



**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
CRAWLEY**

Registered Charity No. 1029004

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Speaker Meetings at the Friary Hall  
2.30 p.m.**

**2008**

**11th July**

**Mr. Martin Lloyd**

**Passports, Assassins, Traitors & Spies**

**10th October**

**Mr. Bernard Allan**

**William Hogarth—His life and art**

**14th November**

**Mr. H. Summerton**

**Life of the Aztec and Maya**

**12th December**

**Dr. Kathryn Brown**

**The Christmas Story in Florentine Art**

**2009**

**9th January**

**Mrs. Judy Rayner**

**A month in India living with Indian families**

**13th February**

**Joy Lewis & Derrick Hughes**

**More traditional music with even more unusual  
instruments**

**13th March**

**Mrs Ann Chance**

**Petticoat Pilot**

**Study Days**

**Please refer to your printed programme and the  
Notice Board at the Friday Meetings.**

**Booking Forms are available from Brenda Broom.  
See the Committee list for contact number.**

## Chairman's Letter

It seems like yesterday that I was writing my letter for the spring edition of this newsletter. So much has happened since I last wrote to you all.

As you know the AGM was held in June when your Executive Committee was elected for the coming year. And I am pleased to report that Barbara Hanson and Gillian Pitt have been elected to the team, and they are most welcome.

There is so much for me to tell you about since I last wrote. I will endeavour to be informative and I hope succinct!

You may be aware that the U3A is now getting a much higher national profile. In January 2008 the Government Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) published a consultation document entitled "Informal Adult Learning—Shaping the Way Ahead." The Department invited organisations and individuals to respond to the consultation. One of the ways to respond was to send a completed questionnaire to the Department. This we did as Crawley U3A by using a U3A response questionnaire devised by the Third Age Trust.

John Denham, Secretary of State for DIUS in his foreward to the document says "All forms of good adult learning are valuable. Whether vocational, or simply for personal enlightenment and fulfilment, adult learning contributes immeasurably to the well-being and health of our society." It was most encouraging for me to read in the document that "the University of the Third Age (U3A) is a good example of self-organised learning".

Recently the Crawley council for Voluntary Services (CRVS) advised us that they were carrying out a survey on the space needs of voluntary groups in the town. The survey form was duly completed, pointing out that we were looking for suitable premises across the whole of the town, and that access to bus routes was most important for our members. With development planned in the town centre and surrounding neighbourhoods, the CCVS is working with statutory partners to see what potential there is for developing additional space for the voluntary sector, and how best community space can be configured.

Does the acronym POPP mean anything to you? If it does not it soon will! POPP stands for Partnerships for Older People Projects. Its vision is to improve the quality of life for older people in the community. The 18 month project consists of a staff of twelve people formed of two teams: a Community Partnership team and a Neighbourhood Network team. I am sure they will need to enquire more about the work of Crawley U3A.

At recent monthly meetings we have been promoting a new publication entitled "Directory of services for older people in Crawley". The aim of the directory is to empower older people (and where appropriate their carers) to access services they need by providing them with information about what is available. It runs to 36 pages and is in larger print than normal. It contains a wealth of information. If you would like a copy telephone Crawley Town Hall on 438781.

Those of you who attended the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) course for older drivers know how good it was. The aim of the DSA is to keep older drivers on the road, safely, for as long as possible. We expect to run a repeat course in the next academic year for those of you who could not make the date in May and for those who wish to repeat it.

I am beginning to run out of space! There is more that I could write!

May I take the opportunity of thanking you all, committee members, editor of this newsletter, group leaders, refreshment providers and others with roles of which I may not be aware for making Crawley U3A an organisation of which we can all be justly proud.

Best wishes to you all,

**Arthur Earl**





## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

### The annual General Meeting of Crawley U3A 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008

There was a good attendance for the annual AGM meeting with Arthur Earl, the current Chairman, presiding. The Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2008 was provided for all members attending. This contained the Trustees Report, a summary of the activities for the past year, details of the charitable objects of the U3A, a summary of the financial policy and of the accounts. Our treasurer informed us that because of the satisfactory state of our finances he saw no need to increase members' contributions for the coming year. A full copy of this report is available from the Hon. Secretary.

Most Committee members were re-elected to carry out their present roles. There were one or two changes to the Committee: Don Sadler has stepped down as Groups Co-ordinator but will be co-opted onto the committee as IT Support and to help with the Newsletter.

Two new members, Barbara Hanson and Gillian Pitt were unanimously elected. Evelyn Toleman, who has been organising our spring and summer outings for many years has decided to step down from her role. Arthur expressed our grateful thanks for all her hard work. So popular have her trips proved that the Committee is now considering how best to organise additional outings in the spring and the summer. There are a number of options which will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

One proposal was submitted by Eunice Clement regarding the imminent closure of the U3A Travel Service. She feels that it will be a great loss to many members and would like to put her proposal to the National Office. Apparently there are rather lengthy procedures to be followed but she had unanimous approval from the Chairman and members to go ahead.

The date of the next AGM was arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at the Friary Hall.

As there was no other business the AGM meeting was closed.

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After the meeting closed, members had the pleasure of hearing the final part of a talk given in January by Gillian Pitt on the subject of her parents, Mr and Mrs Whittick, and the part they played in the making of Crawley New Town. She had brought along many family photographs showing changes in Crawley and her mother taking part in the numerous activities with which she was involved. These were mostly to do with the various women's groups in which she took great interest.

There was a fascinating photograph of her father receiving an Honorary Degree from the Open University in company with Jacqueline du Pré, by then unfortunately confined to a wheel chair, and Asa Briggs, the then Chancellor of the O U. They all looked very splendid in their robes.

Edwin did his usual magic with the photographs, and Arthur thanked Gillian for an interesting glimpse of Crawley in the not-so-distant past.

## **The Magic of Pantomime Speaker - Ian Gledhill**

It was April, the daffodils still in bloom, but for an hour the very informative and entertaining Ian Gledhill had us feeling quite in the Christmas mood with his illustrated talk and witty anecdotes. Oh, yes he did!

Ian is a theatre director, set designer and stage manager, and has appeared for the past seven years in pantomime with Julian Clary. He began his talk by explaining that the traditional pantomime is peculiarly British, and is bafflingly incomprehensible to most other countries. Its origins lie, however, in 17<sup>th</sup> century Italy, with the Commedia Del Arte and the familiar figures of Harlequin and Columbine. Because British audiences did not understand Italian the early performances, which were brief entertainments following a serious play, were mimed - hence the "mime" part of "pantomime".

The first full-length pantomime was Robinson Crusoe, performed in 1781, but it was in the 19<sup>th</sup> century that the pantomime we know and love first became popular. The Victorians created moral tales, based on fairy stories, which were suitable for children, Ian looked in detail at the four most popular productions:

Cinderella is based on the Perrault story, rather than the Grimm version, which is grim indeed!

Aladdin originated with the Arabian Nights, although for obscure reasons Aladdin was moved from Baghdad to China; Widow Twanky took her name from a brand of tea popular with Victorians.

Snow White was originally a Grimm version. The dwarfs are not named, except by Disney, who now owns the copyright to the names! Dick Whittington is based on the legend of the real Lord Mayor of London, who was never poor, and never apparently owned a cat, although he did have a boat - a trading vessel known as a katte.

Ian mentioned animals in pantomime. Live animals are not used now, except for ponies to pull Cinderella's coach. He had some amusing anecdotes about the perils of working with nervous ponies! There are still actors who specialise in "skin roles", notably as cats and, in pairs, as cows or horses, while rats and mice are usually played by children.

Another tradition, dying out to some extent, is that of gender swapping. For centuries, dating back to the early Greek theatre, all actors were male, whereas from the 18<sup>th</sup> century young male roles in opera are often sung by women. Women on the 19<sup>th</sup> century stage were allowed (indeed encouraged) to show their legs, but only when in male roles, which was a great attraction for the Victorian and Edwardian male! Today the hero is more likely to be a young man, often a pop or television star, but the role of Dame is still always a man, as Ian illustrated with pictures of himself, and Julian Clary.

Theatre is rich in tradition and superstition, some of which have logical explanations, as Ian explained. For example, scene changes were indicated in the old days by the stage manager whistling to the stage hands. Whistling on stage was therefore very unlucky, as performers risked a piece of scenery landing on their heads! Pantomimes are still full of old jokes, and the traditional theme of good overcoming evil. The good characters always enter stage right, while the baddies enter stage left, the

word "sinister" coming from the Latin word meaning "left".

In response to questions Ian explained that pantomime is performed at Christmas simply because this is a traditional family festival. He also confirmed that it is very expensive to produce; Julian Clary's costumes cost £50,000! For this reason sets and costumes are used and re-used, often for up to 20 years.

I think our only complaint was that Ian's enchanting talk was over too quickly; we could have listened for another hour. We will almost certainly look at this Christmas's pantomimes with new eyes - oh, yes we will!

*Jean Austin April 2008*

## **Sussex Past' and Archaeology**

### **Speaker— Helen Poole 14th March 2008**

Our speaker introduced herself as Senior Museum Officer for the Sussex Archaeological Society and a local history writer and cruise lecturer. Her career has involved a great deal of work with 'digs' all over Sussex as the SAS has more buildings than any other similar society and they all need investigating inside and out. ('Sussex Past' is the name of their magazine).

Her energy and colourful turns of phrase swept us along through the discoveries of the Cluniac Priory at Lewes that led to the formation of the Society in 1846 - a metal casket with the name 'Gundrad' on it set the date in the 11<sup>th</sup> century - and to work at the Barbican, Lewes Castle, Bull House and Anne of Cleves House, all in Lewes. On the way we learned how archaeologists had got metal 'detectorists' on their side by encouraging the reform of the process of reporting finds over 300 years old. Now a local Finds Liaison Officer has taken over from the Coroner - look on-line for the Portable Antiquities scheme for details.



Investigation of Bull House, where Tom Paine, author of 'The Rights of Man' lived for 6 years has led to discoveries which will be on view to the public next year - watch out for dates - while an indoor dig at Marlipins in Shoreham disclosed the oldest building timbers in Sussex, dating from 1160. Another site at Southwick, now lost to developers, was apparently once a villa similar in many ways to Fishbourne.

Among the illustrations to Helen Poole's talk was a mediaeval painting showing an artist - a woman - using oyster shells to hold her paint, which explained shells stained with yellow paint which had been found on the Shoreham dig. She explained that the pictures she was showing came from a website under the name West.Sussex.org.uk which delivers you pictures collected by Martin Hayes of the County Library Service. Mention of Fishbourne - the largest Roman site north of the Alps - led to pictures of the Roman gardens established there and the two attractive books, 'Roman gardens and their Plants' and 'A Body in the Bathhouse', by Lindsay Davis, based on that site.

Dowsing the moat at Michelham Priory - and being convinced by the twitching that it really does work - and meeting the Time Team have been other exciting events in Helen Poole's daily work. We were quite ready to be persuaded by her that, as she said: 'If you haven't visited these sites - why not?!

**Eunice Clement**

## **More Group Reports**

### **Poetry**

The Poetry Group continues to flourish. We now have 17 members, most of whom attend regularly and all take part actively in discussion and expressing their ideas about the poetry we produce (either from our own pens or from printed books). Each term we choose a weekly topic, such as Rivers, Space, Food, Disappointment ....

We are now in a room at the Tree: it has some disadvantages (numerous keys to doors, queries from people wanting the CAB), but it is much better than our old haunts.

Last summer we again took part in open meetings in the foyer of the Hawth, where we organised choral speaking (listened to with interest by people having snack lunches). Several people appeared again for the second session bringing poems of their own. We hope to do something similar this summer as part of the Crawley Festival.

**Mary Davies**

### **Italian**

It has been a wonderful year for the Italian language course, and I am happy to say that we expect to complete a 30 week course as usual this year. We're glad that we can continue to use the room at Thomas Bennett school, as we have the facility of using the photocopier for which we pay £2 per person per annum. We are able to make use of a lockable cupboard in the classroom. We can also use the coffee room and the dishwasher, so no washing dirty cups!

In September we gained 7 new members, but lost 2 due to family commitments and we now number 27 in all. I have continued to divide the class into 2 levels, the beginners and the intermediate/advanced. I believe everyone has enjoyed learning Italian - we are a friendly group and exchange birthday and get well cards. We all, including partners, went to Rowfant for our usual sum-

mer lunch, and had Christmas lunch at Goffs Park Manor

East Grinstead U3A recently contacted me to ask if they could join our group. I suggested they visit us at Thomas Bennett. Two of the group came on 11 February and seemed very impressed with what we are doing, and they will report back to their group.

The intermediate class is from 9.45 to 11.45; the beginners class from 10.45 to 12.45.

**Lorenza Davis**

### **Out & About Group 1**

The Group has continued to thrive. We have increased our membership to 43. three above the optimum number, but still have a waiting list of eight. We have found that four of us running the group is beneficial, we work well together and it certainly spreads the load.

We have had a varied programme, some events proving more popular than others. Places visited include Amberley Museum, the Haberdashers Hall, St Bartholomew's Church, the Wetlands at Bames, Titsey Place, Greenwich, Fulham Palace, the Houses of Parliament, Tooveys Auction Rooms. We have also been on two London Walks, one to Canary Wharf, the other based on Pepys' London, memorable not only for the talk about Pepys and the great fire of 1666 but because we encountered two fires ourselves - the burning warehouse, and a small fire at St Paul's making it necessary to evacuate the crypt just as we settled down to lunch.

Gardens visited have been Leonardslee and the open day at Fletching village; we covered 12 gardens that day. We have also been to shows at the Hawth, and had a look behind the scenes at the Theatre Royal, Brighton.

We have utilised public transport as much as we can, but have occasionally shared cars.

**Sheila Leedale**

### **Out and About Group 2**

Out and About Group 2 has been running for almost a year now. We have enjoyed a variety of outings during that time, starting with a well-attended lunch at Crawley College. Visits to gardens, museums and general places of interest in London and Sussex have attracted an average attendance of 20 members per visit. Recent visits have included Christ's Hospital School, the First Emperor of China and the Tutankhamun Exhibitions. We have plans for the months ahead and hope the visits will prove to be just as popular.

**W. Waterworth and B. Penny**

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**If you have any photographs of your group, or what you are doing as a group, that you think would be of interest to other members, please send them to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter.**

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## Music Appreciation Group

The group continues to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in the month and the 5<sup>th</sup> when there is one, throughout the year except at Christmas time. We meet at the annexe to "The Tree", in the seminar room, where we listen to a "Concert programme" of recorded classical music from various periods, sometimes suggested or presented by other members of the group. There are currently 22 members on the register and the average attendance for this session is 16.

We are an amiable and informal group of people who enjoy listening to a wide range of music in comfortable surroundings.

*Henry Lyons*

## Sussex U3A Region Away Day, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Visit to the Observatory and Science Centre, Hurstmonceux and Hurstmonceux Castle.

This was a 'do what you like' day for U3A members from all over Sussex. We all gathered for an introductory talk in one of the vast geodesic domes to hear a little bit about the origins of the Centre and what we would find in the various parts of the vast area of land that is collectively known as the Observatory. We could choose to do whatever attracted our interest from among the Dome of Discovery Exhibition, the Discovery Park and water park, guided tours around the telescopes, extensive gardens and, as they say in the travel brochures, much, much more.

The 'Hands-On' exhibits alone could have afforded hours of entertainment. They illustrate scientific truths relating to speed, gravity, light, water movement etc. in all manner of amusing ways. I was particularly fascinated by the movement of the long pin on curving and cambered rails which illustrated why railway wheels stayed on a curved line even at high speed – very reassuring!

We heard the story of why Greenwich Observatory was moved from its original site to Sussex. Apparently the increase in air pollution, noise pollution and most importantly, light pollution, made for great difficulties as far as astronomy is concerned and the open spaces and purer air of rural Sussex provided the solution.

The site is home to some of the country's largest historic telescopes and our party spent time inside one of the domes while the workings of the telescope were explained to us. We were intrigued by the fact that the entire floor of the dome moves up to the level of the viewing platform while sections of the top swing round and open up the sky.

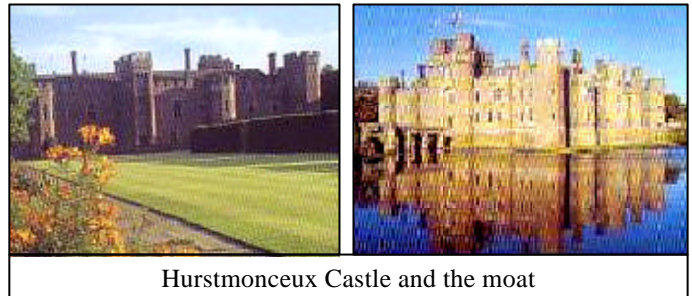
And then there is the castle: the earliest brick – as opposed to stone – built castle in England. It has



One of the telescopes

It has had a chequered history and was only saved from the demolition men by an Austrian who also had an interesting history. He came over to England as a refugee child on the Kindertransport, was deported to Canada where he was lucky enough to find some relatives. He was educated at a Canadian University, became an extremely rich businessman and bought the Castle with the intention of turning it into an outpost of his old university. So now it offers further education to young people from all over the world.

The gardens looked wonderful, but there is a limit to one's energy and they will have to wait for another visit.



Hurstmonceux Castle and the moat

*Jean Kirby*

## Book Circle 2

We meet on the second Monday of the month (unless this is a Bank holiday, in which case we meet on the following Monday), throughout the year, 2.30 - 4.00, Room 7, St Paul's Church, Northgate.

Originally we had planned to make ten our maximum membership, but we currently have fourteen members. Meeting attendance averages ten, and even if all members do come there is still time for everyone to have a say.

Our reading choices so far have covered: immigrant fiction, thrillers, biography, travel writing, through the eyes of the child, the novels of Graham Greene and Ian McEwan. Generally we all read the same title, but for travel writing we each selected a different example, and recently I held a "literary lottery" where each member chose a number and had to take the corresponding novel. Discussions, which are always lively, generally take the round table form. Sometimes we split into smaller groups, but this can be distracting for those with hearing difficulties - another reason for keeping our numbers down.

Future plans include a joint meeting with Book Circle 1, and a "literary" lunch in the summer.

*Jean Austin February 2008*

## Circle Dance Group

Our group continues to blossom. When I took over in January 2004 we had about 17 on the register of which 10 still remain. Enrolment days usually bring new members, while others leave. All in all, we have had 5 new members and now the total stands at 25.

We rarely do the same dances at each session, though there are obvious favourites. My challenge is to try to include new ones, as well as one or two old ones, each time, plus one faster one to keep us up to speed.

During the four years I have been teaching this class I have tried to transfer to a more up-to-date and sophisticated method of reproducing the music i.e. an Ipod and MP3 player. I have been partially successful. Another problem is finding speakers which are loud enough. I am still working on this.

Fortunately I enjoy the teaching and love the dancing.

**Audrey Gwynne**

### **Crawley U3A Film Group**

The Film Group continues to meet at Northgate on the last Friday in the month. There are now 23 members on the register and if anyone wishes to start a second group, we would be only too willing to help in its foundation.

We continue to view films at the cinema or on DVDs in our own time so that everyone is familiar with the film selected for discussion and is then able to express an opinion. The group is a lively one with a constant exchange of ideas.

We have had some difficulty in forward planning because the cinemas at the Hawth, The Capitol in Horsham and Cineworld do not control their output of films. As a result we are fortunate to have been granted £20 per annum for the purchase of materials, which become the property of Crawley U3A and for this, we thank Arthur Earl and the Committee for their generosity.

**Margaret Shaw & Carole Walsh**

### **Science for the Non-Scientist**

This is what the group has been discussing over the period autumn 2007—spring 2008:

Oct 8th—Hal Stuart & Gillian Brown—Sight in Crawley  
22 -Video

Nov 5th - Volcanoes

19 - Jim Swift—History of Railway signalling

Jan 14th - Mike Hodgson - Geology of the Azores

28 - John Presland—Buildings Grand & Small —

all modern—Which do you like?

Feb 11th - Video = The Queen's Garden.

Our average attendance was 10.

**Douglas Somerville**

### **Literature Group – William Spencer**

We have been meeting on alternate Tuesday afternoons at St. Paul's Methodist Church this year. We have 13 members on the register and attendance has been good, our numbers rising through the year.

We have used the anthology *Poetry 1900 to 1975* by George MacBeth. (Crawley U3A has 6 copies of this book – the rest of the group have provided their own copies.) Since September we have looked at the poetry of D.H. Lawrence, Gerald Manley Hopkins (not in the anthology) and are currently studying T.S. Eliot.

We have spent one, two or three sessions on each of these poets. The leader, William Spencer, has supplemented the material in the book with his own notes. We have also listened to a tape recording of T.S. Eliot reading his own work.

**George Redgrave**

### **Bridge for Fun**

We continue to meet weekly at Fairlawn House where the Accommodation and facilities are excellent. Member numbers have increased to 35, with a short waiting list. An average of 24 – 28 attends each session.

Those who have never played bridge (sometimes not even cards) are given help to reach a basic level of play, and since the provision of training CDs we have been able to improve our standards whilst maintaining a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

**Betty Dowty**

### **Art Appreciation Group 3**

We have continued to enjoy the facilities at St Paul's Church where they make us very welcome. We are still pursuing our journey through the centuries and are now entering the 18<sup>th</sup> Century in Europe.

The members of the group are a great support to me and the numbers continue to grow. They are also supportive of other U3A activities such as Study Days and monthly meetings.

**Ann Flack**

### **Art Appreciation Group 2**

Our group of 15 members meets at St Paul's Church Hall on alternate Tuesday mornings. At present we are studying portraiture and have enjoyed visits to recent exhibitions at Tate Modern and the Dulwich Picture Gallery, where the works of Holbein and Canaletto have been studied. We have also admired the work of the Breughel family and J.S. Lowry, and have been made aware of their worlds.

We have now embarked on a voyage of discovery when we attempt self-portraiture: a certain exercise in critical appreciation!

**Shirley Stacy**

### **Painting & Drawing**

The last year has seen a change in our fortunes. The membership has grown to 24, with average numbers of 10 and a maximum of 15. This now shows a financial surplus on this year's account.

I have also proved another point when new members say they cannot paint or draw, as within a few weeks they have often astounded themselves. We are going to exhibit some of our work at the U3A Sussex Region Art Festival at Burgess Hill, and this has given the members a new incentive.

**John Martin**

### **Topical Discussion**

The group had welcomed several new members. We have with regret lost several long-standing members.

Discussions cover a wide range of subjects, and we never seem to be short of topics. We look forward to the next meetings.

**Alison Spackman**

### **Swimming**

The group continues to meet at K2 to swim on Monday mornings in school terms. At present there are 7 members who swim for about half an hour and then meet up for a coffee. At Christmas, they went out for lunch

together. They welcome inexperienced swimmers but as the pool has no shallow end (the depth is 6 ft all the way) they regret that they cannot undertake any teaching.

**Evelyn Toleman**

### **Poetry, Prose & Plays Group, Leader – John Hedley**

This newly formed group has been meeting on alternate Saturday mornings since September at the Crawley Horticultural Society's clubhouse in Ifield Avenue, West Green. There are 15 members on the register with 11 or 12 attending on most occasions. We have studied a variety of modern poets from material supplied as photocopies by the leader, John Hedley. We have also read short stories: two by *Guy de Maupassant*, and *Address Unknown* by *Kressman Taylor* which is written in the form of letters between an American and his German partner.

For the last three weeks we have been reading *The Winter's Tale* by *Shakespeare* and have also looked at two of his sonnets.

The group celebrated Christmas with a meal at Si in Crawley High Street.

**George Redgrave February 2008**

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### **ARRIVE ALIVE**

55-60 people gathered at St. Paul's, Northgate for a most informative presentation by Patrick Phillips from the Driving Standards Agency who is also an examiner. In the introduction Patrick gave us an enlightening graph on driving accidents: 17-24 year old drivers had the highest death accidents and after 25 the graph gradually improves and deaths are lower until around 70 year old drivers, when the situation reverses and 75 + group actually exceeds the 17-24 year olds for percentage death accidents.

The first driving test was voluntary and introduced in 1935 by Sir Malcolm Campbell and we were amused to see film of old hand signals used. After World War 2 in 1945 driving tests became compulsory. At that time there were 1.5 million cars on the road and 7,000 deaths, compared with 27 million cars today and 3,500 deaths. The difference being modern technology in car design, airbags, tyres, soft metal etc. instead of the hard rigid frame of old models. Impact at a speed of 30 m.p.h. would be as if an elephant hit you and old models offered no protection.

**Licensing-** On reaching 70 your driving license expires but it can be renewed by the DVLA for 3 year periods, subject to there being no major health problems. It is important to keep a check on eyesight - a good exercise is to take 25 normal walking steps from a parked car (which would be 70-75 feet) and check if you can read a number plate. If not, visit an optician!

Roundabouts proved quite a hot topic. Patrick gave guidance on the importance of knowing which lane to be in and how to indicate. There are so many different signs - do you know that a PEGASUS sign on a traffic signal is

high up for the benefit of horse riders! He encouraged all of us to look at the Highway Code and test one another.

Maybe even organise a "Highway Quiz" in teams with a small prize for the winning team.

**Speed** - going too slow or exceeding the speed limit are equally bad. We've all seen "hogging the centre lane" on motorways. The expert says keep in the left hand lane unless overtaking!

**Hazard Awareness** - keep an eye on mirrors but don't rely on them entirely, a physical turn of the head to check is much better and helps to avoid the blind spot.

We were shown short films on junctions, motorways and the importance of watching out for children. Finally Patrick touched on the subject "when to hang up the keys"? If in doubt regarding yourself or family members or friends, the best advice is to get an independent qualified person to give a check test.

The gathering was lively throughout and questions were continually asked and comments made, such as "What about hanging dollies?" or signs on windscreens. Answer: nothing that will distract the driver.



**Attitude:** bad manners and loud music may be annoying but provided the driver is not breaking the law have to be tolerated. Amazingly the subject of mobile 'phones wasn't mentioned - must be something to do with the age of the audience!

Arthur thanked Patrick for a most helpful presentation and said how in his experience having his wife or a companion beside him was a great asset. We hope Patrick will come again so that U3A members who couldn't make this meeting can have the opportunity of refreshing their knowledge of driving and thus **ARRIVE ALIVE**.

### **Subscription Renewal**

Please note that if you wish to continue as a member of U3A your subscription for the coming year is due by the **end of August**. Payment should be made by **cheque, payable to Crawley U3A**.

If it is not possible to meet the August deadline, you can renew your subscription when you come to the Enrolment day meeting on 12th September.

## Poetry Page

### *Dust if you must*

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better  
To paint a picture or write a letter  
Bake a cake or plant a seed  
Ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,  
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb,  
Music to hear and books to read  
Friends to cherish, a life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there,  
With the sun in your eyes and wind in your hair  
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,  
This day will not come round again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,  
Old age will come and it's not always kind  
And when you go, and go you must,  
You, yourself, will make more dust.

*Bob Marling*

### *Autumn Leaves*

My window now frames the rich colours of Autumn,  
Leaves flutter past and I join them, in flight.  
Once clear of the fences, the hedges, the houses,  
We turn to each other, new adventures in sight.

We touch on the Downs and think of the Summer,  
The wheat and the windmills and the sound of the sea,  
As we roll and we roll and draw breath in the harbour.  
And I think of the pier, as the starlings fly free.

There in the distance are the white cliffs of Dover,  
As over and over and over we blow.  
As we float on an air of anticipation,  
There's so much to see, where on earth shall we go?

*Joan Harding*

### *I'm Awfully Well*

There's nothing whatever the matter with me,  
I'm just as healthy as I can be,  
I have arthritis in both my knees,  
And when I talk I talk with a wheeze;  
My pulse is weak, my blood is thin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

All my teeth have had to come out,  
And my diet I hate to think about,  
I'm overweight and I can't get thin  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

And arch supports I need for my feet  
Or I wouldn't be able to go out on the street,  
Sleep is denied me night after night,  
My memory's failing, my head's in a spin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Old age is golden I've heard it said,  
But sometimes I wonder as I go to bed,  
With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup  
And my eyes on a shelf until I get up,  
And when sleep dims my eyes I say to myself  
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?

The reason I know my youth has been spent  
Is my get-up-and-go has got up and went.  
But I really don't mind when I think with a grin  
Of all the places my Get-up has been.  
I get up each morning and dust off my wits,  
Pick up the paper and read the 'Obits'  
If my name is missing I'm therefore not dead,  
So I eat a good breakfast and jump back into bed.

The moral of this, as this tale doth unfold,  
Is that for you and me who are growing old,  
It is better to say "I'm fine" with a grin,  
Than to let people know the shape we are in.

*Bob Marling*

## Group News

### **Literature Group**—planning for September 2008

As indicated in an earlier Newsletter a new course will be offered in September entitled 'From Plato to Virginia Woolf' - a look at the background of thought underlying English literature. This will not be a rigorous study of the kind pursued by professional philosophers but more in the nature of a layperson's guide to currents of thought which have influenced writers from the 16th to the 20th century.

Relevant passages from literature will be used to illustrate the course, while at the same time an attempt will be made to relate the ideas to the modern scientific world view.

An ambitious programme—but we intend to have fun in tackling it together!

*William Spenser*

### **History Group**

Would members and would/be members please note that Elizabeth Robinson has agreed to be the contact for the group. She is going to help Robert with the forthcoming programme for next year and so if anyone wishes to volunteer a talk or knows of someone who would be willing to talk on any historical subject, please get in touch with Elizabeth. As always we meet on the last Friday of the month at 10.30 at St. Paul's, Northgate. We already have a programme for the rest of the year which is: May 30th—Gerald Sandwell on the history of Church ringing and church bells.

June 27th—Pat Lindsay on colonial life in 'The way we were'.

No meetings in July or August but we resume on Sept 26th—Myrtle Taylor on Blenheim- 'Battles and Buildings'.

Oct 31st—Eunice Clement on the 'Early History of Crawley'.

Nov 28th—Roger Lea on the 'History of Light-houses'.

*Myrtle & Robert Taylor*

**U3A National Travel** - Eunice Clement put a proposal to our AGM, held on 18 June 2008, concerning the discontinuation of U3A National Travel. She feels strongly that the situation should be as widely known as possible, and has sent the following letter to the Third Age Trust for their consideration:

For the attention of the Third Age Trust

I first heard about the impending discontinuation of the U3A National Travel Group in their Spring Newsletter. The advice of the Travel Committee to members who felt strongly about this was to take it up through the local U3A.

I have been abroad with a U3A Travel Group on three occasions and find this absolutely the best method of travel. Unlike the commercial brochures the Network News is brief and economical of paper and space. One can be sure of meeting a group of likeminded people with a leader who will be well-informed as to both the facilities of the destination and the needs and capabilities of the age-group.

Hoping to be able to affect thinking on the situation I proposed a motion, seconded by a like-minded member, to the AGM of the Crawley U3A. It read as follows:

'Crawley U3A regrets the decision of the U3A Trustees not to support the National Travel Group beyond August 2008. The tours offered by the National Travel Group fulfil the U3A criteria of combining social and educational activities and offer the possibility of meeting U3A members from other parts of the UK. We ask the Trustees to reconsider their decision and to continue to offer to members the invaluable resources of the Travel Organisers.'

The motion was passed unanimously and I set about finding another local U3A who would second this as a motion to the Annual Conference. However, when I telephoned the Third Age Trust I was informed that resolutions to be considered by Conference have to be submitted by the end of April – a deadline I would have been unable to meet as I was then barely aware of the situation.

I believe other local U3A's have submitted a similar motion for consideration and trust there will be discussion of the situation at Conference, in particular to clarify the reasons for which this decision was taken. I am not able to come to Conference but would appreciate some reply to my concerns.

Eunice Clement 18.06.08

*Ed: There is an article on this subject in the latest copy of the **U3A News** which will be of interest to members*

There will be an exhibition of work and photographs illustrating the **U3A in Crawley** in Crawley Library foyer from **25th August to 5th September**. Leaflets about our organisation will be available, and it is hoped that there will be some volunteers who could spare an hour or so to be at the display to answer any queries. Last year apparently there were quite a few interested inquirers.  
If you would like to offer your services, please contact Pam Binns on 01293 \*\*\*\*\*

## More Group News

**Bridge for Fun Group 2**— As there has been so much interest in this subject, a new group has been formed. The group leader is **Pauline Rigby**, phone 01293 542159. The group will meet every Tuesday at Fairlawn House, Three Bridges, between 2 pm and 4 pm. The group is still open. Please contact Pauline for further details.

**Family History**— Group Leader is **Jo Meek** phone 01293 524400. The group will meet at St Paul's, Northgate, on alternate Mondays from 10 am to 12 am. starting on 22nd September 2008. At the moment the group membership is full but do ring Jo for the latest information.

## Sculpture at Goodwood and West Dean Gardens — 19 June 2008

The day started unpromisingly, with rain and a brisk wind, but by the time we boarded our coach the rain had petered out. We drove through the West Sussex countryside in its early summer glory - and a traffic jam - to Hat Hill copse on the Goodwood estate.

It was in 1992 that Wilfred and Jeanette Cass established Sculpture at Goodwood in an area of ancient woodland to provide a home for, and to promote, high quality, contemporary British sculpture. The foundation commissions new works, enabling major sculptures to be displayed and, importantly, marketed around the world. Each year, around a third of the works are sold and replaced by new commissions. A new Foundation Centre at Hat Hill houses an extensive reference library and archive which is a valuable resource for artists, architects and researchers.

There are currently about seventy works in the twenty-six acre woodland, which has been organised to allow sculpture to be properly displayed. It was exciting to see how they both fitted into and drew on the landscape, and how the forest in some cases has become part of the sculpture. Some of the works are unsettling, some humorous, some seem ambiguous. Small groups of U3A members could be seen around the forest, discussing different pieces and their reactions. It had been a thought-provoking visit.

We then moved on to West Dean Gardens, which surround West Dean College, where we had lunch. The college sits in beautiful parkland with lovely views and a walk leading up to a 45 acre arboretum. We were free to wander through the grounds, where the Sussex Barn Gallery stages exhibitions. We could sample the woodland walk, a magnificent pergola, or a wonderful 2½ acre walled garden with Victorian glasshouses, vegetables and fruit, and old roses. Time to marvel at the sheer size and exuberance of the vegetables – how do they do it so early in the year? Time to breathe in the scent of June flowers. Time for a cup of tea and a delicious slice of cake before heading home.

Jo Meek



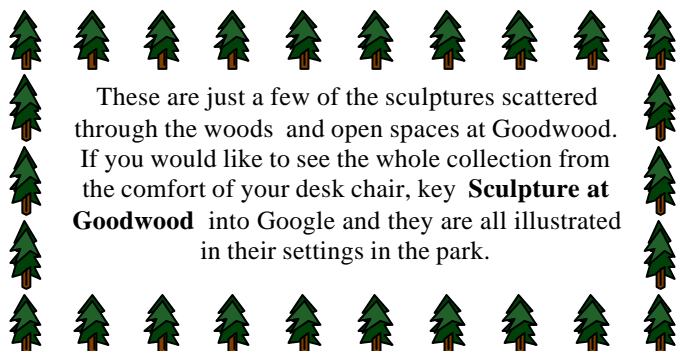
WOLF — Sally Matthews 2004



SYCAMORE—Wendy Taylor 2006



SUN AND MOON - Phillip King - 2007



These are just a few of the sculptures scattered through the woods and open spaces at Goodwood. If you would like to see the whole collection from the comfort of your desk chair, key **Sculpture at Goodwood** into Google and they are all illustrated in their settings in the park.

U3A Sussex Region Arts & Craft- Saturday			Festival — Programme of Events 19th July		
MAIN HALL			DRAMA STUDIO		
<i>U3A in Charge - East Grinstead</i>			<i>U3A in Charge - Arun</i>		
MC	Haywards Heath		MC	Arun	
TIME	PERFORMING ART	U3A	TIME	PERFORMING ART	U3A
10:35-10:45	WELCOME		10:40-10:50	Songs of the 60s	Arun
10:45-11:05	Hand Bells	Horsham	10:55-11:05	Poem	East Grinstead
11:10-11:20	Play Read	Haywards Heath	11:10-11:15 11:15-11:20	French Song French Poem	East Grinstead Patcham
11:25-11:45	Choir	East Grinstead	11:25-11:30 11:35-11:40 11:40-11:45	German Poem Italian Conversation Esperanto	Five Deans Arun Arun
11:50-12:00	Classical Piano	Patcham	11:50-12:00	Poetry /Music	Hastings & Rother
12:05-12:15	Dramatic Sketch	Hastings & Rother	12:05-12:15	Scottish Dancing	Burgess Hill
12:20-12:30	Classical Piano	Hastings & Rother	12:20-12:30	Play Read	Mayfield & District
12:35-12:45	Singing for Fun	Hastings & Rother	12:35-12:45	Circle Dance	Haywards Heath + Burgess Hill
LUNCH					
MC	Executive		MC	Executive	
1:30-1:50	Hand Bells	East Grinstead	1:30-1:40	Light Music	Crawley
1:50-1:55	Violinist	East Grinstead	1:45-1:55	Play Read	Chichester
2:00-2:10	Play Read	Seaford	2:00-2:10	Scottish Dancing	Worthing
2:15-2:25	Choir	Worthing	2:15-2:25	Play Read	Haywards Heath
2:30-2:40	Poetry Read	Crawley	2:30-2:40	Tai Chi	Five Deans
2:45-2:55	Piano Medley	Horsham	2:45-2:55	Poem	Steyning
3:00-3:10	Play Read	Horsham	3:00-3:10	Baritone Solo	Haywards Heath
3:15-3:25	Jazz Group	Burgess Hill	3:15-3:25	Play Read	Steyning
3:30-3:40	Bamboo Pipes	Crawley			



**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
CRAWLEY**

**U3A CRAWLEY—Officers and Committee -**

<b>President &amp; Chairman</b>	<b>Arthur Earl</b>		<b>m8awe@aol.com</b>
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	<b>Mary Russell</b>		<b>mary.russell14@virgin.net</b>
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	<b>Edwin Cowley</b>		<b>eandbcowley@talktalk.net</b>
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	<b>Beryl Sinclair</b>		<b>beryl.sinclair@tiscali.co.uk</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Jean Kirby</b>		<b>jeanquintrell@tiscali.co.uk</b>
<b>Monthly Meeting speakers</b>	<b>Jean Kirby</b>		<b>As above</b>
<b>Publicity Newsletter distribution Outings Organiser</b>	<b>Pam Binns</b>		<b>david.binns@tiscali.co.uk</b>
<b>Groups Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Barbara Hanson</b>		
<b>Merchandise, Study Day Forms</b>	<b>Brenda Broom</b>		
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Betty Dowty</b>		
<b>Minute Secretary</b>	<b>Jill Allcock</b>		<b>jill@allock3596.fsnet.co.uk</b>
<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Gillian Pitt</b>		

**Roles of Co-opted Committee Members**

<b>Webmaster, IT organiser</b>	<b>Don Sadler</b>	<b>01293 ***** don.sadler@blueyonder.co.uk</b>
<b>Minute Secretary</b>	<b>Jill Alcock</b>	<b>01293 *****</b>

**Roles of Non-committee Members**

<b>Refreshments</b>	<b>Barbara Cowley and team</b>	<b>01342 *****</b>
<b>Get Well &amp; other cards</b>	<b>Appropriate Group Leader</b>	
<b>Typing volunteer</b>	<b>Kaye Turner</b>	<b>01293 *****</b>

## U3A STUDY GROUP CONTACTS

(Please remember to contact leaders at a reasonable hour between 9 a.m. & 6 p.m. if possible)

Group Name	Group Leader or Contact (C)	Phone Number
Amblers	John Martin	
Art Appreciation 1	Mary Russell	
Art Appreciation 2	Shirley Stacy	
Art Appreciation 3	Ann Flack	
Bamboo Pipes	Patsy Edmond-Smith	
Book Circle 1	Eunice Clement	
Book Circle 2	Jean Austin	
Bridge for Fun	Betty Dowty	
Bridge for Fun - Group 2	Pauline Rigby	
Circle Dancing	Audrey Gwynne	
Digital Photography	Edwin Cowley	
Family History	Jo Meek	
Film Circle	Margaret Shaw Carole Walsh	
History	Elizabeth Robinson (c)	
Italian	Lorenza Davis	
Literature	George Redgrave (c)	
Music Appreciation	Henry Lyons	
Out and About 1	Sheila Leedale	
Out and About 2	Winifred Waterworth	
Painting & Drawing	John Martin	
Play Reading	Shelagh Smith	
Plays, Poetry & Prose	Keith Bergin (c)	
Poetry	Joan Harding	
Science	Douglas Somerville	
Scrabble	Pat Stanley	
Swimming	Evelyn Toleman	
Topical Discussion	Alison Spackman	

We would welcome suggestions from members who would be interested in new groups, and, even better, would be prepared **to lead** one. Don't forget there is a lot of help available to start up a new activity. Contact **Barbara Hanson** on **01293 \*\*\*\*\*** if you want more information.

Please send your contributions for the next Newsletter to the editor by **10th October 2008**.

**Tel: 01293 \*\*\*\*\* - E-mail: [jeanquintrell@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jeanquintrell@tiscali.co.uk)**