

*LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE*

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Welcome to our July newsletter.

Our speaker for June was a brave subject to attempt – A History of Hydraulic Fluid Power. Numbers in attendance were slightly down on recent months. However, it attracted more of our male members, many of whom came without their wives and partners and enjoyed an entertaining morning that provoked some interesting questions.

We also welcomed our TAT regional trustee Susie Berry OBE who thoroughly enjoyed the talk and stayed for a meeting with several of the committee after the event. I think our speaker may get a booking with the Thames Valley u3a Network which Susie looks after.

In June two new committee members were co-opted ahead of our AGM in October. Paul Lander joins our committee as Vice-Chairman and Libby Curzon is our new groups coordinator.



A packed edition this month with lots of reports from our interest groups.

An introduction from Andrew at Magic Moments with two theatre trip offers which include return coach travel.

Also, the social committee have been busy planning a very special Christmas lunch to add to their other events to round off the year.



They are now busy planning for 2024.



Exploring London 13 were out of Central London for June's walk and were wandering the streets of Woolwich and taking in the river views!

We learned (even though it was obvious, it came as a revelation to some) that Woolwich was the former home of the Woolwich Equitable Building Society.

The lovely building, since sold by Barclays, remains a striking feature. Next, we nipped into Woolwich town hall, not only to use the facilities, but to admire the interior, a rare example of Edwardian Baroque and a popular wedding venue.

We completed the circular walk passing the ferry crossing, foot tunnel and new housing developments on the Riverside.

The walk ended in the Royal Arsenal area, now part of a housing and leisure development, where we pondered the contrast of old and new.

All were fascinated with the sculpture of workers called "The Assembly" by Peter Burke. We went our separate ways after an alfresco lunch and were able to make use of the new Elizabeth line connection back to Central London.



For our May visit the church crawlers went to St Nicholas at Thames Ditton.

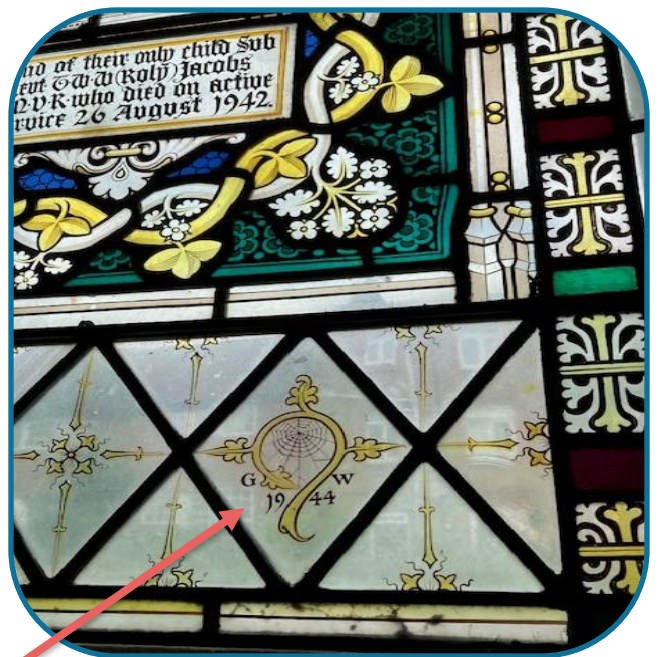
Above the chancel arch are painted boards depicting the Day of Judgement known as Doom Pictures which date from around 1570. This one consists of 11 oak panels of different sizes and shapes. They were discovered in about 1893 when a Mr. Birtles bought them from a carpenter's yard in Kingston. They were obscured by whitewash and paint but have since been restored.

This church has one of the finest fonts in Surrey which dates from about 1120. On the four faces there are depictions of an Agnus Dei, a goat, a star and an unusual cross.

We admired the Erasmus Forde monument and the Forde brass which has the earliest depiction of the phrase 'Que Sera Sera' which is shown as an armorial motto.

We also discovered another stained-glass window designer, Geoffrey Webb who was a pupil of both Charles Eamer Kempe and Sir John Ninian Comper.

Erasmus Forde monument



Geoffrey Webb's logo



**Hello, Let's go see a show!**

**Firstly, I should like to say how thrilled I am to be working with Epsom & Ewell U3A and I should also like to thank the committee for the opportunity.**

**Some of you will either be aware of Magic Moments Tours or indeed you may have travelled with me since I started back in November 2007, and gosh we have travelled far and wide in those 16 years, time flies by so quickly!**

**By way of background, the committee has been asked to start offering you again some opportunities to enjoy theatre trips (with coach included), and with this in mind the committee has asked me to build a programme for you.**

**As we all know, COVID and its aftermath has changed a lot of things, not least the cost of theatre tickets which have increased greatly over the past couple of years. The good news though is that there are still good deals to be had and I am here to find them for you!**

**My aim is to build an interesting and varied programme of theatre trips for you that offer still good value for money. This may mean travelling a little further for a show when I consider this to be worth it. Trust me, I can be very fussy and I will never sell a seat that I wouldn't be prepared to sit in myself!**

**I'm very much looking forward to meeting the 32 members who are joining us on the first trip on Wednesday 12th July, this will be a great way for us all to start getting to know each other. It may well be that we have some ironing out to do as we go along, so please be patient as we find our feet.**

**Sending very best wishes to you all,**

**Andrew Holden / Magic Moments Tours**



**THURSDAY 31ST AUGUST 2023  
WINDSOR THEATRE – 2.30pm Matinee**

The Calendar Girls are back with their own Musical!

Following the death of a much-loved husband, a group of ordinary women in a small Yorkshire Women's Institute are prompted to do an extraordinary thing and set about creating a nude calendar to raise money for charity.

*Calendar Girls- The Musical* brings together a stunning cast of music, stage, and television stars, including five Mrs Johnstone's from Bill Kenwright's production of Willy Russell's smash hit *Blood Brothers*.

Tanya Franks (*EastEnders*), Maureen Nolan (*The Nolans*), Lyn Paul (*The New Seekers*), Amy Robbins (*Coronation Street*), Paula Tappenden (*Blood Brothers*), Marti Webb (*Tell Me on a Sunday*) and Honeysuckle Weeks (*Foyles War*) as the ladies, turn preconceptions upside down, but are they prepared for the emotional and personal ramifications they will face as they each come in to bloom!

This brand-new production of the award-winning musical, written by Gary Barlow and Tim Firth, and directed by Jonathan O'Boyle features a re-imagined book and new music!

**£49.50 PER PERSON**

**Excursion price includes:**

**Front Stalls ticket between Rows E to G,  
return coach travel, and administrative charges  
(Does not include driver's gratuity, discretionary to individuals)**

**COACH BOARDING POINTS**

- 10.45am **NORTH CHEAM, London Road** – Bus Stop, Outside Costa Coffee
- 10.55am **EWELL, The Spring** – Bus Stop, Opposite Bourne Hall Bus Shelter
- 11.00am **EWELL, Epsom Road** – Bus Stop, by the top of Mongers Lane
- 11.10am **EPSOM, High Street** – Bus Stop, Outside Santander



**FLOWERS FOR MRS HARRIS - MUSICAL**  
**WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**  
**THE RIVERSIDE STUDIOS, HAMMERSMITH – 2.30pm Matinee**

For Ada Harris, day-to-day life is spent cleaning houses. But one day when she is working for a wealthy client in Belgravia, she happens upon a Dior dress that takes her breath away. In that magical moment, Ada has an epiphany and sets off on a journey that will change her life... From the cobbled streets of post-war London to the magical avenues of Paris and beyond, Ada transforms the lives of everyone she meets along the way, but can she let go of her past and finally let her own life blossom?

First premiered at Chichester Festival Theatre *Flowers for Mrs Harris* is based on the novel by Paul Gallico, a musical by Richard Taylor and Rachel Wagstaff, book by Rachel Wagstaff, music and lyrics by Richard Taylor. It will be directed by Bronagh Lagan, starring Jenna Russell as Mrs Harris, with new orchestrations by Jason Carr, and with Jonathan Gill as Musical Director. Casting is by Jane Deitch.

**£47.50 PER PERSON**

**Excursion price includes:**  
**Great stalls seats between Rows A to F,**  
**return coach travel, and administrative charges**  
**(Does not include driver's gratuity, discretionary to individuals)**

**COACH BOARDING POINTS**

11.45am **EPSOM, High Street** – Bus Stop, Outside Wilkinsons  
11.55am **EWELL, Epsom Road** – Bus Stop, by the top of Mongers Lane  
12.00pm **EWELL, The Spring** – Bus Stop, Bourne Hall Bus Shelter  
12.10pm **NORTH CHEAM, London Road** – Bus Stop, Outside Costa Coffee

## Volunteering stories - Ann Norman

### London Open Gardens - June Weekend Event

It's funny but being a member of the U3A opens all sorts of other doors into other organisations. Just chatting to other group members about their interests can find you involved in all sorts of activities you were not aware of before. That is how I found out about the Open House Festival. This is held over a couple of weekends every September, where you can do one off ad hoc volunteering at all sorts of interesting places. Talking about this with another group member introduced me to the London Open Gardens Festival, where she volunteers, which takes place over a weekend in June. A couple of years back I put my hand up to be a floating volunteer and so can be allocated any garden that is short of staff to man the entrance.

This June we had a wonderfully sunny weekend, and I was allocated a slot at Lincolns Inn, where I was told they had over a thousand visitors the previous year. There were two of us per shift manning the gate taking entrance fees or checking tickets and pointing out the events that were planned over the day. Neither of us had ever worked with this garden before, but we were made to feel like royalty by the head gardener, with lunch supplied and all eventualities covered. It's not a low-key event, one of our garden visitors had to rush off as she had won a ballot ticket to visit the 10 Downing Street Garden.

After our morning shift we could then visit the garden we were manning or take a trip to one of the 100 other gardens that were open on one or both days that weekend. As a thank-you we get a weekend ticket, a booklet of maps showing the gardens open in an area, and early access to book garden visits and walks that are by appointment only. This year I took a guided tour to the Aga Khan Gardens in Kensington and a garden walk in Westminster, which funnily enough ended up at Lincolns Inn where I had worked a shift the day before!

The Open House Festival, focussing on historic and modern buildings and often guided by volunteers and professionals, will be taking place in September. To get into the most interesting buildings planning is required, or alternatively a volunteer's pass. Another good reason to become a volunteer. The programme is released in early August on this website:

<https://programme.openhouse.org.uk/>

Singing for Pleasure celebrated our "10th" Birthday on Friday 16th June. This was a great success. I had so many good comments, thank you everyone. Now I must do my thank you's. Firstly, as ever to my helpers, without you things would not have gone so smoothly. I was very proud of you all, great team work, members' harmonies were so good as well, singing along with the Ukulele group. Sue and her group really enjoyed themselves, bearing in mind this was the first time both of her groups had played together, the "icing on the cake" was the line dancing at the end, this was a "sight to behold", honestly you all did very well and with a bit of practice who knows what's next. Also I have to thank our cake maker Christine Marshall, a u3a member, who made our lovely cake which was funded by the u3a, my thanks to Tony and the Committee, and lastly I must mention here Christine, Rita and Sue who were in charge of cutting the cake 🍰, they surpassed themselves and managed to get 41 pieces of cake which was supposed to be for 30. I delivered a slice to Dilys on my way home, she was so surprised, so yes well done "The Cake Girls". We have just 2 more sessions in July, the 7th and 21st, when we will be welcoming 3 new members,

Jenny Sparrow 🎵 Group leader





### Benefits of having a u3a membership card

In June we received an email from the reception desk at Bourne Hall in Ewell Village that a wallet had been handed in and by chance had a u3a membership card in it. They emailed us, we phoned the member and very soon we had one happy member reunited with her wallet.

This is the second time this has happened. Last time it was the bus garage as a member had left her bag on the bus.

A salutary lesson, always carry your membership card, it has untold benefits.

In June we hosted our new members' coffee morning in the Rose Room at Bourne Hall. The invitation to this was sent firstly to all new members in order that they could come and meet the committee and other members, and learn a bit more about what our u3a has to offer. We then decided to open the event to all members. This was a chance to speak to the committee, book events and meet each other.

Seven committee members were very pleased to welcome almost forty members during our two-hour session.

In June Chris Grayling MP hosted the Volunteers Week reception at the Houses of Parliament.

Irene, Jill, and Hannah attended as representatives of the Epsom & Ewell u3a.



## Architectural Explorers

The group was taken on an in-depth trip to Clerkenwell Green which is one of London's oldest public spaces, dating back to the 12th Century, and is surrounded by some of Islington's most attractive and valuable historic buildings. It has a rich social and political history and its architectural history also reflects this, and old and new sit cheek by jowl. This was researched and presented to us in depth by one of our knowledgeable members, Lesley, who should be thanked for the work she put into making this a great day out.

Next month the group will be visiting the Battersea Power Station area.



Really like some of the unusual angles for this month's shots.

Tony – Chairman



**Join us for Christmas lunch at  
Hever Castle, Edenbridge, Kent**

**Friday November 24<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**£52.00 per head**

**(Includes return coach travel, entry to castle, lunch, light show and driver gratuity)**



**Join us for a festive 2 course carvery lunch, visit the gardens for the magical Christmas Trail through the grounds, enjoy relaxed shopping in the gift shops.**

**In the castle, experience beautifully decorated rooms, welcoming log fires and twinkling Christmas trees.**

**The Christmas lights experience starts at 4pm.**

**Full details and booking form on the social events page of the website.**

**Booking opens July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.**

# Epsom Hot Jazz Club

Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz

**2 pm Tuesday 11 July 2023**

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

## **Paula Jackman's Jazz Masters**

### **"The Clarinet Masters"**

Paula Jackman - clarinet

"Magic" Mike Henry - cornet

Hugh Crozier - piano

Graham Read – bass

Early American Jazz clarinettists 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 clarinettist Paula will demonstrate all the styles.

**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**

**Coming soon:**

**August- Enrico Tomasso's Band with Blues singer and September- Frog and Henry return after their triumph in April.**

Surrey Network Study Day  
**The Vikings are coming...**



I attended an extremely interesting, lively, and informative presentation providing an insight into the lives of the Vikings.

The Vikings are renowned for their brutality and war mongering, however there is another side to these people - one of intellect and artistry with some of their art and symbolism still in use today, which I for one, was unaware of.

Viking women, in particular, were extremely strong and independent with the freedom to do what they wanted. Their lives did not revolve around keeping house and raising children, as we are led to believe.

I learned a lot and find these study days are well worth attending as they offer a variety of subjects. They are held in the Menuhin Hall in Cobham, which is an excellent venue with good facilities.

All for just £12 members. Guests £15

Fiona Bath

Exploring London 8 - For our June walk we started at Kings Cross. In St Pancras we admired the bronze statue by Paul Day called The Meeting Place. We also learnt about the frieze that was added to the base in 2008. The frieze depicts various scenes from the history of the tube and train: people queuing on platforms or travelling in carriages; soldiers departing for war or returning injured, and repair work following the July 2005 London bombings.

We then wandered across the Regents canal admiring the bookshop barge 'Words on the Water' and explored Coal Drops yard before heading towards Gasholder Apartments where a one-bedroom apartment apparently sells for £1.2 million!!



In June Irene stepped down from the committee and will now concentrate on running a smaller more manageable group for days Out and About for a maximum of 100 members. Irene has enlisted the help of a couple of other members to help her as she makes plans for 2024. For queries relating to the Paignton residential trip and Blenheim day trip please contact Irene direct.

We thank Irene for her contribution over the past two years and hope that the 100 new Out and About group members will enjoy the events that Irene organises for them.

Full details regarding GDPR for this group appears on the new Out and About webpage.



**Join us for our u3a Quiz Night**

**Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**The Station Pub, Stoneleigh KT17 2JA**

**7pm**

**£8 per person**



**Includes entry to the quiz, a finger buffet, and our free raffle.**

**Up to 6 players per team**

*Members can form a team or join a team on the night*

*Please be aware, to access the function room*

*there are approximately 25 steps*



**Barrie, our quiz master, has promised that you will be able to answer at least some of the questions!!!!**

**Come and enjoy an evening with friends and test your knowledge.**

**The bar will be open to purchase refreshments.**





# Weald & Downland Museum

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.



## Gertie's Gardeners

July 11<sup>th</sup> the judges will be in the village for Ewell in Bloom and several of us will be in attendance doing a spot of weeding. The Mayor will be judging the entries of the shops in the village who have all been asked to help dress the village appropriately.

The pictures below show the efforts of our gardeners throughout the year some of which will form the presentation to the judging panel before their walk round in the village.



We have  
gardened in all  
weathers.



Our  
efforts are  
paying  
off nicely



Extreme  
pruning by  
Fiona!! but  
it looks  
lovely now.



Apologies to Walking with your bus pass group 3 who submitted this report in March. Better late than never.



### Walking with your Bus Pass - Group 3

This month's adventure, led by Pauline and Jo, took us on the 166 bus from Epsom Clock Tower to Oaks Park near Woodmansterne.

Once inside the park, we followed the "Nature Trail". A seasonal, detailed, picture map is provided by Oaks Park, to help you get the most out of your visit.

It is a 2-mile stroll through the gardens, meadowlands, and woodlands. Afterwards we went back to the newly refurbished cafe, for coffee and lunch. Recommend the Jacket Potatoes, a meal in themselves.

Once satisfied with hot food and drinks, we caught the bus back to Epsom. Can recommend this bus ride and walk to other Bus Pass groups.

Sue Wood

### Garden Visiting group

The Garden Wanderers went for a stroll to our base garden at Wisley this month to see the roses, which were just coming into full bloom. Also, in great flower and scent were the sweet peas in the trial garden which the staff were cutting and offering to us to take home in exchange for a small donation, a welcome selection that were greatly appreciated.

Our second visit of this month was to The Charterhouse near Smithfield for one of its monthly garden open evenings complete with refreshments, a welcome cool night after a rather hot bus journey.

Next month we will be visiting Borde Hill gardens in Sussex.



# 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?

# MONDAY PRESENTATION

## GREAT GARDENS OF GREAT BRITAIN

ANDREW BABICZ

Bourne Hall Monday 7 August at 10:30



What makes a garden great? Is it the imposing house, the plants, the landscape or how good their tea and cakes are? After working at Wisley, Kew and Hampton Court Palace, Andrew will show us a number of gardens all over the United Kingdom that are “Great”. Every garden different, from Sissinghurst to Kew and from Levens Hall to Harlow Carr, Andrew will tell you why he thinks these gardens are “Great”. Including the one with the best tea and cakes!

## GDPR and your u3a



The Third Age Trust have recently updated their Data Protection Policy.

In order to keep our members' data safe and bring us up to date, the committee will be reviewing our data protection policy over the summer and we will be notifying group leaders and members of any changes that are required in the way we record, store, and use your data.

The only u3a communications you should receive are either from our Beacon system which is used by the committee to update members or emails from group leaders with whom you have agreed to share your data. Any other communication should be reported to the committee for investigation.

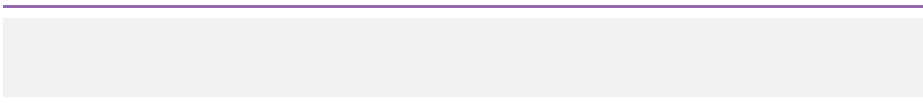
An interesting month. Your new social committee opened bookings for their first offerings and are very pleased with the results. They have now added a special Christmas event at Hever Castle which I have nicknamed 'lunch and lights': booking opens July 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are also pleased to have a further offering from Andrew at Magic Moments for two theatre visits with coach travel included.

Our next big event is our AGM in October which the committee are now starting to plan.

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!!!!**

