee ideas list; Ellen was looking after the Church Crawlers table; Fiona was manning the Gertie's Gardeners table; and Tina was helping Sue from the RUGS group with teas and coffees; Irene was advertising two trips for later in the year to Blenheim and Kew; and Clive our speaker liaison provided his usual brilliant slide show to entertain members while they were drinking tea.

And me, well I was wandering around as usual just making sure that the Mayor and Mayoress were happy and that the morning was going well.



The strength of the team is each individual member.

The strength of each member is the team.

*Phil Jackson*

## Committee Update

As many of our members are aware, there have been some organisational issues, in particular around inclusivity and notification of details, regarding our social calendar of events that have caused some members to raise concerns.

My email to all members on April 4<sup>th</sup> outlined one of the recent problems regarding the Woodham Village trip that has led myself and the committee to have a rethink on how to resolve the problems.

We have a constitution and various policies in place that govern how we run our u3a for the benefit of all of our members that we need to ensure we comply with.

As chairman I emailed the whole committee on May 26<sup>th</sup> with a plan of how to resolve this problem and asked the committee to vote whether they agreed or not with the idea.

I'm pleased to report that all 10 committee members agreed with the proposal which is being implemented with immediate effect.

Therefore, with effect from June 1<sup>st</sup> all social events, irrespective of which member of our u3a is organising them, will open for booking on the first of the month. This brings us firmly back in line with our inclusivity policy. The committee will ensure that an allowance is made for members not on the internet to be able to book. There will be a booking form that each member attending an event will need to complete. This will be a one stop shop to add your name, method of payment, preferred pick-up point etc. depending on the requirements for each event. Committee members will be available at the Monday speaker event to assist any members who require help with the booking form.

Social events can be organised by any member of our u3a, but must follow the process which will be available on the social events page of our website.

**Your current committee and responsibilities:**

<b>Tony</b>	<b>Chairman/Website</b>
<b>Fiona</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Peta</b>	<b>Membership Secretary</b>
<b>Sue</b>	<b>Treasurer/Publicity</b>
<b>Ellen</b>	<b>New members coordinator</b>
<b>Tina</b>	<b>New members coordinator</b>
<b>Marie</b>	<b>Welfare officer</b>
<b>Irene</b>	<b>Committee member/trip organiser</b>
<b>David</b>	<b>Committee member</b>
<b>John</b>	<b>Committee member</b>

Your monthly speaker presentations are handled by Clive who has recently stepped down from the committee but continues to give invaluable support.

Your new Social Committee is made up of four committee members: Ellen, Fiona, Marie, and Sue.

The social calendar of events will be open to ALL members. We intend to open bookings on the first of each month when members receive the newsletter. We have planned several events already and we are open to suggestions from any members for trips they would like us to research.

Our coach and ticket packaged theatre trips will start in July with Titanic the Musical at Woking theatre. We are working with Andrew at Magic Moments who many of our members have used in the past.

## Garden Visiting Group

Our April visit was to Vann Gardens in Hambledon, where the owner gave us a talk about the gardens, the medieval house, and her family history in the village; all of which was fascinating.

We had a very mixed bag of weather, from the fritillary field that was underwater, the daffodil grove and stream that was a bright sunny meadow, the Jekyll rills garden which was full of pretty early flowers, and the tea taken on the veranda in a hailstorm. This is a garden full of promise for another visit in a different season.

Our extra trip for April was back to Wisley Gardens for the Tulip Celebration planted around the glasshouse and the craft fair, which was stunning & highly recommended, it reminded some of us of previous visits to the Keukenhof Gardens.

For May we have plans to visit The Savill & Valley Gardens in Windsor for their stunning rhododendron & azalea display & we are considering going to the open garden event and tour of the Charterhouse Garden in the City.



## Exploring London 13 – Ealing Green

This is a fascinating area that until the coming of the railway in 1838 was a rural retreat for the aristocratic and the wealthy. The busy metropolis once banned 3rd class tickets and early 'working men's trains' to Paddington from the station.

Some may know the area for the Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery, many more for the Ealing Studios – home of Passport to Pimlico, The Ladykillers and others. Made up of 5 studios the 6th studio was the Red Lion pub across the road, frequented by Sir Alec Guinness, Sid James and others.

Much of the charm of the area has been preserved due to its conservation status, whilst areas near the Broadway are being developed into pedestrianised retail areas with apartments above.

Sue Russell



### **Bus Pass 4 visit to the Isabella Plantation**

We had a dry if a little cooler visit than the weather forecast promised. The deciduous azaleas were in full flower and perfume as were the rhododendrons but the japaneze azaleas were 'not at their best' this year. However we were rewarded with several families of baby ducklings, their cute fluffy charm never fails to appeal, and being out in nature in good company is always a tonic. Sue Russell



### **Beer Tasting Group**

In April, as well as doing our usual mixed six tasting, the beer group went back to The Hope for a social meet-up at one of their famous beer festivals.

At the tasting we welcomed another new member to the fold, and subjected him to our usual mix of light, dark, strong and sour beer selections. It appears that we were not able to put him off, despite the interesting faces pulled at times! Oh, well there is always next month!

We also started our summer beer festival visits with a social event back at The Hope beer festival.

# London Loo Tours

## Wednesday August 9<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Not the Bog-Standard London Experience, yes, you read that right!**

**London's only walking tour company themed**

**exclusively around the history of toilets and sanitation**

Join your guide and be immersed (metaphorically, that is!) on a whirlwind tour of the history of the British public toilet. From the earliest latrines through to the future of flushing you may never think about a simple visit to the lavatory the same way again! The perfect day out for anyone who likes to dive a bit deeper (metaphorically again!) .... lifelong Londoners and first time visitors alike!

*Our classic route runs from Waterloo to the West End, exploring the potty politics of public toilets. From stories of intrigue to practical tips, this tour is an investment in your bladder future! Never be caught short again!*

***Meeting Location: Waterloo Station by Platform 19***

***Ending Location: Covent Garden Area***

***Duration: 1.5 - 2 Hours***

***Walk & Talk - £12.00 per person***



The  
Station Pub,  
Stoneleigh KT17 2JA



JOIN US FOR OUR FUN U3A

# QUIZ NIGHT



WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER AT  
7.00 PM

£8.00 A TICKET WHICH INCLUDES A  
FINGER BUFFET AND FREE RAFFLE!

UP TO 6 PLAYERS PER TEAM

(TEAMS WILL BE ALLOCATED ON THE NIGHT!)

**Please be aware to access the function room there are  
approximately 25 steps**



EBT- After your initial safety briefing, you will enter our purpose built "Essential Basic Tuition" 5 Bird arena. One of our fully qualified coaches will take you through gun safety, etiquette & handling, with the chance to shoot at 25 simulated game targets including Pheasant, Woodcock, Pigeon and Teal.

Up to 1.5hrs, this lesson includes:

- Eye dominance & stance
- Gun safety
- Gun loan
- Essential Headley Kit - Headley baseball cap,
- shooting glasses, hearing protection,
- ammunition for your tutorial.
- 25 clays
- Shells
- BBQ lunch for you and one friend wishing to spectate
- Certificate of completion

**EBT £60.00 per head**



## Cameo Club

We have had a couple of recent enquiries from members who would like some company.

1. Local Park walks (Epsom) followed by a coffee – Horton Park, Epsom Downs, Nonsuch etc. looking for like-minded people who fancy an hour or so walk, not a hike! Bit more of a weekly walk – I was thinking a Saturday or Sunday morning – if bad weather could just do the coffee!
2. Really enjoyed my first Mah Jong meeting and wondered if anyone else would like to meet up for another fortnightly meeting in between the monthly meeting? I am only a beginner/newbie so could not run a group and do not have a Mah Jong set.

If you are interested fill in the form on the Cameo page and we will put you in touch with each other.



## Tuesday October 24<sup>th</sup> 2023

Coach pick-up points: Worcester Park at 8.30am followed by Spring Street in Ewell Village and Santander Bank in Epsom High Street

Arriving at the museum at approx. 10.00am. The café will be open for members to purchase refreshments before our tour.

We will be leaving for home at approx. 4.00pm

Cost per member: £31.00 *(price includes coach, entry to the museum and driver gratuity)*

The Weald & Downland Living Museum – a hidden gem in the South East, quintessentially British in a picture-perfect setting. We are a museum for those who want to see, touch, and even smell what life was really like for people living in years gone by. Whether you are 5 or 95 there is something for everyone

The Weald & Downland Living Museum is a large 40-acre site that showcases its historic buildings in-keeping with the time periods they represent. Some of the historic buildings are not fully accessible to all visitors.

To create an authentic atmosphere at the Museum, the paths around the site vary in materials and are uneven by nature. The centre of the Museum site is mainly flat with parts set on sloping ground, which is steep in places.

Access around the site is on rural surfaces; mainly rolled or loose chippings, which are in keeping with the nature of the site and buildings. Some paths are cobbled and their surfaces may cause difficulty for visitors who use a wheelchair or have impaired mobility.

# Epsom Hot Jazz Club

Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz

**2 pm Tuesday 13 June 2023**

**at All Saints Community Hall, KT19 9QY**

## **The Forest Hill Owls**

A stellar new group bringing together most of London's finest early jazz specialists, playing authentic transcriptions and arrangements of original hot jazz and popular music of the 1920s and early 30s.

Harry Evans: Trumpet & Cornet, Michael McQuaid: Alto Saxophone & Clarinet, Chris Lowe: Trombone,  
Martin Wheatley: Banjo & Guitar,  
David Horniblow: Bass Saxophone, Nicholas D Ball: Drums.

**Free parking & tea break refreshments**

*£17 at the door or £15 if you show your u3a membership card*

*Pre-pay £15 - usual bank details (email for details)*

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

**Frequent buses 418 & 467 from Epsom Clock Tower**

*Enquiries – phone or text to 0791 3655 458 or email below*

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

**Doors open from 1.45pm - Music from 2 to 4.25pm**

## **Future concerts**

### **11 July Paula Jackman's Clarinet Masters**

Early American Jazz clarinetists had a huge range of styles and tones from George Lewis to Johnny Dodds, Barney Bigard to Benny Goodman & Jimmie Noone. Followers tend to be loyal to one or two favourites and yet they have all influenced players in Britain. The British Trad boom with Monty Sunshine, Acker Bilk and Terry Lightfoot would not have been possible without these early influences. Ace clarinetist Paula will demonstrate all the styles.

## Looking at Art 2 Rachel Raywood - group member

Here's a question for you, what do artists L. S. Lowry, the Pre-Raphaelites, Vincent Van Gogh, Paula Rego, John Singer Sargent, Michelangelo, Grayson Perry, and Artemisia Gentileschi have in common? *(Answers over the page)*

It's a tough question. Whilst you are figuring out the answer here's a mini quiz related to the named artists.

**WHO???**

- was a society portrait painter also commissioned to paint a memorable war scene?
- painted almost 900 paintings in 10 years?
- embraced 'folkloric fairy tales that later became a key component' of their work?
- was a broadcaster, social commentator, biker, tapestry maker, ceramicist and well on the way to becoming a National Treasure?
- remains an underrated artist whose work more than equals the great Renaissance painters?

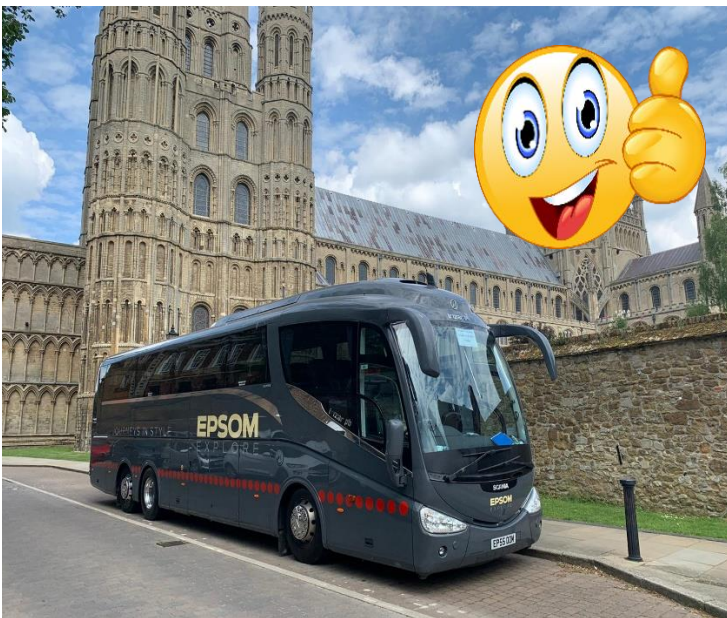
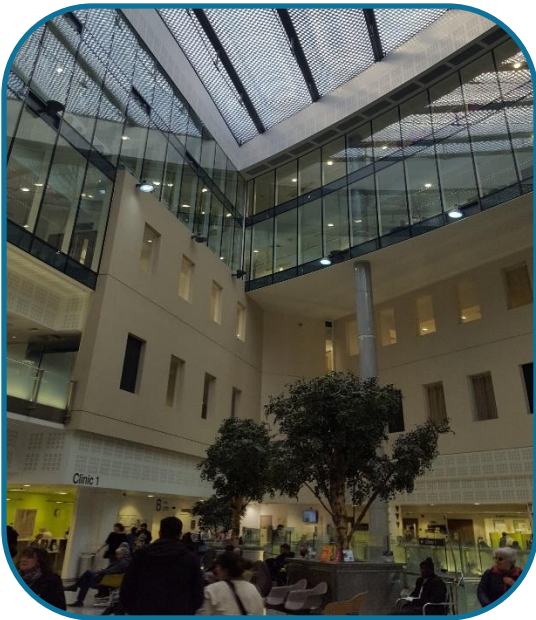
There, that wasn't so difficult, was it?

This eclectic group of artists are the ones the Looking at Art 2 group have been considering since the group's inception in Autumn of 2022. Each member of the group takes turns in choosing an artist to review, also undertaking some background details etc. whilst fellow members choose a particular art work by that artist for general discussion. It is a tried and tested procedure following other u3a Epsom & Ewell art groups and provides an opportunity to go deeper into the lives and work of artists who might otherwise escape our scrutiny. It is also a very enjoyable, convivial way to spend an afternoon and we each carry away a little more knowledge about art and artists.

For more information about Looking at Art 2 please see the website.

## Architectural Explorers

One of our number took us for a trip around St Barts Hospital development and the surrounding area that she knows well from her early working life. We saw a fascinating mix of the very old structures and the modern buildings that have been incorporated into the existing. A comparison was Smithfield market of past & present use, and the current development plans. For May the group intends to visit Reigate.



Answers to Rachel's Looking at Art 2 quiz –  
John Singer Sargent, Van Gogh, Paula  
Rego, Grayson Perry, Artemisia Gentileschi

We would like to thank Epsom Explore for their donation of a gift voucher that will be one of the raffle prizes at our September 6<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night at The Station Pub, Stoneleigh.

## WALKING CRICKET

Starting with just 8 “players” turning up at the first session a couple of years ago, Walking Cricket has caught fire in Surrey. Starting from that low base, in just over 2 years, Epsom Thoroughbreds won the inaugural Surrey County Cricket Club (SCCC) Walking Cricket Championship and then went on to win an indoor competition at Lord’s earlier this year. We have now been adopted by the Epsom Cricket Club. SCCC Foundation is now firmly behind the project and the game is spreading across Surrey at great speed. We have a range of abilities, ranging from those who have not played before to former members of local cricket clubs. The joy of having fun and enjoying the camaraderie is, however, Olympic standard. Merciless mickey-taking, dropped catches, mis-fielding, waving of the bat at thin air!!! You cannot beat that buzz. After more than 30 years of watching cricket from outside the boundary rope, it is a sheer joy to step over the boundary and walk on to the pitch to play. Moving from being a passive supporter to an active player almost a spiritual experience which uplifts the soul and almost brings a lump to the throat. Memories flooding back after 30 odd years, when I last batted or bowled my leg breaks. I remember the first day we started, just defending, and nudging the ball around when batting and only landing a couple of balls on the pitch when bowling. Then I started cutting and sweeping. Then a few drives and then I shocked myself a couple of weeks ago, stepping inside a bouncer and hooking it. When bowling, more and more balls started landing on the pitch, of the right length and turning. Just like 30+ odd years ago. Cricket is probably the only sport where the skills of batting and bowling can still be enjoyed in senior years. It is excellent exercise for physical and mental wellbeing. A welcome distraction from the aches and pains of old age. Focusing on what we can still do, despite the physical limitations. The old competitive spirit kicks in and you find yourself rising to the challenge and stretching and pushing yourself a bit more every time you bat and bowl.

The cherry on the cake last summer was lifting the Walking Cricket County Championship trophy; playing for Surrey County against Essex, the first ever County match; playing at the Oval and the Lord’s Indoor Centre.

All at the age of 75!!! Pinch me! I am in dream land.

Contact: Vinny, Captain of Epsom Thoroughbred, on [vinsharma@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:vinsharma@blueyonder.co.uk)

From Jenny Sparrow, Leader of the Singing for Pleasure group.

I do hope you have all enjoyed the celebrations this weekend, if you had a "Coronation lunch "yesterday, I hope you all had a good time, at least the weather

was good. On a personal level "I ate too much cake" 😲

A massive thankyou to all our helpers on Friday, 31 members turned up for this special session, so many good comments, everything went to plan, unfortunately the transport was delayed in bringing in Longmead members so when we began our concert the dining room was deserted, but in true fashion we carried on, half way through our session the dining room began to fill up, we had requests to sing Daisy, Daisy three times, we just about managed to fit in the National Anthem. My absolute thank you goes out to Pauline, Colin, and Fred for being amazing musical accompaniments, and to Jan for yet another special poem, and congratulations to Mary Emmerson for being voted best dressed "Songster". Thank you to Rena, Mary and Sue for doing the presentations.

Here are Pauline's words:

"Thank you all for my hugely generous bag full of delightful goodies, please pass on my thanks to everyone, I loved the card, don't know if I am Pooh Bear or Piglet, perhaps Pooh is more appropriate!!

The garden voucher will be very useful as we begin to look for plants for the summer season, and the little knitted "King", I took him to Church Sunday morning to use a visual aid as we celebrated the Coronation with the children with our own little feast, thanks again to Jan who read out her poem to me.



## Flower Arranging

Although the Coronation of King Charles III took place at the beginning of May, our Flower arranging group does not meet until the 4th Friday of each month , which explains why we chose the theme to be about the Coronation.

Our group is led by Pauline Blackmore and five of us joined her to create our own unique flower displays which we would like to share with everybody.

Contributions were from the following members:

Pauline Blackmore, Rosemary Blackshaw, Susan Davis, Mala Lockmun, Wendy Close & Dot Snow.







# MONDAY PRESENTATION

## A HISTORY OF HYDRAULIC FLUID POWER

STEVE SKINNER



Bourne Hall Monday 5 June at 10:30

Steve will share with us his extensive background in hydraulic engineering with this light-hearted ramble through hydraulic power from its birth at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century up to present day. With a career-long association with hydraulics, Steve takes us through the history of hydraulic fluid power. The talk includes numerous animated illustrations, and topics such as the raising of the Britannia Bridge, the launch of Brunel's Great Eastern, the first hydraulic excavator and the virtual reality ship which could accommodate 700 passengers.



# MONDAY PRESENTATION

## HOW FAR WILL RETRO GO?

JOHN GRIFFITHS-COLBY



Bourne Hall Monday 3 July at 10:30

Out of date, outmoded, out of here – fashion is only predictable in as much as it is fickle and perhaps in knowing that what goes around, will come around. Is Retro really a style or just recycling – how much of it can we digest when we remember it from the first time around? Was it even new then? Also, has the ascendance of male grooming and eating out replaced the attractiveness of a bloke who looks like he needs a good meal? It worked so well for James Dean and Frank Sinatra – what's going on?

## New members coffee morning

We are planning a new members coffee morning for the end of June. Date tbc. It will be held in the Rose Room at Bourne Hall as most members are familiar with the location, there is onsite parking, and the café facilities are vastly improved.

All members who have joined in recent months will be sent an invitation to come and meet the committee and other new members and ask any questions regarding our u3a and how to get the most benefit from your membership.

Another roller coaster month which has left us with two fewer committee members, our speaker liaison and group coordinator having both stood down, which is very sad, but hopefully a plan now in place to move forward as a united team for the benefit of 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!!!!

