



Chair's Chatter

Welcome to my first Newsletter as Chair.

I would like to thank those members who served on the committee for the period from February last year when I was co-opted to serve as the Event Organiser. It has certainly been a very interesting time. So special thanks to Helen Tonks who will shortly be leaving the area to move to Newton Abbot with a new life to look forward to. She has worked extremely hard as Chair to further the betterment of Bracknell U3A by increasing the profile within the area and to increase the membership. Helen will be a hard act to follow, and I hope that I shall be as successful as her. I would also like to thank Michael Jackson in his role as Vice Chair, Malcolm Mack as Membership Secretary, Tony Bolt as Web Editor and Marlane Hearn as Minute Secretary. I am sure that they will all help the new committee with advice if it is required.

In their place I would like to introduce Jacqueline Wells as Vice Chair, Carol Clark as Membership Secretary, David Hunt as Web Editor and Graham Clark as Minutes Secretary. Graham will also be helping Bruce, our Treasurer, with his duties. There will be quite a change on the committee this year and I look forward to working with you all over the next year.

As I said at the AGM, I do not intend to see any massive changes, and I would like to see us grow at a nice steady rate. Every member has a part to play, and I would like to think that everyone will do their best to publicise the benefits of U3A to non-members. If just a tenth of the membership could introduce one person to the group, that would be of great help to us. I am sure that many of us know of someone who will be retiring during the next year, so why not mention U3A to them and encourage them to join. It was a cousin of mine from St Albans who mentioned U3A to me just before I retired, and so I joined in July 2015 just two weeks after retiring.

Probably the biggest change to hit us during the year was the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations which came into effect in May. I am sure this has caused some sleepless nights for many group co-ordinators. It would help if all group members would give their permission for their data to be used within the group. This will make communication much easier, and will help when organising car shares and outside visits.

I appreciate that I only get to meet around 20% of the membership at open meetings, so during my time as Chair I would like to take the opportunity to come along to some groups and get to know a few more members. I would like to see an increase in the numbers of interest groups to encourage new members to join, and to widen the breadth of our groups.

One question I would like to ask is what your views are of BFU3A; what are the good points and more importantly, what areas do you consider we need to look at? If you have thoughts on this, please let me know; your comments will be kept in confidence.

Our first committee meeting will be on Thursday 21st June, so there should be more news in the next newsletter.

On behalf of the committee and myself I would like to thank you for your confidence in the new committee, and I look forward to your help and support as we look to a new year. We have had a good year and I would like to see this continue into the future.

Crowthorne Carnival

We have a stand booked for the Crowthorne Carnival fête which is being held at the Morgan Recreation field on Saturday 7th July from 12pm until 4pm. We have a few volunteers already to help us promote Bracknell U3A but we would welcome a few more, especially between 2 and 4pm. This is your opportunity to get a little more involved with U3A. It is the responsibility of us all to promote our group wherever possible. The more members that we can gain, the better the group will be for everyone. So "don't be shy, give it a try". Who knows, you might even enjoy it. If you would like to volunteer your services, please send me an email and let me know what times you can help.

Dave Lenton, Chair chair@bracknellu3a.org.uk

Summer Outing

The outing to Stoke Bruerne is now fully booked, including that final 53rd seat-only to make sure there are no empty spaces. The coach is confirmed, the boat is confirmed and the museum is confirmed. I am in the process of ensuring from a higher authority that the good weather is confirmed too, as it was with our Portsmouth trip last year. I am sure that everyone who is booked will have a thoroughly enjoyable day out. This newsletter is due for publication on the day of our trip.

Dave Lenton, Acting Event Organiser

SPEAKERS CORNER

There will be no admission to the Hall until 1.30pm to allow for safe setting up of the hall. Thank you.

5th July, 2018 at 2pm – Carole Allen from the Alzheimer's Society will talk on the effect of Alzheimer's and dementia on the individual and their family.

Venue: The Open Learning Centre
 Tea Team: Book Group 2

16th August, 2018 at 2pm – John Field AIMC. John is a Magician, and will talk about the Amazing World of Magic.

Venue: The Open Learning Centre
 Tea Team: Bridge

27th September 2018 at 2pm - Roy Wood: Estate Planning - Tax, Care and Toy Boys - an informal, light-hearted look at later life issues and how to protect your family's nest egg.

Venue: The Open Learning Centre
 Tea Team Rota: Chaps Group

Janet Russell, Speakers' Secretary

Membership Renewal is NOW!

Thank you to all members who have already renewed and a gentle reminder to those who have yet to do so. Membership renewal started on the 4th June and ends on 31st August

The subscription has been reduced this year to £10

There are two ways of renewing:

1) Online

If you have an email address this is the simplest and most popular option. You can pay by debit card, credit card, or by PayPal if you have a personal PayPal account.

- Go to our web site : www.bracknellu3a.org.uk
- Select the Membership button
- Click on Existing Members - Renewing your membership of BFU3A

Full online renewing instructions are given

After renewing, your new membership card and details of the User Name and Password for the members area of the website will be emailed to you. If you don't have the facility to print your card, please contact me to have one printed for collection at the next Open Meeting.

2) By completing a renewal form.

Renewal forms can be downloaded from our website, collected from the next Open Meeting or by contacting me, details below. There is one at the end of this newsletter.

N.B. Please remember to tick the box on the back of the form to give us permission to use your data for membership purposes as **we can't renew your membership without it.**

If you wish to continue to receive the Third Age Trust Magazines – *Third Age Matters* and *Sources* please tick the second box to give consent to your data being shared with the company who oversee the distribution.

If you need any help with renewal please don't hesitate to contact me, either by phone 01344 305433, email:

membersecretary@bracknellu3a.org.uk or by post to Membership Secretary, 21 Jaguar Lane, Bracknell RG12 9PE.

Carol Clark, Membership Secretary

French conversation: Invitation to join

Last week we said goodbye and thank you to Monica Whiting, who has led the two French conversation groups for 15 years. She has done a brilliant job and we have all enjoyed chatting in French and learning about what is going on in the country.

The French Conversation Plus group would like to continue their meetings albeit in a different format. This group is meant for the more fluent French speakers and hopes to meet twice a month for an hour in the Open Learning Centre. Day and time to be agreed.

If you are fairly fluent in French and would like to practise with others you would be very welcome to join us. Please contact me on 01344 423591.

Lucy Simnett

Architecture

At the May meeting, we discussed bridges. I can't remember too much, as I was going on holiday the following day!

At the June meeting we discussed Industrial architecture; mostly canals and mills and how the two grew up together and created the Industrial Revolution. A very interesting meeting. Next month is Norman Foster (but not the bridge).

Pam Palmer, Coordinator

Art Appreciation

For our April meeting Ian Millar introduced us to 'The Bay Area Figurative Art Movement' (also known as the Bay Area Figurative School, Bay Area Figurative Art, Bay Area Figuration, and similar variations). This was a mid-20th century art movement made up of a group of artists in the San Francisco Bay Area who abandoned working in the prevailing style of Abstract Expressionism in favour of a return to figuration in painting during the 1950s and 1960s.

Spanning two decades, this art movement is often broken down into three groups, or generations: the First Generation, the Bridge Generation, and the Second Generation.

During the 1950s a few painters in the San Francisco Bay Area began to stage personal, dramatic defections from the prevailing style of Abstract Expressionism, creating what would come to be known as Bay Area Figurative Art. In 1949 David Park destroyed many of his non-objective canvases and began a new style of consciously naive figuration. Soon Elmer Bischoff and Richard Diebenkorn joined Park and other painters such as Rex Ashlock, Elmer Bischoff, Wayne Thiebaud, and James Weeks forming the first generation of The Bay Area Figurative artists.

The "Bridge Generation" included the artists: Nathan Oliveira, Theophilus Brown, Paul John Wonner, Roland Petersen, John Hultberg, and Frank Lobdell.

Many "Second Generation" artists of this movement studied under the First Generation artists, or were late starters. Among these Second Generation artists were: Bruce McGaw, Henry Villierme, Joan Brown, Manuel Neri, and Robert Qualters.

The achievement of Bay Area Figurative painters and sculptors has become directly relevant to current debates regarding abstraction and representation, as well as to discourses on modernism and postmodernism. Indeed, the historical phenomenon of the movement is an important case study in the evolution of modernism in America, serving as an early example of rupture in the formalist "mainstream". As a significant piece of American Art History there is a lot to cover and so Ian will be giving us part II soon, thanks Ian.

For our May meeting Greg continued with his series about "Isms". Previously he started at the generally accepted start of the 'modern' art era with Impressionism. This time we started with Post-Impressionism working our way through, amongst many others like Secessionism, Primitivism, Futurism and finishing on Orphism. Next time the series starts off with Rayonism which is not the introduction of the manmade

fibre. Greg finished the session by dipping into another series, to look at a couple of 'Great Paintings'.

Earlier in the year as part of Greg's 'Ism's' series he outlined Fauvism so for our June meeting Liz O'Neill told us more about the movement and the key artists involved. **Fauvism** is the name applied to the work produced by a group of artists from around 1905 to 1910, which is characterised by strong colours and fierce brushwork

The name les fauves ('the wild beasts') was coined by the critic Louis Vauxcelles when he saw the work of Henri Matisse and André Derain in the salon d'automne exhibition, Paris, in 1905. The paintings Derain and Matisse exhibited were the result of a summer spent working together in Collioure in the South of France and were made using bold, non-naturalistic colours (often applied directly from the tube), and wild loose dabs of paint. The forms of the subjects were also simplified, making their work appear quite abstract. Other like-minded artists associated with fauvism included Georges Braque, Raoul Dufy, Georges Rouault, and Maurice de Vlaminck. All of which Liz discussed with illustrations of their Fauve works.

The fauvists were interested in the scientific colour theories developed in the nineteenth century – particularly those relating to complementary colours. Complementary colours are pairs of colours which appear opposite each other on scientific models such as the colour wheel, and when used side-by-side in a painting make each other look brighter.

Fauvism can be seen as an extreme extension of the post-impressionism of Van Gogh combined with the neo-impressionism of Seurat. The influences of these earlier movements inspired Matisse and his followers to reject traditional three-dimensional space and instead use flat areas or patches of colour to create a new pictorial space. Fauvism can also be seen as a form of expressionism in its use of brilliant colours and spontaneous brushwork. It has often been compared to German expressionism, which emerged at around the same time and was also inspired by the developments of post-impressionism. Thanks Liz.

If you want to join us as we explore the world of art we meet on the second Friday of the month starting at 10 am, finish about 12 pm [£1] at the Methodist Church in Shepherds Lane, Priestwood.

Greg Boys, Coordinator

Ballroom and Barn Dance

The Ballroom and Barn Dance Groups did the BFU3A really proud at Bracknell's National Civic Day event held in Bond Square. Over three hours they danced 16 traditional and sequence dances interspersing with the OBJ Morris Dances. As the afternoon went on, the dancers joined each other's dances! It made for a great occasion which, it is hoped, might be held again next year. After all the excitement, the usual Ballroom sessions will continue to take place every Friday (except for the first three in August) and the next Barn Dance is on Saturday 21st July 7 pm. Everyone welcome!

Lynda Lunn, Coordinator

Book Group

Our ladies greatly enjoyed *Mrs Fytton's Country Life* by Mavis Cheek. It was a modern fable about an urban wonderwife, supermum, bedroom vamp and business partner who is dumped by her husband. She decides on a cunning strategy to win him back, which involves a new life in the country. Every character is comic in one way or another and the story dashes through a full range of family and country escapades.

Our chosen book for May was *Half a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche which proved to be a major challenge, it is very long, in small print and with far too many people with unpronounceable African names. It is a grim story of the Biafra war and inter-tribal killings. Much admiration is due to those who managed to finish and enjoy it.

Size was still a problem for our June book *Dominium* by C.J. Sanson. Seven hundred pages later we knew what might have happened if Britain had lost the last war. The story, set in 1952, related a depressing picture of a nation largely cowed by German dominance but with a few resistance fighters. The historical guesswork provided a challenge, how dismal were the 1950s? Our good guys had secrets to save and won through at the end and Hitler died to make the end more cheerful. Entertaining for those interested in recent history.

Future Books:

Heart of Darkness by J. Conrad 10 July

A Fine Balance by R. Mistry 11 Sept

Brian Tonkinson, Coordinator

Book Group 2

Our book group is at last expanding. Just over a month ago we were a group of five - and suddenly we are eight!

At present we are reading *The Kitchen God's Wife* by Amy Tan. Among the books we have read during the year, are: *Balzac and the little Chinese Seamstress* by Sijie Dai, Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas* and *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. We have yet to read *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* by Marina Lewycka, *The Catcher in the Rye* by JD Salinger, among others.

Our book group meets on the second Wednesday of each month, from 2-4pm. We welcome new members - please ring me for further information and details of our next venue.

Jen Vincent, Coordinator

Digital Photography

Our Group continues to flourish in its own little way, with the tested format of information/ideas/questions, followed by members' contributions and a 30 minute video from a professional photographer. Next meeting Monday 9th July at the OLC.

John Cook, Coordinator

Garden Club 2

We had the most enjoyable trip to Tylney Hall, Hook, Hants.

The Hall itself is a very fine property, now a four star hotel. The gardens designed by 19th century Gertrude Jekyll have the longest uninterrupted views in Hampshire. The Gardens boast an Italian Garden, Boathouse lake, Dutch Gardens and Water Tower, Orchard, Air Raid Shelter and Ha-Ha Wall.

The Head Gardener took us on a tour of the gardens for a couple of hours, he and his crew of four are trying to restore the gardens - a never ending job.

The Sculpture Garden, Churt, near Farnham was to be our next visit. If you have never been, it is worth a look. There are 800-plus sculptures here, set in woodland, small and large exhibits to please many. The Garden took a few hours to explore, so we broke for lunch at the local pub before continuing in the afternoon.

Our next visit was to Coverwood Lakes at Ewhurst. The Farmhouse is a listed Medieval Hall dating back to 1400. What a lovely place this was, a step back in time. They have natural springs in the bog garden, also feeding the four Lakes. The woodland garden covered quite an area around the lakes, a lovely setting. They do have livestock here, Poll Hereford cattle (poll means born without horns), a herd of sheep and a number of horses at livery.

Our visit to Swallowfield Village Gardens was quite a surprise, the village covers quite an area, a car was needed to get around, but we did see some very fine Gardens.

June Pettifor, Coordinator

German Conversation

The group now consist officially of nine members and most of us meet regularly at the Open Learning Centre. The topics of conversation vary considerably and at the last meeting we talked about the royal wedding. It was interesting that one person went out for the day to avoid all the razzmatazz and watched only the actual wedding ceremony later in the day while the other watched everything apart from the ceremony.

As you can gather from the above there were only two people present at that particular meeting so we would like to invite anyone who speaks some German to join us. We don't worry about grammar and help each other when we can't think of a German word. The meetings take place roughly every fortnight on a Thursday at 12.30 and they last an hour.

We look forward to welcoming some new members.

Lucy Simnett, Coordinator

Italian Conversation

The four non-Italian members of the group all feel that it helps to talk regularly in Italian. It does improve their language skills. Romana, who is Italian, is a great help when it comes to finding the right words. We talk about a variety of topics and at the last meeting we discussed the 'war on plastics'.

We really would like to expand the group and it would be lovely if people who speak some Italian would join us. You don't need to be fluent and we don't do grammar!

We meet in the Open Learning Centre on a Thursday from 14.00 until 15.00 roughly every other week.

Lucy Simnett, Coordinator

Local History

Our March meeting took place at Reading Museum when we had a fascinating introduction to the Museum Box Room where lots of artefacts are stored, and where boxes of items on specific themes are used for school group visits. We enjoyed handling and discussing things which had been found locally. We also looked at the Reading gallery which described the development of the town from its earliest days.

In April one of our members took us on the Eton walkway, which took us round various places of interest in Eton, including The Cockpit, the Burning Bush, the site of the famous Wall game, and the Eton Boat House, among many others

Our May meeting comprised a visit to St. James' church, Finchampstead, where we enjoyed an entertaining talk by Ed Sampson about the history of the church and the major conservation project begun in 2009 when the church was closed for six months. The original church was built in 1134 by Alard Banastre, lord of the manor of Finchampstead, only a few years after the foundation of Reading Abbey, and 200 years before Windsor Castle. The original nave and chancel of the church are still there although much altered in subsequent centuries, and the font is at least as old as the church, and may be even older, suggesting there could have been an earlier Saxon church on the site. The conservation project uncovered all sorts of fascinating detail, including a crypt under the old choir stalls which contained lead coffins from 1786 and 1787 and a second crypt under the nave containing the skeletal body interred in a woollen shroud of Charles Palmer who died in 1712.

For our June meeting, we will be returning to Reading Museum to visit the Abbey ruins which are reopening this month after closure to the public for over ten years. In July we will have a guided tour of Easthampstead Park, and hope to learn more about its history.

Janet Russell, Coordinator

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club meets usually on the 4th Monday of the month at 12.15pm, and we enjoy the company of approximately 20 regular members. Our base is The Weathervane where they always look after us, and the food is excellent and reasonably priced.

For 25th June, we will try the Horse & Groom, Harvester, as we have not been there for a long while, and it has been refurbished. Then back to The Weathervane for 23rd July and 20th August (week early for Bank Holiday) and 24th Sept. Please put these dates in your diary.

All Members are welcome to the Lunch Club, so just arrive at the venue, at the time stated above, for good social company, laughs and food. I look forward to seeing you all.

Joyce Brown, Coordinator

MOTO

MOTO is a social group for **M**embers who are **O**n **T**heir **O**wn. We hold a planning meeting each month to discuss what members would like to do. This includes meals, trips and anything else that our members want.

Wokingham Theatre: since the last newsletter we have seen two shows at Wokingham. The first was *The Deep Blue Sea* by Terence Rattigan. This play is a moving story of a lady's failed suicide attempt, of her tempestuous affair and the breakdown of her marriage. It comes as a portrait of need, loneliness and long-repressed passion and, behind the fragile veneer of post-war civility, burns a brutal sense of loss and longing. The leading lady (Caroline) played the central character with lots of emotion and this made the performance very memorable.

Our second visit was to see *Happy Now?*, which is a play by Lucinda Coxon. It is a black comedy dealing with the frustrations of modern life. The central character is Kitty, who seems to have it all but has reached a point in her life where she is questioning whether she is truly happy and what she really wants out of life with her husband, her friends, her irritating mother and maybe the odd workplace dalliance. The acting for this play was to their usual very high standard, but the production was a bit confusing as the stage was two different flats and other locations – so it was sometimes hard to recognise that the action had left one location and returned to another. Perhaps they could have used lighting effects to provide a clearer transition?

The monthly Sunday lunch was held at *The Half Moon* (Windlesham) and our weekly lunches were at *The Crooked Billet* (Wokingham) for May and *The Brickmakers* (Windlesham) for June. Both of these were on lovely days so we were able to sit in their gardens to enjoy the sunshine. *The Brickmakers* is a very nice venue and we will be going there again, I'm sure.

A group of 12 of us went to see *Summer Holiday* at Woking Theatre in April which was a very good production of the original Cliff Richard movie with a very good cast which made it an enjoyable afternoon's entertainment.

South Hill Park's Food and Music weekend: this year there was Jazz music on the Saturday and Folk music on Sunday. Both days were really hot and sunny. Moto members went and enjoyed the music and food on both days.

Hooray For Hollywood was a show at Camberley Theatre for one night. Due to low ticket sales the venue offered a £10 discount on the tickets so a few of us went along to see what it would be like. We were delighted that we took a chance on this show as it turned out to be a two hour show with four performers doing songs and dancing from the great Hollywood films. Even just sitting watching them on the stage made us feel tired!

Polesden Lacey is a National Trust property near Bookham. This year they are (again) having their 'Jazz Sundays'. Between 14:00 and 16:00 a Jazz group plays in the grounds and you can sit on the lawn to listen. The Jazz is free, but you do have to pay to enter the site if you are not a NT member. The weather on 17th June wasn't great, but we still enjoyed the Jazz and will be going again before they end on the 16th September. Full details are on the National Trust website.

MOTO 1 is currently full, but there is a MOTO 2 group within Bracknell Forest U3A.

Diane Jones, Coordinator

Music Appreciation

This month it was my turn to present a program to the group. I based it on a CD from a British-Romanian pianist that I heard play at South Hill Park. His name is Florian Mitrea and the CD called "*Following the River, Music along the Danube*". Most of the pieces that we heard are by composers who come from further downstream than Vienna and included Bela Bartok, Sigismund Toduta, Franz Schubert, Paul Constantinescu, Franz Liszt and Radu Paladi. I found out about each of the composers and we then listened to Florian playing the piece.

To finish the afternoon I carried on with a river theme and we heard *Vltava* by Smetana, a river nearby the Danube, *Four Hungarian Dances* by Johannes Brahms and finally *The Blue Danube* by Johan Strauss II. An enjoyable afternoon brought to an abrupt end with torrential rain causing a massive flood outside my house.

Anne Pusey, Group Member

Music Appreciation (Modern)

We have had two meetings since the last Newsletter, the first concentrated on the 70's and the second concentrated on the 80's; we are working our way through the decades.

70's - Well surprisingly the Rolling Stones survived the 60's with the exception of Brian Jones who didn't, so we heard a track from their *Goats Head Soup* album. Also Led Zeppelin were very popular in the 70's so we listened to *Battle of Evermore* from their fourth album imaginatively titled Led Zeppelin IV. Another track of its time, *Nantucket Sleighride*, was the theme to TV's Weekend World; it was written about the whaling vessel Essex and its disastrous voyage to the Pacific in search of sperm whales and it is dedicated to cabin boy Owen Coffin: Google Owen, an interesting if slightly gruesome story. Meatloaf, Hendrix, Springsteen and several other CDs and DVDs pleasantly filled the rest of the afternoon.

80's - This was the decade of Live Aid (1985) so we had plenty of music to choose from, both Live Aid performances and others. We watched and listened to several clips from the Live Aid DVD including Mick Jagger and Tina Turner, Hall and Oates, George Thorogood, Style Council and Status Quo. Other non-Live Aid music was from Melissa Etheridge, Jesus and Mary Chain, Bruce Springsteen and more.

Next month will concentrate on the 90's, I'm sure we can find enough music from this era to fill our time. If anyone is interested in joining our music appreciation group please e-mail me at blues@bracknellu3a.org.uk.

Tony Bolt, Coordinator

Out And About

New members continue to be welcomed bringing our number to over 60 and if no one is able to come forward to take over the role of co-ordinator it would be a shame if the group were forced to close. Hopefully if anyone out there feels able take over the role or to start a second group, support will be given to move this forward.

Current members need to reserve their places quickly if they wish to join an activity. A reserve list will be kept with a possibility of re-running the activity. I would like to remind people if they no longer feel the activities are suitable to please let us know so that some places may be freed up.

Members enjoyed a tour of Strawberry Hill courtesy of Dorothy Kirkham; an interesting walk around Eton, organised by Sheila Dwyer; and joined Dave Lenton's Transport Group to HMS Belfast. 21 members travelled to The Regent canal museum at the end of June, thanks to Diane Jones. Sadly the trip to SS Great Britain has been cancelled due to lack of viable numbers.

Further trips are being planned for Milton's cottage in September and St George's Chapel in November.

Brenda Horner, Coordinator

Times Out

On 17th May 13 of our members visited the Sky Garden on top of the walkie-talkie building in London. Although free it has to be booked in advance but what a spectacular view of the London Skyline, Tower Bridge, the Tower of London - and the Shard is directly opposite. Also there is a restaurant and two bar areas inside. We stopped for lunch beforehand in a restaurant in the crypt of St Martins in the Field church next to Trafalgar Square. Just before leaving London we called into Gordon's Wine bar (the oldest wine bar in London) before travelling home on the bus. Thank you to John and Pauline Richardson for arranging this trip.

On Thursday 7th June members Alan and Pauline Buckingham led our annual London hidden walk. This year we covered the Lambeth and Vauxhall areas and saw some mosaics under a railway bridge relating to poet William Blake who had lived in that area. Next we stopped off at St Thomas' hospital for a drink and short break, then visited an art gallery which was owned by Damien Hirst, then walked down the Lambeth Walk and stopped for lunch around the Vauxhall area. Next we visited the London City Farm before passing the original Royal Doulton building then carried on down the embankment finishing at the Thames.

Future visits will include an Agatha Christie play at The Mill at Sonning, a walk around the Eton Walkway and a visit to West Wycombe house and village.

Brenda and Tony Bolt, Coordinators

Transport Group

Twelve intrepid travellers of the transport group (which included four members from Out and About and MOTO) made our way by train and underground to Tower Hill followed by a short walk over Tower Bridge for a visit to HMS Belfast as she is moored nearby. Most of us then went on our separate ways, as we looked around this battleship at our leisure. I am sure that we all had an interesting and informative day out. Four of us then went on to have a look round Tower Bridge, which includes a walk along the walkway high up the bridge. You get a lovely view of the river and also of the traffic way beneath the bridge as you look through the glass floor. Thank goodness for extra strong glass!

The journey to Tower Hill was fine - the 09.32 train from Bracknell to Richmond followed by a change to the District line to Tower Hill (much better than changing at Waterloo). However, the return journey was another story. We caught the District line to Richmond (or so we thought). All was fine and dandy until we arrived at Gunnersbury. We seemed to wait for ages and we noticed that slowly passengers were leaving the train. Then we saw that the destination had changed from Richmond to Barking. So off the four of us got and then we discovered there was a signalling problem in the Richmond area so we had to join the multitudes outside Gunnersbury station to catch a service bus to Richmond. The first bus that arrived was full to the gunwales, so we had to wait for the next one which was almost full but the driver kindly allowed us to overfill the bus. Eventually we made it to Richmond and a train back to Bracknell. I suppose we were an hour and a half later than we should have been. I hope everyone else had a better journey than us.

Philip Wallington has arranged three transport group trips for July as follows:

Sunday 8th July

Telford Rural Life Centre near Farnham GU10 2DL

A collection of historic local buildings, machinery and farm implements. On this date there will be a fire engine gathering and industrial railway running. Free car park. Admission adults £9 and concessions £8. There is a cafeteria there.

www.rural-life.org.uk

Sunday 15th July

Vintage Bus Rally Alton GU34 2NB

Over 50 vintage buses and coaches on display and local rides. The bus rides are free due to insurance restrictions. Vintage cars will also be on display all day and it is all FREE. You just have to get there. Large car park www.altonbusrally2015.com

Sunday 29th July

Great Cockrow Miniature Railway, Lyn, Chertsey KT16 0AD.

There are two railway routes each approximately two miles long and taking 15-20 minutes (under two years old cannot be conveyed).

Single Ride: Adults £4.50 Child £3.50 Family £13

Double Ride: Adults £6.00 Child £5.50 Family £20

The Miniature railway is suitable to bring your grandchildren along, as long as they are two or over, so why not bring the family. Trains run from 11.30am until 5pm. Get there early.

Tea room. www.cockcrow.co.uk

If you are interested in any of the above, would you please let me know. I am sure that we can arrange car share.

We shall all be having a rest in August. In September I am hoping to arrange a visit to the Thames Barrier. Further detail to follow in due course.

Dave Lenton, Coordinator

Forthcoming Events run by the U3A Thames Valley Network

Three interesting study days at Benson, Oxon. 1000 – 1600 hrs

Full details on the Thames Valley Network website (<http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk/index.html>)

These events get booked up quickly!

Polar Exploration

Tuesday, 4th September 10.00 - 16.00hrs

Flyer:

<http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk/Polar%20Exploration%20Flyer%20.pdf>

Application form:

<http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk/Polar%20Exploration%20Application%20.pdf>

The Study Day Fee is £15.00. This includes coffee / tea & biscuits on arrival and a buffet lunch. Please advise if you have any dietary allergies or require vegetarian or vegan options.

Excellent speakers including Richard Shackleton, a relative of the famous explorer

The Interactions of Medicine, Science and Art

Thurs.1st November. Benson, OX10 6LZ

Flyer:

<http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk/Med%20and%20Art%20flyer.pdf>

Application form:

<http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk/Med%20and%20art%20application%20form.pdf>

The Study Day Fee is £15.00. This includes coffee /tea and biscuits on arrival and a buffet Lunch.

Derek Jackson, Admin. Secretary, Bracknell Forest U3A

Editor's Note

Issue 133 edited by Bruce Collins
Publication date: 28 June 2018

Grateful thanks to all contributors.

Diary Editor: Janet Russell
janeterussell@aol.com

Deadlines for contributions
to the next editions are:
Issue no 134 – 2nd August
Issue no 135 – 13th September

Please send contributions to all editors at:
newseditor@bracknellu3a.org.uk

The editing team consists of:
Peter Arthur
Bruce Collins
Liz Hanson
Lucy Simnett

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