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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
CRAWLEY

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- P.2 Letter from the Chairman
  - P.3 Annual General Meeting  
"Mysteries of West Africa"  
Group Co-ordinator's report
  - P.4 "A Musical Sentimental Journey"  
Film Circle—Royal Wedding Day  
Study Day—Producing a Newsletter
  - P.5 U3A Signpost—some items of interest  
Report for Out & About Group 2  
"The What-ifs of History"
  - P.6 Reports .....
  - P.7 More reports .....
  - P.8 More reports .....
  - P.9 More reports .....
  - P.10 Reports ..... The End
  - P.11 The Big Sun Walk  
Poem by Joan Harding  
"Blue Plaques in Crawley"  
Group News
  - P.12 Photographs taken on The Big Sun  
Walk
  - P.13 More Group News  
Virtual U3A (vU3A)
- U3A Crawley Officers and Committee**
- P.14 U3A Study Group Contacts

**U3A National Summer Schools 2011**

- Enclosed with this Newsletter:**
- 1 Subscription Renewal form.
  2. Application form for "Velasquez & Goya" study day.
  3. Programme for coming year.
  4. Diary order form.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Speakers for our Friday afternoon meetings at  
the Friary Hall, Haslett Avenue  
2.30 p.m.

*9th September*  
*Open Day and Enrolment*  
*(no speaker)*

*14th October*  
*Mick Thomas*  
*"Life as a free-lance Comedy Writer"*

*11th November*  
*John Field*  
*"Magic"*

*9th December*  
*Bernard Lockett*  
*"Gilbert & Sullivan"*

**2012**

*13th January*  
*Gillian Pitt*  
*"Quakers in Sussex"*

*10th February*  
*Jayne Shrimpton*  
*"Dating Photographs by Dress"*

**Study Days**

Please refer to your printed programme and take a look at the Notice Board at Friday Meetings in the Friary Hall. There are often additional study days and events displayed there.

Booking forms for all Study Days are available from Brenda Broom who can be contacted on 01293 882674.

**Crawley U3A Website: [www.crawleyu3a.org.uk](http://www.crawleyu3a.org.uk)  
Please send news and views to Don, our webmaster.**

### ***Chairman's Letter***

As I sit down to write this, my first letter as your new 'Chair', my thoughts are with my friend Mary Russell our Vice Chairman who has been acting Chairman since the death of Arthur Earl last September. Mary's husband Douglas, also a great supporter of U3A, has just come home from hospital and we hope he has a good convalescence. We are all very grateful to Mary for all that she has done for Crawley and wider forums of U3A and I am particularly glad that Mary is willing to continue to serve as our Vice Chairman.

Preparing to write this customary letter I looked through recent editions of the newsletter and was reminded that my father was the first editor of our newsletter followed by my mother. Between them Arnold and Helen Whittick were editors for twelve years and I learned a lot about U3A from them during those early days. Much has changed since then, In the last year our membership has grown to well over 500 with many new groups to meet the new interests and the demand for new 'out and about' groups which enable members to go with others to places of interest and explore behind the scenes in theatres and elsewhere. I have just returned from the annual U3A Summer School at Chichester .This is held on the University campus near the Chichester Festival Theatre and provides excellent accommodation (and food!) for about 200 U3A members who spend 3 three days following their interests in a diverse range of subjects .One evening we went to the Festival Theatre and saw a sparkling production of "Singing in the Rain" which made full use of the wonderful stage effects of that fine theatre. U3A members came from many parts of the country as well as our 'home counties' of Surrey, Sussex and Kent, including several from Crawley. Bear this in mind for next year. Information will be out in late autumn.

Now, in the summer break for most groups, we are thinking of the year ahead. On September 9<sup>th</sup> we have our annual Open and enrolment meeting. This is your chance to meet and talk with group leaders about their plans for the year ahead, and we also welcome interested non members who may be encouraged to join us. We are always looking for new ideas ,new groups and new leaders. Your committee is here to support you and help you get what you want from your U3A.

Gillian Pitt

*From our out-going Chairman:*

My thanks to you all for your involvement in U3A activities in what has been a very "unusual year" for Crawley U3A, and especially to the members of the Committee who do a great deal of work on your behalf. I am very pleased that Gillian Pitt agreed to be nominated and was elected Chairman.

I was delighted and very surprised to receive the beautiful bouquet of flowers - in U3A colours - at the close of the AGM. They have given me a great deal of pleasure. Thank you very much.

Mary

## *Annual General Meeting held on Friday 10th June 2011*

The AGM meeting scheduled for this date did not attract enough members to constitute the necessary quorum, which as stated in the Constitution **requires that** “at least 15% of the number of members of the U3A should be present” before ratification of the proceedings and proposals raised at such a meeting can legally take place. After discussion by the Acting Chairman, Mary Russell, and other officers of the Committee it was decided, with the approval of all those present, that the meeting could go ahead as indicated on the Agenda, but ratification of its proceedings would have to be deferred until the next General Meeting on Friday July 8<sup>th</sup> 2011. On this basis, the meeting went ahead as planned. All members who were not present at this meeting will be notified either by e-mail or post of the situation. (see bottom of paragraph)

Those attending were provided with the minutes of the last AGM and the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2010. This contained the Trustees report, a list of members of the Committee, a summary of activities for the year, a general summary of the finances for the year, the independent examiner’s report on the accounts to the Trustees and the detailed financial report from our Treasurer, Edwin Cowley. There were some questions from the floor to Edwin concerning the choice of date for the commencement of our financial year which Edwin was able to resolve.

There were a few changes to the Committee: Gillian Pitt was elected Chairman, with Mary Russell now acting as Vice-Chairman. We welcomed two new members to the committee: Margaret Shaw and Douglas Mayne. An extraordinary AGM was arranged for the next Friday meeting, 8th July 2011 when the elections could be ratified.

The date of next year’s AGM was arranged for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at the Friary Hall, Crawley.

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

*The extraordinary AGM took place on 8th July 2011 and all the matters discussed on 10/6/2011 were duly ratified.*

### ***Mysteries of West Africa - Post-AGM talk by Judy Rayner***

After the meeting we had a most interesting account of Judy Rayner’s trip up the West African coast, calling at many ports on the way. The contrast between life on the cruise ship and that in the ports of call was striking, to say the least. Some of the towns the cruise passengers visited were Dakar in Senegal, San Pedro on Ivory Coast, Lome in Togo, Takoradi, Ghana, and Porto Grande, Cape Verde, and there were many more. In nearly all of these towns there were bustling, colourful markets to visit, selling food and goods for the residents not just for the tourists, though they must obviously rely on the income from visitors. The colours, the crowds, the noise and - Judy reminded us - the great heat must have been exhausting as well as exhilarating.

Judy told us that despite the natural resources (and oil is being discovered offshore in many of these countries) corruption, mismanagement and unemployment results in poverty for the vast majority of the people. In spite of the many churches (there was even a Baptist Chapel in one of the towns) there are apparently 30 million people in West Africa still practising Voodoo! The group visited a school which was struggling hard to give some of the children an education that might help them to lift themselves out of poverty, and it was to this school that Judy wanted the U3A donation for her talk to be directed.

The photographs which accompanied Judy’s talk on her Power Point presentation were excellent and many can be seen on the U3A website. Many thanks, Judy, for a well-spent afternoon.

**Jean Kirby**

### **CRAWLEY U3A GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT 11 May 2011**

I am very pleased to see our Group Leaders or their Representatives here today. Thank you all for giving up one of your free days.

To date we now have 37 Groups, all well attended and meeting at various venues within the Crawley area.

Since last year I have a second contact telephone number for most groups to be used only in an emergency.

Thank you to all groups who returned the Group Membership Form, a new idea last year. It was sent out with the Annual Register and Group Information etc. with a stamped addressed envelope in order for it to be returned to me at your earliest convenience. In all 20 were returned. We now have an indication as to how many members are in a particular group at the beginning of our year.

There is concern especially within the new membership that members are not able to join certain Groups because they are full. I am talking with Betty, Membership Secretary, to see if a solution can be found. It could be starting an extra group or moving that group to larger premises.

We have had three Groups Leaders retire this year. A replacement came from within each Group which is good news. It is a good policy to encourage members to take an active part within the Group.

Finally, any ideas for new groups or availability of suitable venues will be most welcome.

**Barbara Hanson, Group Coordinator**

***A Musical Sentimental Journey***

Illustrated talk by Roger Hind March 11 2011

I must admit, that as Roger began his presentation by playing 'Sentimental Journey' on his key board, I settled down to an hour of pleasant but passive listening.

Not a bit of it! We were almost immediately challenged to use our musical brains/ears, and guess what song he was playing an introduction for. It turned out to be 'On the sunny side of the street', for which he then played the basic melody, which is apparently called the 'head'. He then showed how this might be made more interesting, by improvising round it.

And that is what Jazz is – taking a story, the 'head', or basic melody, and then, by improvising, re-telling the 'story' in your own way. If you were on your own on a key-board, you might use your left hand to play the basic beat, (which in a group would be played by a string bass), and also the off-beat chords, (which in a group would be played by a guitar). Your right hand, on the key-board, would play the melody, and also add 'little interjections'; in a group, this would be played by a trumpet or saxophone.

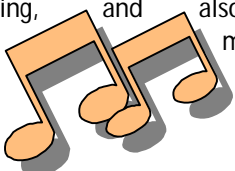
We then learnt of different styles of play. For example if a key-board player had a wide hand, there was 'Stride style', when tenths were used instead of octaves. This spiced things up a bit, and sometimes there would be a clash of notes which gave variety. Music could be played to give a different feeling; Roger illustrated this by playing 'Hallo young lovers' in different ways.

Roger spoke about the sheet music, which was immensely popular in the 1920s, prices ranging from sixpence. He played 'Avalon', by Al Johnson and Vincent Rose. He also discussed how tunes could be 'stolen', wittingly or unwittingly. Andrew Lloyd-Webber's 'I don't know how to love him ...', from Jesus Christ Superstar, had an identical melody to one in Mendelssohn's Violin concerto, but Lloyd-Webber swore it was unintentional; anyway, the concerto was out of copyright, so no-one sued. This was not always the case; for example, the owner of the copyright of the tune 'Cuckooburra sits on an old gum tree' was paid a considerable sum by the composer of 'the Stripper', when she took them to court. There are now many court cases, because music can be a very valuable business.

Roger played a number of items, which we could listen to more intelligently, since we now understood how Jazz is built up. He also read us two verses he found on an old sheet of music, with the title: 'Since Charlie did his courting in a chalk pit, he's the whitest man I know!'

This was all most enjoyable, with a lot of humour, and was a real musical education. Roger is available to play at a variety of functions, and recommended a jazz club at Dorking, and also his quartet that plays twice a month at Sharpthorne.

**Patsy Edmond-Smith**



**Film Circle Meeting—Royal Wedding Day**

As our April meeting fell on Royal Wedding Day which was also a Bank holiday, by the request of our members we decided to go ahead with it and introduce a "wedding" theme.

Our Group met at on a bright Friday afternoon giving our members a chance to see the wedding in the morning. Our choice for the day was the film "Father of the Bride", but the old black and white Spencer Tracy/Elizabeth Taylor version not the Steve Martin. It was a very amusing film and we thoroughly enjoyed it. How different the old actors are from the actors of today who we all seem to have such difficulty in hearing!

The film was followed by a "Red, White & Blue" tea which we tried to keep to the wedding theme with among other things slices of wedding cake, Union Jack serviettes, Union Jack flags adorning the cakes and fairy cakes with blue icing.

The afternoon was enjoyed by everyone. A nice way to celebrate the wedding of William and Kate.

**Carole Walsh**

**PRODUCING A NEWSLETTER –**  
Workshop organised by Jill Wellman of Arun U3A.

This workshop was attended by members from several Sussex U3As who are involved in producing their local Newsletter. "Ideas, please" was the object of the meeting and this was the most useful part of a very useful day. But first we dealt with the problems which are common to all who edit such a publication : how do you make people contribute? what is the ideal frequency of publication? what is the ideal size? what, ultimately, is a newsletter for? There was general agreement on the difficulty of solving the first problem and also on the necessity of having a newsletter in one form or another so that members could be kept up to date on all the activities and personnel of their U3A.

When we got onto the content, the style, the layout etc there were so many ideas flying about that it was difficult to keep track. However, we were divided into small groups and had a chance to discuss in some detail how to incorporate many of the suggestions that had been made. Even though there were variations in the software and equipment used by different U3As, a presentation by a graphic artist of what could be done with almost any reasonably modern system was an eye opener, certainly to this editor!

Printing and distribution appeared to be a bit of a headache in some cases and I realised how lucky Crawley U3A is in having the services of Thomas Bennett school who are willing to do our printing and franking.

The day was really well organised with a lot of opportunity for discussion and exchange of ideas, and it was also enjoyable – what more could you want?

**Jean Kirby and Donald Sadler**

**U3A Signpost Issue no. 126 July 2011**  
**Some items of possible interest to members.**



The [Grandparents' Association](#) works with government and local authorities and campaigns with charities to raise awareness of the needs of grandparents. It provides many valuable services and downloadable fact-sheets, e.g.

- #Adoption
- #Arguments to be used by grandparents seeking contact with a grandchild
- #Contact with a grandchild
- #Contact with a grandchild looked after by a Local Authority
- #Guardianship
- #Mediation
- #Parental drug and alcohol misuse
- #Parental Responsibility - also read our Parental Responsibility guide
- #Residence Orders - also read our Residence Order guide
- #Special Guardianship Order - also read our Special Guardianship Order guide



**Garden Groups:** Kew Gardens is "not just a pretty place". The calendar of events for June includes some interesting tours, and even an 'Outreach' programme delivering talks (such as 'Secrets of the Palace Kitchen') to community groups. There's even a handy 'hop-on-or-off' electric buggy service for those who find a whole day on foot a bit daunting.

[See their website here.](#)

<http://worldu3a.org/signpost/june2011.htm>

**Report for Out and About Group 2**

Out and About Group 2 has had another successful year. We started the year with a second visit to Rofant's pudding club. Visits to a variety of places in London and the South East have been enjoyed, including Hampton Court, which we will be revisiting by popular demand. London Walks are very popular, as was the Museum of London, Kew Gardens and others. The Houses of Parliament have now been visited.

Hopefully future visits will prove to be just as popular.

**W. Waterworth and B. Penny**

*"The What-ifs of History"*  
 Friday talk by Mark Perry-Nash 8/4/11

Mark's talk this afternoon was all about what might have happened if ..... any one of so many events in our history had taken a different turn. We are led to believe that important things were caused by important people doing what they had planned to do. But according to Mark, the timing of some tiny incident at any given point could crucially and unexpectedly have swerved things in another direction.

2000 years ago, in AD59, the British queen Cartimandua promised to back Boudicca in her struggle against the Roman occupation of Britain. Boudicca attacked but there was no support from her supposed ally and alone she was no match for the Roman army. Had she won, the Roman force could have been destroyed and Britain would have had no Roman civilisation – 200 years of Roman rule would have been wiped out.

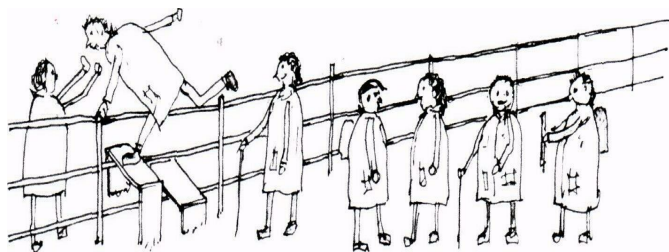
And so it went on – in 1066, had Harold listened to his advisors and rested his tired army in London before moving south to face William 1, who was busy laying waste to the Sussex and Kent coastal villages, the battle, which was very close fought, could well have gone the other way. England would have remained a German and Scandinavian speaking nation with no Norman influence on language, architecture, politics or involvement with Europe. The fact that Ann Boleyn insisted on marriage to the besotted Henry, thus causing the break from Rome, had enormous repercussions both on the religious and political front. Just think – no Elizabeth 1! How would they have made all those TV historical dramas?

If the British had agreed to the perfectly reasonable request by the American colonists to remove the Stamp Tax on their goods the American War of Independence may well have been avoided and Britain would probably have kept her American colonies.

Mark gave us many more illustrations of these turning points in history – for example, Napoleon's absence at a crucial point during the Battle of Waterloo; Prince Albert's intervention at a tricky moment during the American civil war which ensured that Britain stayed out of the conflict; the fact that Gabriel Princip's gun misfired twice, and only on the third attempt did he manage to assassinate Franz Ferdinand and precipitate the first World War with its 50 million deaths and the Russian Revolution for good measure.

Mark delivered his talk with great verve and enthusiasm and although he had to console himself with nothing but a glass of water as owing to a misunderstanding there was no tea, he seemed to enjoy it as much as we did. We hope that he will come and talk to us again.

**Jean Kirby**



**AMBLERS**

### **Amblers Report May 2011**

During the last 15 months we have had another enjoyable session with walks in Dorking, Staplefield, Mogador, Blackbrook, Wineham, Charlwood, Forest Row, Turners Hill, Horsham, East Grinstead, Abinger and Chailey, with the first Abinger walk cancelled due to heavy rain and the Christmas walk in Wivelsfield cancelled due to snow. The Les Cuffley London walk last year was west of Vauxhall Bridge and this year was west of Marble Arch. Next month we will be walking with the Walkers group to take part in the much heralded coastal walk where all 33 Sussex U3A's could come together to celebrate next year's Olympics. In this walk, known as the BIG SUN WALK, we will be joined by only one other U3A. We have a membership of 27 and average 13 members per walk.

**John Martin, Leader ( who did the artwork)**

### **Art Appreciation Group 1.**

This group meets on the first and third Thursdays in the month at St Mary's Church Hall in Southgate from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon. Members arrive soon after 10.00 a.m and can now buy a coffee/tea in the charity cafe run by members of the Church.

There are 25 members on the register. Usually about 22 manage to attend and really fill the room.

The projector and visualiser bought at the beginning of the year has proved to be a great asset and enables us to view reproductions of paintings from books, newspaper cuttings etc. Although more than one piece of equipment is needed, they are easier to carry than the equipment available to us in the past.

We began the year looking at the work and background of Marc Chagall after we had visited the church where he had designed the stained glass windows. We continued to look at the life and work of other painters of the period, Henri Matisse, John Singer Sargent, Wassily Kandinsky, Berthe Morisot (using a recently published book on her life and work), Fernand Leger and Paul Klee. Then we decided to look at the origins and collections of well known Art Galleries and began with the National Gallery and the Dulwich Picture Gallery. The Glasgow Boys were another group of painters whose lives and works we looked at.

An outing to the Royal Academy for the 'Treasures of Hungary' exhibition had to be cancelled due to bad weather. In the autumn, a number of Crawley U3A members with interests in Art enjoyed a very interesting Art and Heritage tour in Holland arranged by Beryl Sinclair.

**Mary Russell Group Leader**

### **Art Appreciation Group 2**

Our longstanding relaxed friendly group now has twenty one people on the register. We view videos , DVDs , slides and books from the Library, and have individual reports of visits to galleries and exhibitions.

In Spring and Summer we were looking at works of The Impressionists including Manet, Renoir, Seurat, Monet, Degas, Whistler and Van Gough.

Since the Autumn we have been studying the Age of the Baroque, the Seventeenth Century, sometimes known as the Age of Splendour. Individual artists Caravaggio, Velasquez, Vermeer, Frans Hals, Rembrandt, amongst others. We are now approaching artists of the eighteenth century starting with William Hogarth.

**Mary Plastow, Leader. May 2011**

### **Art Appreciation Group 3**

Once again we have had an enjoyable and successful year. Despite illnesses and family commitments our members attend as regularly as possible and we are reaching our maximum number. We have continued our chronological journey through the centuries and have now, after eight years, reached the Twentieth Century. Where shall we go from here?

I continue to be impressed by the loyal members of the group who have volunteered their services to do whatever jobs are required , such as arranging the tables and chairs, providing the refreshments, taking the money and setting up the TV.

**Ann Flack, Leader**

### **Bamboo Piping Group**

Our group has about 12 members, all of whom thoroughly enjoy playing a variety of music on bamboo pipes they have made themselves. Due to parking problems, we have moved to Furnace Green Community Centre, and meet on the first and third Thursdays in the month. Pipe making is done on the other Thursdays, in my home, and we are gradually building up our collections so we have treble, alto, tenor and bass pipes, and can play appropriate part music. Some of the group went to a residential piping course in August, and, with that and practice, skill is increasing

**Patsy Edmond-Smith, Leader**

### **Book Circle 1**

Once again we've had a good year's reading, focusing recently on fiction with a wartime setting. Choices made and introduced by group members (nearly half the group have now taken this on) covered the first and the second World Wars with their traumas of shellshock and foreign occupation, and then a 21st century hazard, a terrorist attack and prolonged siege. If this is escapism we must be masochists?

Other issues which may relate more closely to the experience of other groups concern our own internal organisation. Three members suffered incapacitating illnesses this year. We keep in touch by

sending cards but sadly have had to say goodbye to two members who can no longer attend. New applications have kept our numbers up to 17 but we are reminded that our average age makes it more likely that very active members may need to scale down their contribution, so we must encourage others to be ready to step in and take over. I feel it's very important that even the social functions, like making the tea, should be shared out between us, so that there's less pressure on a few and absences can be easily covered. To me this is all part of the U3A philosophy - leaders and tea-ladies are equally valuable and we can all be ready to have a go!

**Eunice Clement , Leader**



### 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. 2.00 - 3.30 Room 7, St Paul's Church. Northgate.

I am very pleased that we are still going strong, with 15 members, including some of the founder members from 2006. We were all saddened and shocked by the sudden death in 2010 of Chris McMahan, who had contributed so much humour to our discussions.

Thanks to the wonderful stock and helpful staff at Crawley library we manage to read a wide range, mainly fiction but including some non-fiction.

Thanks go to Roger Baker, who takes money and keeps the register for me, and to all members of the book circle for their lively and informed input to each meeting.

**Jean Austin, Leader April 2011**

### Book Circle 3

We have had another successful year. There are fourteen members in the group and everyone contributes to the discussion we have following on from our reading.

We have read a variety of books; Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire was hard work to be read in a month but we learnt a great deal about eighteenth century history.

The group are friendly and full of ideas. We now also have quite a good lending library going. People bring in books that they have enjoyed to lend to others in the group.

My thanks go to Jenny Connell who not only collects the money but with her mother Margaret Vince organises the drinks. Jenny is also very willing to lead the group if I have not been able to be present.

Finally I would like to thank all the group who have made this such an enjoyable year.

**Jo Slack, Leader**

### Bridge for Fun Group1

The group continues to meet each Thursday morning throughout the year at Fairlawn House, with an average attendance of 20 per session.

Everyone continues to enjoy the companionship, and appreciates the opportunity to play bridge in a less competitive atmosphere than a 'regular' bridge club.

We have players with different levels of expertise so there is always willing help when requested. Our aim is to play as well as possible and to increase our ability.

**Betty Dowty, Leader**

### Bridge(2)

We have been running now for 2 ½ years and have 24 members. We regularly have 3 tables i.e. 12 members at least present each week; occasionally we manage 4 tables. Most of the participants are regular weekly players of differing standards and we play both at our own standard and with members of other abilities. I believe we are a happy group. Monica Davis and Carol Dowden continue to stand in when I cannot attend and without them I would find it very difficult to run the group and continue with my other activities.

**Pauline Rigby, Leader. 2011**

### Circle Dance Group

Our group continues to flourish —10 expressed interest on Enrolment Day, though as usual, not all came along. I decided 30 members was enough for me to cope with so have a Waiting List. It is easier if newcomers join in September so that I can teach the steps together and more slowly. Many of the group have been members for many years so I need to keep their interest too. Although it is very rare that all 30 come at once 20 and 26 is the norm - a comfortable circle.

We continue to learn new dances; requests are welcome. We had our first Christmas meal. I am fortunate in being supported by Peggy Miller who looks after the administration and Val Richardson who is my Deputy.

**Audrey Gwynne, Leader - 2011**

### Craft Circle

Our decision to meet at my house has proved to be the right one; membership numbers are up, and we all find it much more convenient to be in the same place as the craft supplies!

We have covered a great deal craftwise these last two terms, have learnt a lot, laughed a lot, and, of course, talked a lot. We made parchment craft Christmas cards, experimented with different kinds of 3D decoupage, and were introduced to iris folding. Members have brought along projects they have made at home and have discussed with us all how they made them, and if there were any difficulties they encountered.

All in all, it has been a great year, and I for one have thoroughly enjoyed it.

**Sheila Newble, Leader - 2011**

### Creative Writing Group.

The new Creative Writing Group started in November 2010. Numbers have varied between six and eleven but now seem to have settled at eight enthusiastic writers. At each meeting we share our work with the rest of the group who help and encourage us in our efforts. We would welcome more new members though and stress that we vary greatly in our levels of

expertise so all are welcome. We meet every two weeks at St Richard's Church, Three Bridges.

So far we have covered a wide range of topics, depending on the interests and ideas of members, including early childhood memories, writing a story around three objects and rewriting part of a well known story from the viewpoint of another character. Some of us have also tried our hands at poetry. Soon we hope to compile a booklet of some of our work.

**Pat Bethel, Leader**

### Swimming Group

We are a very small group of enthusiastic swimmers who meet on Mondays at the K2 Leisure Complex. It is an inexpensive group to belong to as we get a reduced rate for 'senior swims' if we take out a yearly membership (also at a reduced rate) and we don't have to pay for the venue. We do not meet during school holidays as the pool can be very busy at such times and we would welcome more members.

We vary in our athletic ability from those who aim for 20 lengths or more each time to those who take things at a more leisurely pace and just do a few lengths in the hope that a weekly swim will help to keep us more mobile. We all enjoy the company of others and an important part of the weekly session is our chat over tea or coffee in the cafe afterwards.

**Pat Bethel, Leader**

### Digital Photography

The digital photography group membership is made up mainly of beginners and evenly balanced between ladies and gentlemen.

The contents of our meetings are determined by the members, and have comprised both practical sessions and prepared presentations. The emphasis has been on camera basics and processing images in the computer ready for presentation. Some of the members became very interested in selectively processing parts of images, for example to lighten areas in shadow, also to explore the facilities in PhotoShop 9 for

combining more than one image to replace faces in group photographs and to assemble panoramas. The group meet at 10:30am on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month in the Springboard room at St Paul's Methodist Church. However after Christmas the group met in Members' homes.

**Edwin Cowley, Leader**

### History Group

The year started well, with lots of interest being shown in the History Group at the enrolment day. Our meetings are well attended and on average 33 people attend. We have been lucky enough to have a variety of speakers ranging from subjects such as 'Sussex on Film' and 'A Victorian Education' from speakers from the Records Office at Chichester and very interesting talks on the Anglo Saxons and Jutes from a member of the Group.

I am pleased to say that we have a full programme for the rest of the year.

**Elizabeth Robinson**

### Family History Group

We continue to meet once a month at St. Paul's Northgate, looking at different aspects of family history research. Our meetings provide a forum for us to exchange ideas and discuss problems. Recent subjects have included making the most of parish records, tracking down elusive ancestors - a real headache for many of us - and using Poor Law records for family history. We also continue to make occasional visits to archives which are within easy reach of Crawley. The most recent one was to the Probate Registry in London to look for wills. We plan to make another visit to the National Archives in the summer.

**Jo Meek Group Leader**

### Film Circle 1

We are now into our fourth year of Film Circle 1. Our membership numbers are still good and we don't seem to have many changes in the register. We added two new members this year bringing our numbers to 23.

This past year we have viewed a selection of films including two starring Albert Finney i.e. "Saturday Night Sunday Morning" and "The Dresser" and two starring Peter Sellers namely "I'm Alright Jack" and "Only Two can Play". We went to the cinema to see "The King's Speech" which was enjoyed by all and we followed it at the meeting with a Kings & Queens Film Quiz which had the group guessing.

Later this year we are viewing "An Education" and the French film "The Class" to compare the differences between the education system in both countries.

As our April meeting falls on Royal Wedding Day we are viewing "Father of the Bride" (the old Spencer Tracy/Elizabeth Taylor version) and having a Wedding Tea afterwards.

Our meetings continue to be very animated with a lot of laughter and all members of our group make interesting observations and comments about the film in hand. In September we will liaise with our group to discuss their preferences for the coming year.

We hope to continue in this vein for the foreseeable future.

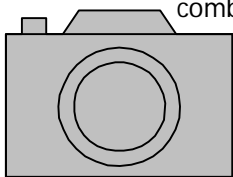
**Margaret Shaw, Carole Walsh**

### Film Circle 2

The group has 18 members and this is our second full year. We watch the films in our own homes or in small groups and we meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at St Paul's Church, Northgate for a discussion about the film. As a group we are friendly and lively and our discussions cover every aspect of the films, including the cast, plot, soundtrack and other issues the film raises.

This year we have watched a variety of films including 'The Madness of King George' and 'Memoirs of a Geisha'. We combine a mixture of old classics such as 'Citizen Kane' with modern films and occasional trips to the cinema. At Christmas we went to see 'The King's Speech', which we can all highly recommend, and for a meal afterwards. We have other cinema trips planned for summer and next year.

**Jenny Connell, Glynis Mills**



### Italian Group

We meet at Thomas Bennett school on Mondays during the school term. Although unfortunately some of the group have not been well at times, the classes have gone well.

We are divided into two groups, beginners and those who are more advanced. However, our coffee breaks overlap and so we are able to get together and socialise. If it is somebody's birthday he or she brings in a cake. We seem to have cake every week, food goes well with Italian. One of our group celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday over Christmas and he still enjoys his Italian.

Various people from the group have had holidays in Italy this year, putting into practise what they have learnt. We have a social at Christmas and will be having a social lunch this summer. We enjoy good company while learning another language.

**Jo Slack p.p. Lorenza Davies (Leader)**

### 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' from 10am until 12 noon, 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 17 members on the register and the average attendance for this session is 12.

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

**Henry Lyons Group Leader**

### Out And About Group 1

We've had another successful year, with a varied programme. We have visited Quebec House, Non-Such Park, The Foundling Museum, Ditchling Village and Museum, Arundel Castle, The Museum of London, Denis Severs House, Fishmongers' Hall, Britain at War Experience, The Old Bailey, The Wallace Collection and Kew Gardens. In addition we did a London Walk with Val, a Blue Badge Guide, who we have over the years got to know quite well. The subject of the walk was "Medieval Monasteries". Still to come in the current year is another London Walk, an outdoor performance of "Much Ado About Nothing" at Saint Hill Manor, and a look at Copt-home gardens on their open day. Christmas lunch this year was at the Goffs Park Hotel.

The work of the group is divided between June Buckley, Shelagh Smith and myself, with Finni Reynolds concentrating on the financial side. It does spread the workload and works very well.

**Sheila Leedale**

### Out & About Group 3

The Group has enjoyed a varied programme in its first full year with memorable trips including Poppy Factory, Freemasons Hall, Chelsea Royal Hospital, Chichester Ship Canal, Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens plus Dolls House Exhibition. A guided tour of Legal London and Inns of Court proved very interesting. Also London Guided Walks to Whitechapel/Brick Lane and Greenwich,

including the Fan Museum and Canary Wharf. Autumn saw us travelling in the 1902 Observation Carriage on the Bluebell Railway through some lovely Sussex countryside and a super day was spent at Denbies Winery where we travelled on a little train with a guide round the vineyard and on into the cellars exploring the process of wine making, culminating in a tasting of course! Another great day for weather - back stage at the National Theatre and lunch and a walk by the Thames. The Imperial War Museum and Victorian Music Room with demonstrations of music boxes from 1760, and a barrel organ and pianola. Houses of Parliament and the Bank of England are most recent visits. Mostly we travel by train (4 for 2), bus or for nearby places a car share.

Members enjoyed Summer and New Year lunches at the College with 33 of our 40 members attending in January. Apsley House and another London Walk around Mayfair plus a trip to Hampton Court are in the pipeline. It is pleasing to see how well members get along with one another and a few lonely people have made friends.

**Irene Fairbourn**

### Out & About Group 4

The group was formed in May 2010 with a membership of 30. This increased to 40 at the Enrolment day in September. The average take-up for visits is 22. A range of outings have taken place with a number of visits to London, including Houses of Parliament, Royal Albert Hall and Foundling Museum. Locally, we have visited Tunbridge Wells, Sackville College in East Grinstead and Arundel Castle. We have also seen the Gauguin Exhibition and Moscow City Ballet's 'Sleeping Beauty'.



Members have been very positive about the range of visits and have given us plenty of suggestions for future outings.

**Maggie Berrill**

### Out & About Group 5

The group has had five enjoyable outings since it formed in November 2010.

We have visited The Museum of London, The Design Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum in January, February and March. We also held a relaxing 'getting to know you' lunch in February.

In April we spent a lovely sunny day at Parham House and Gardens and we have interesting trips planned for the next three months.

Our treasurer, John Crippin, ably handles our travel arrangements and most of our e-mailing.

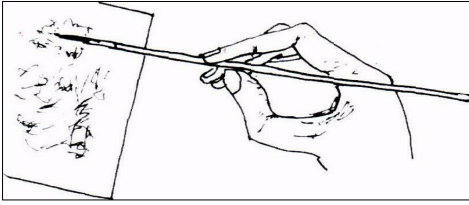
**June Britton. 2011**

### Play Reading Group

Most of the plays we have now read twice, as we are limited to plays borrowed from the Performing Arts Library in Dorking. However, each time of reading they seem to be fresh, and the comedies just as amusing - 'California Suite' especially so! I try to order a variety of plays including crime and farce as long as six copies are available!

I am most grateful to Ellen (Holloway) who normally has us each fortnight in her house, and Janet Clough who sorts out the finance. We all enjoy our meetings and have built up a good rapport.

**Shelagh Smith 2011**



### Painting & Drawing Group

We have had another enjoyable year with our membership increasing to 30 with a maximum of 18 and a minimum of 6, the average for the whole year being 12. We could therefore like to accommodate more members in our spacious hall. It is well heated in the winter and has good natural and artificial lighting. There is ample car parking and we are adjacent to a bus route. We meet every week for about 44 sessions each year. During the summer we arrange an outside venue and last year we had an enjoyable day at Rowfant House producing some good results

**John Martin Group Leader.**

### Poetry Group

Our poetry group continues to meet at Crawley Library, every 2nd & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from 11- 12.30. Our topics have included, music, light, school days, gardening, and foreign poets, which have given us much to think about and discuss. Some members write poetry on the different themes while others read poems from our ever increasing collection of books. How lucky we are to have such treasures to choose from. Poetry uncovers many emotions and running this group, with assistance from all members, is both enjoyable and educational.

**Joan Harding**

### Poetry, Prose And Plays. Leader - John Hedley

The fully subscribed group completed a varied Autumn programme with a well contested Christmas luncheon poetry competition for the leader's Yuletide prizes.

Shakespeare's 'Measure for Measure' was the New Year's feature play reading, later watched on DVD. A retrospective of historical persecution of the Jews had a lighter interpretation with a luncheon-launched theatre visit to the musical 'Fiddler on the Roof' performed by Crawley Operatic Society.

**Keith Bergin (Secretary)**

### Science for the Non-Scientist

This year we have 17 members, having said *au revoir* to two and greeted four new people. The average attendance is 12. We have only had one speaker from outside our group and she talked about wellingtonias in the Worth Park estate. Members have brought things of which we were asked to guess their use and we have had a Christmas quiz.

Other than that, we have borrowed DVDs from U3A Resources, including ones about Thomas Telford's Shropshire, lighting in big cities and an update on scans. Crawley U3A have not supplied us with equipment of any sort.

**P.D. Somerville**

### Scrabble Group

I took over the Scrabble Group in March with some trepidation as Pat Stanley was a popular and able leader for some time. We coped when we had no heating – a couple of fan heaters and some woolly scarves kept us going. We even managed when the tables had been borrowed!

We are a friendly group with an amazing knowledge of words – Q, X and Z hold no fears for us, although some strange words in the new Scrabble 'bible' may cause a few raised eyebrows. Why not join us and exercise your grey matter?

**Ann Finlay**

### Storytelling

We meet monthly at St. Andrew's Church, Furnace Green and there are 7 in the group. Each month we choose a theme for the following month to give each member a chance to prepare their story and if necessary to find information. We have covered many themes ranging from memoirs, myths and legends, stories from other countries. One of our group is very good at making up stories. At one session we heard some very interesting stories from Australia.

People have grown in confidence and are developing their own styles. One of the group has brought in a selection of books of stories to help us find ideas. We have had music and visual aids to help with the storytelling. It is enjoyable being a listener at these get-togethers.

I would like to thank Jean Austin for her help in leading the group when I was unable to attend, and also every member who has contributed so much to make this an enjoyable time.

**Jo Slack - Leader**

### Topical Discussion Group

This last year has been very successful for the Topical Discussion Group. We now have 22 members on our register and although not everyone can make every meeting, we usually average about 15 members at our Thursday mornings.

We now put our ideas for discussion into a central bowl and pull them out one by one. This leads to very varied and often lively debates. We don't always agree with one another, but we always end up as friends, and the cup of tea and biscuits halfway through is always very welcome.

I would like to take the opportunity to say 'Get Well Soon' to a few of our long standing members who are having health problems at the moment. You are all greatly missed.

**Maureen Dawkins Group Leader**

### Walkers Group

During the last year this 30-strong group has enjoyed country walks in Forest Row, Ardingley, Gomshall, Albourne, Ashdown Forest, Colgate, Worth, Hartfield and Balcombe together with pavement walks in Horsham and Lindfield. Our December walk had to be cancelled because of snow but a very wet London Walk exploring the lesser-known alleys and places of interest in the Eastern part of the City of London was enjoyed by a re-

determined core of members. My heartfelt thanks to all those members who volunteered to lead walks. In June, we join the Amblers to participate in the SUN Coastal Walk.

**Mavis Liddell, Leader**

***What could be better to follow this report than this contribution from the walkers themselves?***

**The Big Sun Walk**

After months of confusion and frustration all the parts of this venture came together for our section of the SUN coastal walk on one of the sunniest days of the year. Seventeen members of the Amblers and Walkers groups arrived at the Roedean Cafe and met 4 members of the Five Deans U3A Walkers for coffee.

We then descended to the Marina and walked 2 miles along the undercliff path to Rottingdean with the sun bouncing back on us from the overpowering white cliffs. On arriving at Rottingdean we ascended to the White Horse where we had a leisurely enjoyable meal.

Suitably refreshed we then walked a further mile to Saltdean where we ascended the cliff and continued up the steep slope to the finishing point at Telscombe Tye. Along the route we were given some culture by the only other Group within our organisation able to take part, in the form of three poetry recitals by Joan Harding. Joan had written one specifically for the Big Sun Walk and this is included at the end of this report.

We also had the services of Edwin who kindly photographed the start and finish [for proof reasons] but he insisted that he took further photos for ulterior use! He brought along his son Julian and they both started us on the walk. Some of Edwin's photos appear on p.12.

Fortunately there was a bus stop at our finishing point and we were soon back at the Roedean Cafe for a quick refreshing break before they closed.

We all felt that it was a successful walk and that it conformed to the general requirements of the SUN format.

**Mavis Liddell , John Martin**

*When someone mentioned a group coastal walk,  
I thought of Sussex by the sea.  
Of sunny days and gentle waves, and lines of poetry.  
Of Jack and Jill upon the hill, and other walkers waving.  
Of sailing ships way out at sea, of exercise and therapy.  
And you and me.*

*Of chalk edged cliffs that catch the light,  
And the Palace pier lit up at night.  
Of candy floss and photos please,  
Brighton rock, and a cool sea breeze.*

*And when we pass the grand hotels,  
Surrounded by familiar smells,  
Of fish and chips and coffee shops.  
We may well stop and admire the view,  
Waiting for a friend or two.  
Thinking of others that have walked this way,  
Who are also members of the U3A.*

**Joan Harding**

**Blue Plaques in Crawley**

The Speaker at our May Members' Meeting was Peter Young, one of our members, who came as Chairman of Crawley Arts Council to talk to us about the Blue Plaques which the Crawley Arts Council have commissioned over the years to be erected in various places in Crawley to commemorate significant people who have lived here. Nine of these blue plaques are identified on a Heritage Trail of Crawley published by the Arts Council .

Peter came to Crawley in 1957 and was soon involved with the Standing Conference of Cultural Organisations - an umbrella organisation for groups concerned with the Arts in the town. This was the forerunner of the Arts Council founded in 1971, and their first objective was to lobby for town centre premises for theatre and music . Success came with the Hawth, the best performance venue between here and the coast.

Having secured this objective, attention turned to ways of raising awareness of Crawley's significant heritage.

One of the most notable residents in the mid-nineteenth century was Mark Lemon, the first editor of the satirical magazine 'Punch', who lived in Vine Cottage in the High Street and held editorial meetings at 'The George'. Mark Lemon is buried in Ifield Churchyard.

Peter told us that they found a firm who could produce the plaques, costing £250 - £300 installed. Sponsors were needed for this and Mohammed Al Fayed , then owner of Harrods who also owned 'Punch', was approached and agreed to pay for this plaque.

Others have been paid for by an Awards for All grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and plaques have been erected to commemorate Elizabeth Fry's visit to Ifield where she spoke to a large gathering, Sarah Robinson who founded a school in West Green in 1827, Dame Caroline Haslett who was born in Worth, lived in Three Bridges, and as a pioneering electrical engineer and first Director of the Electrical Association for Women is commemorated on the EDF building on Haslett Avenue.

The Heritage Trail Leaflet is available at Crawley Museum and the library.



**Gillian Pitt**

**Group News**

There is very little to report on this front. There are now 38 groups and judging by the reports in this newsletter they all seem to be flourishing. If any member has an idea for a new group, do please get in touch with Barbara Hanson, our Groups Coordinator and discuss it with her.

A request from Betty Dowty, the Membership Secretary, that all subscriptions should be paid by cheque, if possible before Enrolment Day on 9th September—this helps to reduce the queues at her desk.

The total numbers of Crawley U3A members on 24th June was 543.

# The Big SUN Walk from Roedean to Telscombe Tye

by Crawley U3A  
Amblers Group  
with support from  
Rottingdean U3A  
3rd June 2011

Like all  
good U3A  
events  
we  
started  
with  
FOOD



The line-up at the start



The first Poetry  
stop



The Under Cliff Path  
was the chosen



After Lunch in  
Rottingdean  
another stop  
for Poetry

A  
pause  
on  
the  
climb  
up to  
Salt-  
dean



Some however took a short cut  
Really!!  
However all arrived safely on  
top

*All photographs  
courtesy of  
Edwin Cowley*



Destination achieved Bus Home

**Group News**

**Visualiser** - If any group would like to make use of this new piece of equipment in order to illustrate their talks they should contact Don Sadler on 01293 531526. He will demonstrate the use of the equipment and give any other help required..

**Please note** that after open/enrolment day charges for group meetings will go up. This is because the rental for meeting rooms has been increased. If you pay for a class each time you attend the charge will rise to £1.30p (from £1.20p) and for a "block booking" of five or six sessions it will be at the rate of 90p/class (up from 80p).

**Lifeline - This is a very useful service offered by Crawley Homes for all people living in Crawley who might need help without warning.**

Details can be obtained in person from the Town Hall, or by ringing **01293 438468**. You can e-mail at **lifeline@crawley.gov.uk** or their website is: **www.crawley.gov.uk**

***If you are not able to attend meetings in person:***

The Virtual U3A (vU3A), which went live in January 2009, is an online-only U3A, affiliated to the Third Age Trust. One of its principal aims is to provide the U3A experience for those who are rendered isolated in some way by circumstances or geography and unable to play a full part in a terrestrial U3A. More information is available on the public website [www.vu3a.org](http://www.vu3a.org) where one can also apply for membership. Why not pay it a visit? And if you know of anyone who might benefit, please pass the information on.

**U3A CRAWLEY—Officers and Committee -**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Gillian Pitt</b>		<b>gillian.p34@yahoo.co.uk</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>jeankirby1@virginmedia.com</b>
<b>Monthly Meeting speakers</b>	<b>Douglas Mayne</b>		<b>maynemd@etinternet.com</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Pam Binns</b>		<b>david.binns@tiscali.co.uk</b>
<b>Groups Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Barbara Hanson</b>		<b>bjhanson@btinternet.com</b>
<b>Merchandise, Study Day Forms</b>	<b>Brenda Broom</b>		
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Betty Dowty</b>		<b>elizabethdowty@tiscali.co.uk</b>
<b>Minute Secretary</b>	<b>Position vacant</b>		
<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Jo Slack</b>		<b>j-slack@blueyonder.co.uk</b>

**Other Roles of Committee Members**

<b>Outings Organiser</b>	<b>Gill Pitt, Jo Slack, Pam Binns</b>	<b>Tel: see above</b>
<b>Newsletter Distribution</b>	<b>Pam Binns and team</b>	
<b>Refreshments</b>	<b>Peggy Miller and team (helpers)</b>	

**U3A STUDY GROUP CONTACTS**

Group Name	Group Leader	Phone Number
Amblers	John Martin	
Art Appreciation 1	Mary Russell	
Art Appreciation 2	Mary Plastow	
Art Appreciation 3	Ann Flack	
Bamboo Pipes	Patsy Edmond-Smith	
Book Circle 1	Eunice Clement	
Book Circle 2	Jean Austin	
Book Circle 3	Jo Slack	
Bridge for Fun	Betty Dowty	
Bridge for fun 2	Pauline Rigby	
Circle Dancing	Audrey Gwynne	
Craft	Sheila Newble	
Digital Photography	Edwin Cowley	
Family History	Jo Meek	
Film Circle 1	Margaret Shaw	
Film Circle 2	Jennie Connell	
History	Robert Taylor	
Italian	Lorenza Davis	
Literature	George Redgrave	
Mah Jong	Jane Guest	
Music Appreciation	Henry Lyons	
Out and About 1	Sheila Leedale	
Out and About 2	Winifred Waterworth	
Out and About 3	Irene Fairbourn	
Out and About 4	Maggie Berrill	
Painting & Drawing	John Martin	
Play Reading	Shelagh Smith	
Plays, Poetry & Prose	Keith Bergin (contact)	
Poetry	Joan Harding (contact)	
Science	Douglas Somerville	
Scrabble	Anne Finlay	
Singing for pleasure	Eileen Thompson	
Story Telling	Jo Slack	
Swimming	Evelyn Toleman	
Topical Discussion	Maureen Dawkins	
Walkers	Mavis Liddell	

***U3A National Summer Schools 2011***

**A great opportunity to pursue your interests and enjoy  
the company of other U3A members, in lovely surroundings!**

**Places are available on the following courses:**

**Royal Agricultural College**

**Summer School 2**

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August**

**For further information contact the National Office:**

**020 8466 6139    [national.office@u3a.org.uk](mailto:national.office@u3a.org.uk)**

**or visit 'Events' in the members' area**

**of the national website [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)**