u3a Caterham & District Newsletter

November/December 2026 No 36

Letter from the Chair



Hi everyone,

I am writing this as Autumn settles in and Halloween approaches. You will be getting this slightly earlier than normal, so I don't have much to add from my last mini newsletter.

First of all, we are getting ready to launch our new payment by bank card portal for subscriptions which will be much easier to use than in the past and will make life so much simpler for our membership secretary. We will be issuing simple instructions, and I sincerely hope most of you will use it.

For other payments by BACS please only quote the reference given to you for the event. Some of you are giving your name as well. This is not required as all payments identify who they are from and adding your name to the reference only complicates things when we are searching the bank account for payments for an event. SO PLEASE NO NAMES IN YOUR REFERENCE.

We will shortly be issuing our AGM pack for our meeting on November 30th at 2.00 pm at the united Reformed Church Hall in Caterham, opposite the Morrisons car park. All are welcome. It is your chance to hear what the committee has been doing and to ask any questions. If you can't make it, please send me your proxy vote to ensure we have a quorum. Full details on the agenda and how to contact us will be in the pack as well as on the website.

After the AGM we will supply mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies for you to enjoy a good chat.

I thought I would add a picture of a London Discovery Group walk I organised titled "Americans in London". Our professional guide John Morgan did an outstanding job as usual.

Well, that is all from me. Look out for Halloween!!!

Paul Knight





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u3a learn, laugh, live

News from the groups

Groups Coordinator Update

New "Fit for Dressmaking" group - This group is aimed at assisting with modifying a pattern to fit. The first meeting is to be held at The Lost Sheep, CR3 6PH, on **Friday 20th November** at 2pm and is open to those who want to find out more. Please notify of your intention to attend so that numbers can be managed – it's a small cafe! The regular meetings will begin in January 2027 at the Caterham Baptist Church, 3rd Friday of each month, starting at 1:30. You must register at the Lost Sheep in order to be able to join the group in January.

The group leader is Janet Evans, but for now, please contact Sue Seymour to register for The Lost Sheep meeting. Please also support the café and purchase your own tea or coffee as they are allowing free use of the space.

Golf for Fun 2 - Two places have become available on this group. Start date is **Friday 13th November**, 10am at North Downs Golf Course. Let me know asap if you wish to join the group. This is a unique opportunity as it is run by the Get Golfing charity who offer their time to organise and lead the activity, with North Downs Golf Club permitting use of their facilities, all at no expense to us. A rare opportunity. If you have previously expressed interest in this, and have not confirmed your attendance for 13th please let me know asap. If you can't make 13th but can attend the second Friday of each month thereafter, that's OK, just let me know. If your situation has changed and you can no longer attend at all, please also let me know that too. Communication is the key to success.

Our group leaders do a fantastic job - we wouldn't be much of a u3a without them. Groups are free and open to all of our members, but please remember that they are managed by our own members who volunteer their time, so please be mindful to advise the leader as soon as possible if you can't attend a meeting, or if you need to discontinue attending all future meetings. This is especially important if the group is small and works better with regular attendance, i.e. discussion groups, languages, team events, etc. This doesn't apply to the larger groups who visit various places and only want to know who IS going. I'm sure you can appreciate why.

Interested in a Genealogy group? Let me know.....

Our most recent new groups are up and running and doing well. Thank you so much to those who came forward to offer these.

We had our first group leaders' forum at The Boundary on the Green on 29th September. Very small attendance but very interesting. I plan to hold these periodically so group leaders do please consider this an opportunity to meet your peers and to ask questions if you wish.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM end of November and I wish you all a lovely Christmas season!

Sue Seymour
Groups Coordinator

Science Group

In September our zoom meeting was about forensics and the work of David Tadd, an amazing speaker who had previously given us some talks over 8 years ago. He was head of the Met Police Forensics dept. both at the time of the Brighton bombing and the tsunami of 26/12/2004.

I read a comprehensive article from the Sunday Times supplement to the group, which gave a detailed account showing how he, with his team, identified who had placed the Brighton bomb and, further, checking the culprit's recent movements, found another bomb in a hotel close to Buckingham Palace as well as plans for several more.





After the tsunami, David led a team at Phuket, coordinating the actions of forensic teams from 30 other countries whose residents had been in Phuket at the time of the disaster, to identify all bodies and return them to their relatives. They had to use specialist methods to collect DNA and other items needed to identify the bodies. Teams in GB went to people's homes to collect anything to help: hair from combs and brushes and toothbrushes for example as well as DNA from close relatives. Great care and much checking was required to correctly identify the missing. Thanks to the teams' efforts, nearly all the bodies were identified.

We also learnt that as well as receding water on the beach, large movements of animals and birds and unusual behaviour of remaining animals, and bubbly sea water coming in much further than usual are also signs that a tsunami is approaching.

We discussed some of the TV programmes which include forensics and looked at how many people are involved, apparently, in each programme.

There are, in fact, 7 major areas, digital and cyber forensics; DNA profiling; fingerprint analysis; forensic trace and evidence recovery (including collection of fibres, hairs, glass fragments, soil and paints which can transfer between individuals and their environments); marks and impression evidence; ballistics and firearms; collision investigation; as well as the Met's specialist crime command working closely with forensic pathologists and toxicologists on major crime and homicide investigations.

There are about 1,000 highly skilled forensic staff officers dealing with 60,000 crime scenes annually, who also give expert advice wherever needed, in the Met.

Patricia Barnard

Engineering Group visit to Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar



In 2011, Peter Monk acquired the remains of a Spitfire and over the next few years painstakingly restored it to flying condition in a small hangar at Biggin Hill. Today his company has become the world's largest restorer mainly of Spitfires but also other classic WWII planes. The Engineering Group visited the large two hangar complex situated at the far side of Biggin Hill Aerodrome and had a fascinating tour showing the work being carried out.

We saw at least 10 Spitfires in various stages of completion ranging from just part of a fuselage that was buried in the ground in Belgium right through to beautifully restored flying versions. There were rows of complete Rolls Royce Merlin engines waiting to be fitted along with a vast collection of Spitfire spare parts retrieved from different locations around the world. Parts that cannot be sourced are made in house especially aluminium main frames and body panels assembled using jigs and 'English Wheels' to get the correct curvature to form the main fuselage covering.

We were surprised to be told that wings and engines are then each fixed to the main fuselage body using just four large bolts for each part. Some of the aircraft we saw were privately owned, serviced and stored at the Hangar. So, if you have around £3 million to spend and can afford the maintenance of around £50,000 a year then you could be a proud owner of a Spitfire!



They are specialists in converting standard Spitfires into T9 versions that have a second seat behind the pilot so you can actually fly in a Spitfire - trips from £3,000. Many of these versions have been sold not just in the UK but all around the world as this has become a very popular attraction.



Some interesting facts about Biggin Hill.

- It is one of the highest locations in South London, almost level with the top of the Canada Square building in Canary Wharf.
- The West Side of the airfield (previously the RAF base, now grade II listed buildings) is owned by Bernie Ecclestone, the previous controller of the rights to F1.

The Engineering Group has over 50 members and meets in the afternoon of the first Wednesday of each month and also organises several visits a year. Please see the website for details of our next meeting or to contact me

Chris Marvin

London Discovery - Titsey Place

At the end of September, 30 members of the London Discovery group went to Titsey Place, Oxted and enjoyed a buffet before going into the house and gardens

Sue Cox



Philosophy Group



Our group meets on the second Wednesday afternoon of most months, in Kenley, and we discuss how to understand the human behaviour in all sorts of things. For instance, last time it was The Romantics, before that the concept of a just war, and next time will be is democracy the best system? There's a philosophical aspect to most things. We can accommodate another couple of people at the moment, so if you're interested, please contact me via the website

Bill Barclay

Handicrafts



We changed our name from Patchwork and Sewing to more truly describe what we actually do.

We have also changed our venue to the Caterham library on the Hill. This is proving very successful. The library staff welcome us and advertises us.

The group is flourishing. Some of us do needlework, cross-stitch, patchwork etc.

We cannot take any more people at the moment but please keep an eye on the webpage as spaces may become available in due course.

Meg Barnes

Ukulele group 2 (New Ukes)



The group now has 7 members, all of whom have previous playing experience and contribute greatly to our success. Our ambition has never been to be the best ukulele group in the world but to have fun and feel that we make progress each time we meet. We now receive compliments from members and staff at the golf club and will be participating in the u3a musical concert in January under our new name of New Ukes. Very exciting!

New members are always welcome. Whilst some previous experience is helpful, it is not essential.

Mike Jones and Jim Pocock

Bus Pass Adventure Trip



On Friday 2 October a group of u3a members took the 407 bus from Caterham Valley all the way to Carshalton Ponds with the aim of visiting Honeywood House. The journey took a good hour.

The weather was unseasonably warm and sunny, and on arrival we sat by the lovely ponds enjoying a cup of coffee.



Afterwards we visited the interesting house, which not only told the stories of the people who had lived there, but also the local history of the area. In the past there were many mills getting water from the river Wandle. Who knew that snuff was made in a mill? The house was full of such fascinating stories.

At the end of the visit we found a cafe in the town centre that served some very unusual but delicious cakes.

We returned on the 407 bus, and everyone had enjoyed the day enormously.

Grethe Hauge

Bridwatching Group

U3A's birdwatchers repeatedly defied heat warnings during this long hot summer - and our efforts were well rewarded.

In late June we were treated to midsummer magic as dusk fell at RSPB Broadwater Warren near Tonbridge. First, a pair of hobbies, speedy falcons from Africa, performed a Red Arrows-style aerobatics display. Then an otherworldly churring grew over the heathland before the singers, ghostly nightjars, started flying overhead.

At Kent Wildlife Trust's Oare Marshes we saw the start of the autumn migration (in July) with black-tailed godwits, a whimbrel and a pair of beautiful yellow wagtails.

At Bough Beech in Kent we found a young Mandarin duck, a Common tern feeding its young and a sparrowhawk on the hunt.

By late August the autumn migration was well underway at RSPB Dungeness where highlights included little gull, common and curlew sandpiper, little stint, ruff and a spotted redshank. But the stars were two stray terns, a black and a white-winged tern, and a pair of garganey duck, all feeding up before flying south.

At the normally marshy RSPB Cliffe Pools by the Thames, the drought kept most waders away but a lone greenshank was joined by dainty avocets.

It was quite a summer and autumn - and our winter visitors are only just arriving.

John Ingham





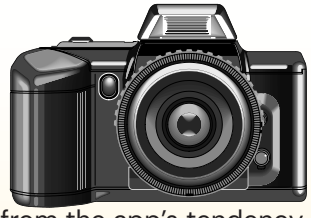


Thank you, Rita and Peter

A big thank you to Rita and Peter Dael for their time, dedication and valuable contribution to the social committee. We are very grateful for all they have done and wish them both all the very best for the future.



Photography 2 Group uses AI judges



Not all AI is life threatening, the Photography 2 group have decided, now that they are using the ChatGPT and Gemini assistants to judge their fortnightly photos and make suggestions as to how to make improvements. Apart from the app's tendency to suggest cropping everything, the group has found it useful to help stimulate conversation and constructive criticism between members.

"It's definitely a male", one of the group was heard to say.

An interesting discussion often ensues as to when a photo has been changed in post processing, or using AI, at what point can the owner of the photo stop claiming it as their original work?

The group seemed happy with the suggestion that if all the pixels in the image were originally taken by the photographer, then it is an original work, even if those pixels are then altered later, by changing colours, density, brightness, saturation or some other process.

In this fast moving world of AI development, it has been good to see it being put to work for such a constructive purpose, even if we don't always agree with its opinion!

Philip Lawson
Photography 2



Booking details will be sent out by email soon

Book Group 2



As an avid reader, I thought that joining a book group would broaden the range of my reading, and how right has that proven to be. As well as reading books by authors from all over the world, we have delved into different genres and time periods.

One book I would never have chosen independently is 'Half of a Yellow Sun' by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, set in Nigeria in the 1960s. The main characters are caught up in the Nigerian Civil war, resulting in the famine in Biafra, images of which I remember seeing on the television as a child. Although the book is a novel, events are based on the harsh realities of the conflict, which made the book very powerful to read.



What makes the book group particularly enjoyable, are the lively discussions we have about the books we have read. Our differing views are shared and reflected upon in a safe space, making the experience both thought provoking and intellectually challenging.



If you haven't considered joining a book group before now, perhaps now is the time to give it a go!

Gill Stone

Play Reading 2

We are a small group with room for new members.

No previous acting experience is needed and of course there are no lines to remember, so avoiding those concerns.



We meet every 6 weeks so please contact Simon Woolf via the website if you're interested in joining us

Simon Woolf

Sunday Solos

Sunday Solos is a group of people living on our own. We meet for lunch at different venues on the last Sunday of each month.

At the moment we cannot take any more members but hopefully there will be another group starting on a different Sunday. Keep an eye on the website

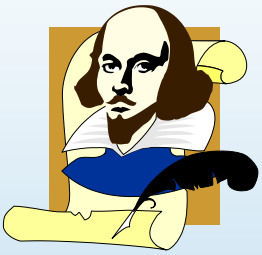
The group is flourishing and we spend many happy hours together over lunch.

Meg Barnes

Shakespeare Discovery Groups 1 & 2

"No profit grows where no pleasure is ta'en. In brief, sir, study what you most affect" - The Taming of the Shrew (1.1.39-40)

As we are almost at the end of our Shakespeare Discovery group mission to read all of his plays, it is a good time to reflect on how much pleasure we have taken in the endeavour and how much we have 'profited' by it. Studying Shakespeare is never an easy task, or commitment, but it is incredibly rewarding and has produced some fascinating discussions, lots of engagement, exciting visits to see plays, both indoors and out, and, of course, some great new friendships.



From the early days of learning to get to grips with the language and dramatic form, our group are now more confident in their appreciation and have broadened their understanding of not just Shakespeare and his dramas, but of 16th to 17th century history and geography, travel, monarchy, religion, social customs, poetry, and close reading techniques.

There have been visits to Emmetts Garden productions, a talk at the amazing Yehudi Menuhin school, the Globe Shakespeare Walking Tour, shared books and film showings, and of course, productions at Stratford, the West End, and fantastic local productions. This year has been a year of tragedies, so to speak — we tackled King Lear and his storms in an August heatwave. Our next and final play is The Tempest and with 'Storm Austen' on the way, that sounds rather fitting!

While our meetings have been a welcome break from the 21st century, we have been astonished by how relevant and prescient his work is. As the great playwright, friend and rival Ben Jonson, wrote of Will: 'He was not of an age, but for all time!'.

Colette Ramuz

DIY for Beginners

This relatively new group, set up to complement the popular DIY group run by Bob Mewies, has, in just a few months covered a range of useful practical skills. These have included choosing and using different types of wall fixings, identifying the right drill bit for a particular job, and learning how to use power drills safely and effectively. Over the next few sessions, we will be turning our attention to tool sharpening, and exploring the traditional skills of French polishing and waxing furniture. The regular attendees make it most enjoyable to facilitate.



We meet in Warlingham on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 10-12. For more information, please see the website

Rob Griffiths

Poetry Writing Group

Autumn - Astrid Hill

Leaves turning,
twirling, tumbling

Storms gathering,
building, rumbling

Fruits swelling,
bursting, dropping

Bonfires burning,
crackling, popping

Darkness spreading,
haunting, creeping

Nature storing,
hiding, sleeping

Autumn Changes - Kirstie Gibson

Beechnuts crunch under foot,
Their husks drying and crumbling.
Hawthorn berries shine bright red,
As a food source for winter bramblings.

The sun still has strength
In short bright sparkly days.
Blue skies, but for how much longer;
Cooler nights, morning misty haze.

The fox's tail grows bushy.
Ready to warm paws and nose.
His fur thickens silvery pale.
His future is uncertain in fading light.

The sycamore leaves change to yellow.
Their seeds fly in every direction.
The first storm of the year approaches;
No escape from the bracing gusts.

The fruit is harvested by busy folk.
The barns await the summer plenty.
The housewife cooks jams and preserves.
Her Kilner jars are waiting empty.

The light summer dress is replaced
By jumpers, fleece, scarf and boots.
Sheds are mended and gutters cleared.
The clock is ticking in the cycle of change.



New Year Lunch

Caterham u3a look forward to welcoming you to your annual New Year Lunch which will be held at:
The Bletchingley Golf Club (Church Lane, Bletchingley, RH1 4LP)
on Friday 8th January 2027
from 12:00 noon with lunch served at 1:00pm.

This year we are providing a two-course lunch for £31.50 (or three-courses for £36.50). This includes a tip and tea or coffee.

For the two-course lunch you can choose between a starter and main course, or main course and dessert. Main courses are served with seasonal vegetables.

You can add an optional drink, £3.85 for a glass of red or white house wine or £1.75 for a flute of non-alcoholic sparkling elderflower. Please note that the optional drink can only be ordered in advance and will not be available on the day at that price. Other drinks can be purchased from the bar on the day at normal bar prices.

We shall be welcomed on arrival by our talented recorder group and we will have our usual quiz and free raffle.

Please use the attached booking form to let us know your requirements.

(If you have any dietary requirements (such as gluten free) then please let me know).

- £31.50 - 2 courses
- £35.35 - 2 courses and a glass of wine
- £33.25 - 2 courses and a glass of sparkling elderflower
- £36.50 – 3 courses
- £40.35 - 3 courses and a glass of wine
- £38.25 - 3 courses and a glass of sparkling elderflower

Payment
Ideally, please make your payment using Bank Transfer:

A/C name Caterham & District U3A, account number 11067721 and sort code 60 04 35 using “New year lunch” as the reference

Or
Pay by bank card by emailing Paul Knight (Note this is not Internet banking)

Email your order and confirmation of payment to Sheila Frost

If you have any problems with using the form, then just send a list of your requirements.

If you are unable to access the internet, or cannot get someone to send the details for you, then you can bring the form along to the AGM at The United Reform Church on 30th November

You will receive a confirmation that your booking has been received.

We are looking forward to seeing you on Friday 8th January.

With best wishes
Sheila Frost (Social Committee)



New Year Lunch Booking Form:
Friday 8th January 2027

		Name 1	Name 2
	Name:		
		tick	tick
	Number of Courses ordered (2 or 3):		
Starter	Ham hock terrine *served with sliced toasted bloomer bread and an onion compote*		
	Devonshire crab *courgette, avocado and lumpfish caviar (GF)*		
	Smoked salmon and crayfish timbale *served with lemon mayonnaise and brown bread and butter,*		
	Baked fig and Stilton tart *(V) (can be vegan)*		
Main	*All served with a medley of steamed seasonal vegetables or roasted root vegetables or Mediterranean vegetables*		
	2 bone lamb rack *dauphinoise potatoes, black garlic and a rosemary jus (Note: served pink. Please specify if you wish it well done)*		
	Roast chicken breast olive oil mash and morrell jus (GF)		
	Sea bass fillet *crushed new potatoes, samphire and a beurre blanc*		
	Asparagus, red onion and vegan cheese tart *salsa verde, new potatoes*		
Dessert	Lemon cheesecake *with berries and coulis*		
	Bitter chocolate brownie *served with a blood orange crème anglaise*		
	Fruit salad *with raspberry sorbet*		
	Cheeseboard *homemade quince jelly, fig, grapes and Miller wafers*		
Drinks	Glass of house red wine £3.85		
	Glass of house white wine £3.85		
	Flute of sparkling elderflower £1.75		
	Dietary requirements		
	Sit with Group/Friends		

Luxembourg 5-9 April 2027

The Duchy of Luxembourg, may be small in size, but is packed full of beautiful landscapes: from the bustling capital of Luxembourg City, to the lush surrounding countryside dotted with ancient castles and picture-postcard beauty spots. We stay in the small town of Vianden, which has a picturesque location on the banks of the River Our, set amidst magnificent Luxembourg scenery, close to the border with Germany

Monday 5th April Departing early morning (time to be confirmed) from your local pick-up point at Caterham, Warlingham or Godstone, we make our way to Dover for our ferry crossing to Calais. From here we make our way to Lille, where we shall have time to find a late lunch and have a quick look around before continuing on to the Belle Vue Hotel in Vianden, Luxembourg.


©TTM GmbH

Tuesday 6th April Departing after breakfast, we travel to Trier, reputedly Germany's oldest city. Once the regional Roman capital, it offers a host of well preserved reminders of these bygone days with its amphitheatre and thermal baths. Here we shall have a 2-hour cruise on the River Moselle and free time to explore this historic town. Returning to the hotel in time to freshen up before dinner.

Wednesday 7th April Today we have a full day excursion to Luxembourg City, including a 2-hour guided tour by coach, followed by time at leisure to explore. You might wish to take the Pfaffenthal Panoramic Elevator, which connects the "Pescatore" park in the city centre to the Pfaffenthal area at the bottom of the Alzette valley. The ride in the glass elevator (71m high) features sweeping views and is free of charge. Or maybe see the Luxembourg Castle ruins, the Grand Ducal Palace, the Cathedral of Notre Dame or perhaps go shopping. The day is yours. We return to the hotel with time to prepare for dinner.



Thursday 8th April This morning we leave the hotel for an excursion to Grevenmacher, an important wine-growing centre on the River Moselle. Here we shall have time to explore with a tasting of the local tipple before we return to the hotel in time for dinner.

Friday 9th April Leaving our hotel after breakfast, we make our way to Mons, a historic city known for its "mountain" (Latin: mons) location, serving as a fortress since Roman times and a major cultural centre. We have time to explore and get lunch before heading to Calais for our early evening ferry back to Dover. We continue homewards, arriving late in the evening.


Pfaffenthal Panoramic Elevator

What's Included:

4 nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Belle Vue Hotel, Vianden
Time to explore Lille, Trier, Luxembourg City, Grevenmacher and Mons
River Moselle boat trip
Coach tour of Luxembourg City

Cost for twin/double £709 per person
Single occupancy supplement £138
Deposit £100 per person

Please ensure that you have travel insurance to cover you on this trip. Please complete the Insurance Disclaimer provided and return to Deb Skinner with your booking form.



The Belle Vue Hotel is situated just a few minutes from the centre of Vianden. Hotel facilities include a sun terrace, indoor swimming pool and sauna, and a large restaurant serving a set menu. Bedrooms are equipped with TV, telephone, WiFi, mini-safe, kettle and hairdryer. The hotel has a lift. https://hotelbv.com/en

Please note: The town of Vianden is built on a steep hill, although our hotel is on the flat beside the river.







Scams - Beware!



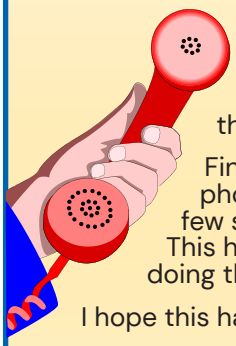
I had a request from a member to have a piece in the newsletter, on a regular basis, with "the latest scams" listed. I replied that that's not really possible, but thought I'd put something together to warn members. This is something I might repeat on an occasional basis to catch new members.

As I'm sure you're all aware, there are many people out there trying to relieve you of your money. They may contact you by telephone, text, email &, more recently, WhatsApp. These scams are becoming ever more sophisticated as people wise up to them, so it's important to try to stay one step ahead. The golden rule is, if you don't know the person & why they're contacting you. Hang up. If someone says they're from your bank, hang up & ring the phone number that's on the back of your credit/debit card or on your bank statement/in your banking app. If it's genuinely your bank contacting you, they won't be offended, they'll think you're being smart. If they're not from your bank, they'll be p!$$£d off! But that's their problem, not yours.

I'm not going to list all the possible scams out there as the list changes on a daily basis & it would be a dull read, but I suggest looking at the In The Know website which has crime prevention advice, latest scam alerts and more. If you sign up to their newsletter, you'll get updates from your local police and Neighbourhood Watch. There's a sign-up box on the home page of the website.

If you get fraudulent emails, forward them to Action Fraud (report@phishing.gov.uk) - plus you can forward them to the relevant bank, company etc. Most have a phishing reporting email address

If you're not signed up to the TPS, Telephone Preference Service, - the UK's only official "Do Not Call" register - I suggest you do. It's free & takes just a couple of minutes to register a number(s). It is a legal requirement that organisations screen the list of telephone numbers that they wish to call against the TPS file (at least once every 28 days) before making any unsolicited sales and marketing calls. I take great pleasure in asking the caller if they've heard of the TPS & telling them they should have checked the list before calling. It doesn't stop all calls, but does reduce the number.



Finally, if you get a call from a number you don't recognise/number withheld, when you answer the phone, say nothing! If it's someone who wants to speak to you, they'll say something - it might take a few seconds, but they'll say something. If it's a scam call, very often you'll hear a click as the call ends. This helps put your number on the "not worth calling" list, so it's very worthwhile to do. Since I've been doing that, I receive far fewer calls than when I answered with a "Hello"

I hope this has been useful. If it saves one u3a member from being scammed, then I think it's worth it!

Deb Skinner

Monday Talks

All Monday talks take place at 2.00pm (note new time) at the United Reformed Church, Harestone Hill, Caterham CR3 6RX. Please do arrive by at least 1.55pm so that the talk can start promptly at 2.00pm. If you can help with putting chairs out (& away again afterwards) that would be much appreciated. Feel free to stay for a coffee & a natter after the talk too. It's a good way to meet fellow members & catch up with old friends.

30th November - Caterham u3a AGM

Message from Sue Seymour - groups coordinator - to all group leaders. Thank you so much for your reports for the AGM! You came up trumps with almost 20 submittals

22nd February - *Mary's Meals by Roy Peachey* - Roy, who is the Supporter Engagement Officer for South London, Kent, Surrey, and Sussex at Mary's Meals, will talk about the amazing work that this charity does in providing daily school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest communities

22nd March - *How a Foodbank is run - Robin Gwynn*



26th April - *A Caricaturist - Helen Pointer: a celebrated caricature artist known for creating portraits that capture your personality and character. With a flair for exaggerating expressions rather than features, Helen crafts caricatures that are both flattering and fun*

24th May - *The Guildhall - Murray Craig*

28th June - *A History of TV Crime Fighters - Pete Allen*



26th July - *Hi De Hi - David Webb* David tells how he and his brother worked their way up the showbiz ladder, from the tough working men's clubs to supporting the likes of Vera Lynn and Bruce Forsyth to finding fame as the twin Yellowcoats in the classic sitcom Hi De Hi

23rd August - *Elvis - Paul Lillie - those of you who came to Paul's recent talk will know how good he is*

27th September - *What's in a Name - Peter Smith*

25th October - *Put that :Light out - Imogen Corrigan* will talk about one of the best-kept secrets of the military history of the British Isles: that of the 93rd Searchlight Regiment during WW2. Very few people realise that this was an all-female regiment (with the exception of the Commanding Officer and Battery Commanders)

20th November - AGM

u3a Study/Exploration Days, Stoke d'Abernon



Friday 20 November - The Music & Satire of Gilbert & Sullivan Presented by Bernard Locket, Gilbert & Sullivan Society. Gilbert and Sullivan's works have delighted audiences around the world for over 150 years. The talk will be illustrated with videos of performances of some of their works.



Friday 19 February 2027 - Return to the Moon Presented by Professor Craig Underwood. This study day examines how, through the "Space Race" of the 1960s, we got to the Moon and what we learned in the process. In the '70s and '80s, the Moon gradually became a forgotten world until, in the '90s, a new generation of robotic spacecraft revealed the Moon to be more interesting than we had thought. Detailed plans exist for humanity to go back to the Moon – this time to stay. Why should we go, and who will get there first?

Friday 19 March 2027 - AI in society & in the u3a Movement Presented by Russell Whitworth, Alan Freeland & Dr Andrew Rogoyski. Artificial Intelligence dominates headlines, promising extraordinary breakthroughs while sparking intense debate about its risks. Beyond examining the societal impacts and ethical dilemmas, you'll discover how u3a members are actively using AI, and experience a live demonstration of cutting-edge tools



Friday 16 April 2027 - The Brilliance of British Architecture Presented by Ian Swankie. A study day celebrating architecture in Britain and designs around the world by British architects; from Edwin Lutyens and Charles Holden to Zaha Hadid, Richard Rodgers, Norman Foster, and others. They all made an impact on the lives of people who enjoy their buildings

Friday 21 May 2027 - The Gut Biome - Microbial Monarchs: the tiny rulers of mankind's destiny Presented by Dilogen de Alwis. A human being is not just a single organism but a combined ecosystem of trillions of microbes working together as a single unit to run your body affecting immunity, digestion and brain health. We will examine its origins, our co-evolution, the gut microbiome in particular and its crucial effects on human health and the measures we can take to improve our well-being



Friday 18 June 2027 - Murder Most Foul Presented by Dr Kathryn Harkup We all enjoy a good murder mystery be it on TV or in film. But how accurately are they portrayed? Dr Kathryn Harkup takes us behind the scenes and explains the science that underpins some of our best loved assassinations: from Shakespeare to Shelley and from Agatha Christie to Ian Fleming.

These study days are open to all u3a members and are held in the Yehudi Menuhin Centre at Stoke d'Abernon (and can also be viewed online). It is a beautiful venue, and if you do go, it is a very nice day out, as well as being highly educational (and extremely good value at only £12 (if pre-booked) including unlimited tea and coffee!) Registration starts at 9.30, the talks are from 10am till 4pm, with a break for you to eat your sandwiches and chat with other attendees.

Prior booking is essential, so if you are interested, please contact Denise Dobbs, Booking Secretary for the U3A Surrey Network - Phone 07964 798791 or E-mail surreyu3astudyday@outlook.com

Usually about half a dozen Caterham u3a members attend each study day, with car sharing/lifts arranged for those that want/need them. I will be attending most of these Study Day and will have 2 to 3 free seats in my car. Please call, text or email me if you would like a lift with me. If there are more than 3 of you that wish to attend, then I will endeavour to arrange lifts with other regular attendees.

Alan Speed
Surrey Liaison Officer





Copy date for the next newsletter is 3rd January