



Blackwater Valley



Newsletter



Volume 16 Edition 4

APRIL 2023

CHAIR'S CHAT

We had a very good turn out for our guest speaker in March, Steve Herra – Cunard History and Glamorous Stars!

Our guest speaker on 20th April, will be Malcolm Wells MBE who will present a lively insight into his extremely interesting and varied work life career. We look forward to seeing everyone again for yet another very entertaining afternoon!



Although work has begun on the 2024 programme, we still need an official Speakers' Secretary. If interested, please contact me or any Committee Member.

Don't forget, the Newsletter is there to keep you in touch with what's going on so news from the groups is always welcome

Regards to all

Barbara.



MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

March 31st has come and gone. Thank you to the majority of members who paid their £12 membership on time. Those of you who have yet to pay need to do so as soon as possible. Meg is happy to take cash, cheques or direct transfer.

CATCHING UP WITH THE GROUPS

YATELEY u3a INVITES US

Did any of you respond to our neighbours' invitation to join their Ballroom Dancing session, or the Tai Chi group? The editor would love to hear from you so we can encourage others to join in.

WALKING TOGETHER

Four valiant souls braved the weather for our walk to Caesar's Camp. There was very little snow left on the ground so the walking was good but the mist prevented us seeing the views. Thanks to Carole for leading us.



Our next walk is round Greywell on April 13th, meeting as usual in Potley Hill School Car Park at 0930 for a prompt departure at 0945. The walk will start from the Fox & Goose, The Street, Hook RG29 1BY for those who would prefer to meet us there.

Romy and Min



PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography Group meeting in March revealed some beautiful photos on the subject of Together. The next meeting is on 25th April at the Tythings when the theme will be Bridges.



MOTO NEWS

Twelve of us enjoyed a very sociable Sunday lunch at The Dog & Partridge (even if it was a bit of a squeeze to fit everyone around the table!)

Our next “business meeting” will take place at The White Lion, Yateley on 12th April when we will have a midweek lunch and at the same time, plan our Summer programme. Now the weather is getting warmer we will be able to get out and about.

Also, in April a handful of MOTO members are off to the Isle of Wight for a short holiday break.

JUDITH SHAW (0118 973 2724) email: jmshaw17@hotmail.co.uk

ON A MUSICAL NOTE

Don't forget, the Singing Group meet in The Gallery, Tythings the first Wednesday of each month (2pm-3.30pm). The meeting on 5th April will be a general singalong whilst the 3rd May will be our Pre-Coronation Celebration Soiree (2pm – 4pm). If you are free, please come, it would be great to see you!

Regards, Barbara



THE ART GROUP

Some of the Art Group were busy this month producing both still life works detailing 'biscuits' whilst others were completing their views of an industrial setting. Most of the group also combined their efforts to individually produce a work all using the same photograph as a reference. This exercise was to see how everyone has a different style and interpretation of the same view. As you can see below, with the original reference photo at top left, this did produce some excellent results.



Everyone is free to create art of whatever subject they wish however, we do have a programme of suggested subjects: next month we will be tackling a treescape, a still life using bottles and jars along with all the reflections etc. plus later a picture featuring boats. Hopefully, something different for everyone.

If you fancy joining us, come along on Mondays to the Darby Green and Frogmore Social Hall. We are there between 11am and 1pm. You'll be very welcome.



BOOK GROUP

So this month we enter into the unusual world of Donna Nicanorah's Hat Shop by Kirsten Hawkins. The title alone made me giggle but maybe that's because my Mum was called Norah and it made me smile. Anyway back to the book. Donna Nicanorah lives in a very quiet village in South America. All her life she has dreamt of opening a hat shop, which is a bit of a weird life wish as her village ends at the edge of a swamp! The outside world is fast catching up with our village. The super highway is around the corner and now we don't mean a road! The first tourist appears in the Plaza and the Mayor brings the first doctor to the village. Medicine Man not happy! Life is changing, so does Donna Nicanorah open her hat shop? What happens in Dolore's Karaoke Bar?

Well obviously I can't tell as the book club ladies would have their book spoilt. But I am sure if you ask one of the ladies at a U3A meeting, they will tell you. Go on you know you need to know the answer!

Our next meeting is Thursday 30th April.

Best wishes

Wendy Dauven & Chris Bowen

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

April 20th 2023

Malcolm Wells had a wide ranging 24 year career in the British Army including spells as a musician for State Occasions and as a medical assistant in the first Gulf War. He followed this up by working for Canine Partners for 16 years so I'm sure we can expect a very interesting talk from him



SPEAKERS PLANNED FOR 2023/4

Please note the new speaker in August as the hoped for speaker from the Fire Service couldn't be arranged.

Programme for 2023	
March 16th 2023 Steve Herra <i>Cunard History and Glamorous Stars</i>	April 20th 2023 Malcolm Wells <i>"So far So Good"</i>
May 18th 2023 Brian Fleetwood-Freeland <i>The View from the Wings</i>	June 15th 2023 Mike Dawson <i>the Commonwealth War Graves Commission</i>
July 20th 2023 No Speaker <i>Our Garden Party</i>	August 17th 2023 Mel Rees <i>telling us more about his life</i>
September 21st 2023 Michelle Cleave <i>Saville Gardens</i>	October 19th 2023 Bobbi Derbyshire <i>"Where do authors get their ideas from?"</i>
November 16th 2023 David Allen <i>Merry Christmas Mr Dickens</i>	December 21st 2023 No Speaker <i>Our Christmas Party</i>
Programme for 2024	
January 18th 2024 Ascot Brewery <i>Our local brewery</i>	February 15 th 2024 Paul Whittle <i>The Venetian Connection</i>



WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE DO?

The third in our series about the roles fulfilled by your Committee Members. This month we look at Secretary and Newsletter Editor responsibilities.

The Secretary attends all the Committee Meetings, takes minutes and circulates copies to the committee members via email. In addition the Secretary will also minute the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and any Special General Meetings which take place. Minutes from the AGM and any SGMs are published on the website.

The Newsletter Editor publishes a monthly Newsletter for the members. This involves taking input from the Chair, Speakers Secretary, Group Leaders and any other members who wish to get themselves into print! A draft is issued to the Committee ahead of the monthly Committee Meeting and then discussed as part of the regular Agenda. The Newsletter is published as a pdf via email. Members who don't have an email address receive a copy in the post

Next Month: What the other Committee Members are asked to do.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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PRIZE DRAW NEWS

AND THE WINNER IS?

Our roving reporter, Phil Rowling, snapped this shot of Averil Aylott who was the lucky winner of the Prize Draw in March.

This was the last draw of the current round. The first pick from the new draw will take place at the meeting on April 20th and each monthly prize will be £34.



MORE FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP ON THE SUBJECT OF TOGETHER





OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM MIN GARDINER AND PHIL ROWLING



Our March Speaker, Steve Herra following his talk on the Cunard Line

Dave Turner produced this lovely watercolour for the Art Group's Castle in a Landscape topic



View? From the top of Caesar's Camp

A somewhat moody looking pond at Caesar's Camp





HOW ABOUT A QUIZ

Here we are, back again, Something to do, on the train.

- 1) What vegetable did Walter Raleigh introduce to Britain?
- 2) Which sign of the zodiac is not represented by a person or animal?
- 3) What rodent is associated with a computer?
- 4) What does a bird have two of, stomach or heart?
- 5) What is the common name for snow, sleet, rain, and hail?
- 6) What is stored in a camel's hump?
- 7) In which country was Al Capone born?
- 8) What space station was launched by Russia in 1986?
- 9) How many feet in a fathom?
- 10) In which year was Terry Waite taken hostage?
- 11) What is built on Bedloe's Island?
- 12) How many minutes are there in one day?
- 13) Who did Putin succeed as President of Russia?
- 14) In TV's Rainbow what animal is George?
- 15) What sport featured in the film Cool Running?

Questions set by Harris Tweed



POETRY CORNER

TV License

I've paid for the TV License! Hip, Hip, Hooray!
But it does seem a lot that I have to pay,
For the BBC "with no adverts" as they say,
So how many previews did they air today?

A preview is an advert (it's just spelt another way),
Promoting their products throughout the day.
Other channels air for free
They don't need to charge me a fee.

A Friend

A friend is someone special.
A friend is someone who cares.
A good friend never notices,
Another friend's grey hairs

A friend will think of others.
A friend will travel far.
A friend remembers birthdays,
But forgets how old you are!

From Martin Brooks



ENDING WITH A LAUGH

