

Democracy or Chaos?



Story page 4

Chat from the Chair

Following on from Chris Davies and The Ascot Brewing Company by popular request on 15th FEBRUARY we have the welcome return visit of PAUL WHITTLE with 'THE VENETIAN CONNECTION'.

Along with his usual excellent photographic content, Paul will be taking us on a visit to Venice exploring the cities, Venice and regions, ruled by this once-powerful city-state. This is sure to be another first class presentation!

As you may know, we have a membership of 91 but we only have about a third of this number joining us for the monthly meetings. In order to keep the Group viable, we really do need a higher attendance which will allow us to continue to invite quality speakers. It's the monthly attendance fee (£2) that helps to pay these costs and other expenses.

Now the weather is likely to improve, why not log it in your diaries and come along again. We would love to see you.

Regards BARBARA



BOOKS

The Book Table continues to be going well with a variety of interesting books and we now have a small selection of jigsaws on the table (thanks June).

If you have a couple of books you would be happy to donate, please bring them along, all's welcome!

Forthcoming Meetings

February 15th

Paul Whittle: *The Venetian Connection*

March 21st

Mel Rees: *Further Thoughts*

April 18th

Sarah M. Slater: *The Ghosts of Hampton Court*

May 16th

Paul Barwick: *'White Mouse' Nancy Wake*

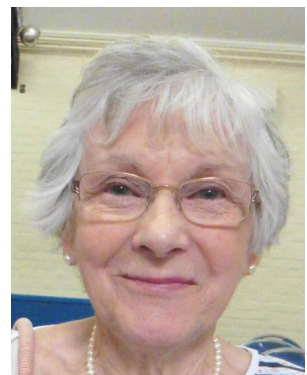
June 20th

Malcolm Wells: *"So Far So Good [2]"*.

MONTHLY PRIZE DRAW

Winner of last month's Prize Draw was Christine Pibworth a member of the Art and Singing Groups.

Most likely the money will be spent with Winsor & Newton or maybe purchasing a copy of the BVu3a's *Songs for Swinging Wednesdays*.



You too could be in line for a chance to win this monthly life-changer but first you must contact Sue Puxley to confirm joining and then add £10 to your £12 annual subscription payable by the date of the March meeting. [Bank transfer if possible ask Meg for the details].

Our last speaker

Chris Davies has a welcoming line in chat presenting an affable nature worthy of a Chief Officer of the local brewing company. When I say local you can forget Ascot and think Camberley for although Chris's introduction to brewing was following his retirement and the purchase of the Ascot Brewing company in 2017, their subsequent move in 2019 to the 8,500 sq. ft Lawrence Way premises made them a welcome local feature.

Chris outlined the brewing production that gave forth many award-winning beers, *Disruption* being voted the Champion Pale in the UK at the SIBA 2023 national awards.

A 2,500 sq. ft mezzanine bar has been built above the brewery with twenty taps pouring award-winning craft beers, traditional ales, and local ciders. These along with Pizza specials, wines and spirits are on offer making this brewery a "look no further" choice for a drop-in, event or night out.

Part of Chris' presentation was a sampling of the brewery's product with our own Margaret Muckle acting as waitress.

Several tasters were expertly delivered and expertly consumed.

For front cover readers: *Demockracy* and *Chaos more Chaos* are the imaginative names of other beers in the product range that also include: *The Lost Art of the Handshake*.



Chris Davies



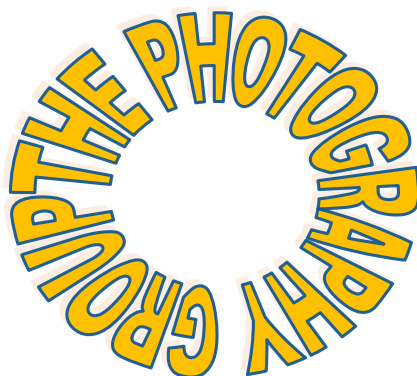
Margaret Muckle

Catching up with the Groups

MOTO

We held a well-attended business meeting and lunch at *The White Lion*, Yateley in January. The purpose was to plan our programme for 2024; and good progress was made with this. The Sunday lunch in February will be at *The Cricketers*, Cricket Hill. In March we will be meeting at the Board Game café in Yateley. I am very pleased to say that we have been able to start tackling our short waiting list and look forward to welcoming three new members in the next month or so.

JUDITH SHAW (0118 973 2724, 07508 724876,
email jmshaw17@hotmail.co.uk)



The next meeting of the Photography Group will be in the Gallery of the Tythings on Tuesday February 27th starting at 14.30 hrs.
The subject matter is: SKYLINES.

Contact: Philip Rowling 01252 870879
rowlingphilip@g.mail.com

Walking Together

WITH ANN CLEARY AND MIN GARDINER

On Thursday 11th January we had a chilly morning walk around Windsor Great Park led by Ann Cleary starting at the Bishopsgate Road entrance.

Unfortunately due to some new parking regulations on all road leading up to the Park, we were unable to leave our cars at the Fox & Hounds where we were due to have lunch as their car park was closed until 11.45, to deter non-diners and we parked a half-mile or so away.

Despite the cold wind we walked in bright sunshine enjoying great views of the castle and closer views of some stags.

On the walk we discovered some important Royal facts: The shop and post office may be open but don't rely on the toilet to be suitably accommodating

Short Walk Together

WITH CAROLE FOWLER

On a bright, sunny but cold day five of us met at Sandhurst Memorial Hall for a short stroll along the river Blackwater towards M&S to the point where the bridge is closed. It seems it has rotted, Berkshire and Hampshire are arguing over who is responsible so I can't see it being fixed any time soon .

We retraced our steps to the next bridge and crossed so we could walk back, diverting around the balancing pond and went for a well-deserved hot drink.

We did see an unusual duck whose name I can't remember, speak to Dave Turner for details. Sorry the photo is not so good. [Dave says that most likely it was a Goosander — *Thanks Phil*].

We will be meeting again at the Memorial Hall, Sandhurst on Thursday 22nd February at 10.00 a.m. for another short walk if anyone would like to join us.



GOOSANDER

These handsome diving ducks are a member of the sawbill family, named for their serrated bills, used for catching fish. A largely freshwater bird, the Goosander first bred in the UK in 1871. It built up numbers in Scotland and, since 1970 across the rest of the UK.

The Book Group

The Clockmaker's Daughter by Kate Morton is the February reading for the Book Club.

It's an historical novel told over many decades, with multiple characters.

The story revolves around Birchwood Manor, set on a bend on the River Thames and of its many occupants from 1850 to 2017.

I have to admit to having hubby and family problems and a slight health issue myself, that resulted in less reading this month. Thus, at the time of writing I have not finished the book.

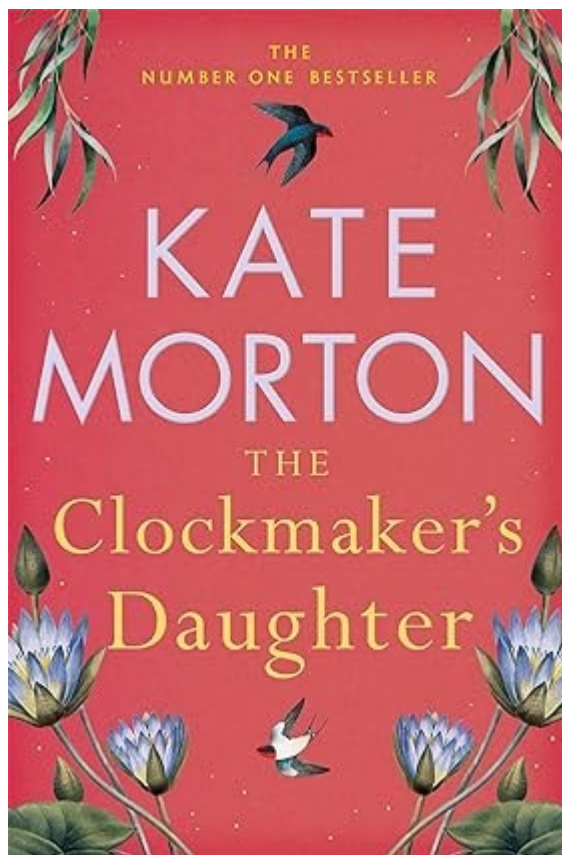
But so far, the story has revealed that a young archivist travels to the Manor House to attempt to uncover the truth about her own mother's tragic death. As she delves deeper, several small stories come to light all from different eras running throughout the life of the Manor, entwined within the actual story.

It was hard to keep track of the many characters woven into the story. I think there was even a ghost telling her bits but I'm not certain!

In the end, not really my cup of tea, as I am not keen on historical novels. But it might be your perfect beverage!

Our next meeting is on Thursday 22nd February at Chris Bowen's house. 2.00 pm.

WENDY DAUVEN
CHRIS BOWEN



PS. A little reminder to the book club ladies that the library membership fee is due this month. Thanks

On a Musical Note



Wednesday 2pm – 3.30pm 7th February 2024 Tythings

Wednesday 2pm – 3.30pm 21st February 2024 7 Sandhurst Lane

As previously mentioned, we are not a choir, we just sing for fun and health.

Along with DJ Graham, the Songsters will again be in action at The Gallery, Tythings, 2pm – 3.30pm the first Wednesday of each month.

Remember, you don't have to have a wonderful voice, just come, relax and sing along to Graham's playlist, chat with friends and enjoy the refreshments!

If you are free on the 7th FEBRUARY, it would be good to see you.

BARBARA

The Art Group

The Art Group meets at the Darby Green and Frogmore Social Hall on Mondays at 11am until 1pm. All BVu3a members are welcome to join us and enjoy a tad of creativity.

Contact: Martin Brooks 01252 871333 or
thebrooksies73@gmail.com

The Gardening Group

We had our first meeting in January but with very few of us.

We had a useful discussion on how we must go ahead with our plans. However, we really need a few more to make this a more viable venture.

If anyone else is interested, please let me know. We are proposing to meet late in February, please let me know if you have any particular dates.

CATHARINE AIREY

catharineairey@hotmail.co.uk

WANT TO JOIN A PICKLEBALL GROUP?

Last September Fleet u3a started a pickleball group. In the first term 26 members played on four badminton courts at Hart Leisure Centre. This term 39 members on six courts.

Fleet is big enough to support a group on its own but there are some members on a waiting list who cannot play at the selected time. Also, some would like to play more than once a week. Odiham u3a have a group that plays every two weeks, although some members would like to play more often.

Smaller u3as in the area might have a problem getting enough members together to support a group themselves. There are probably enough potential members around to start another group, although they may be spread over a number of u3as.

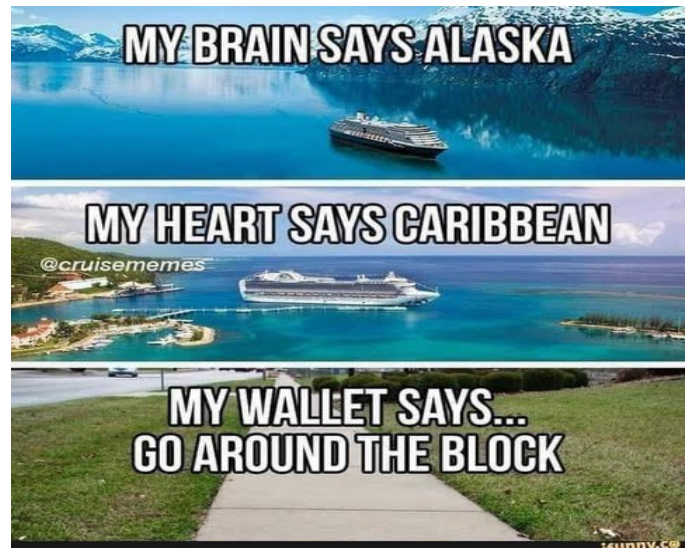
Financially, Fleet Group share the costs of the court hire, members purchasing their own paddles and balls without the support of Fleet u3a. A new multi-u3a group could set its own rules and handle its own finances, with the agreement of the various u3a committees.

It is hoped that a group leader for the new group could be found from within Fleet's existing group so some experience and continuity would be carried over.

If there is any interest in Blackwater Valley u3a, Fleet Group Leader David Claves would be very pleased to discuss the matter further. Typical costs are £50 - £60 per term depending on the number of weeks and paddles cost £30-£40 for a new player.

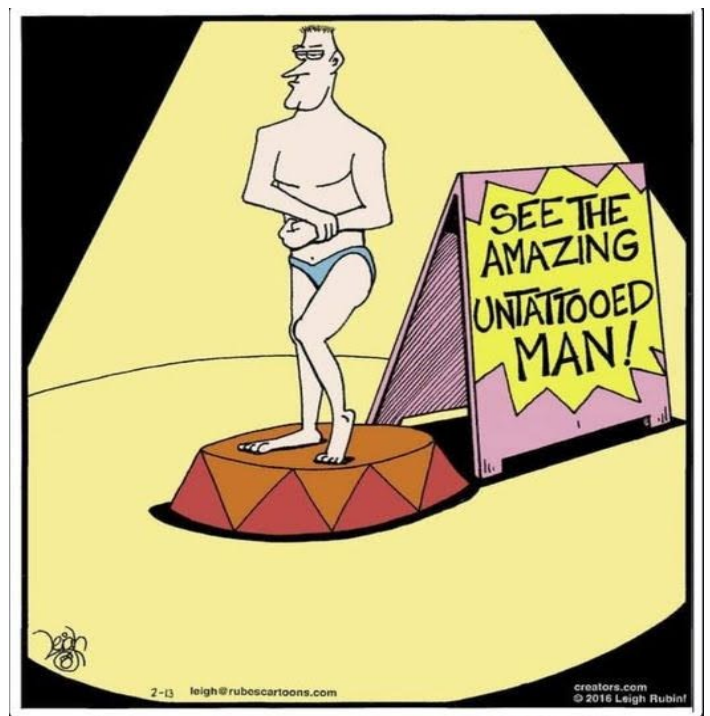
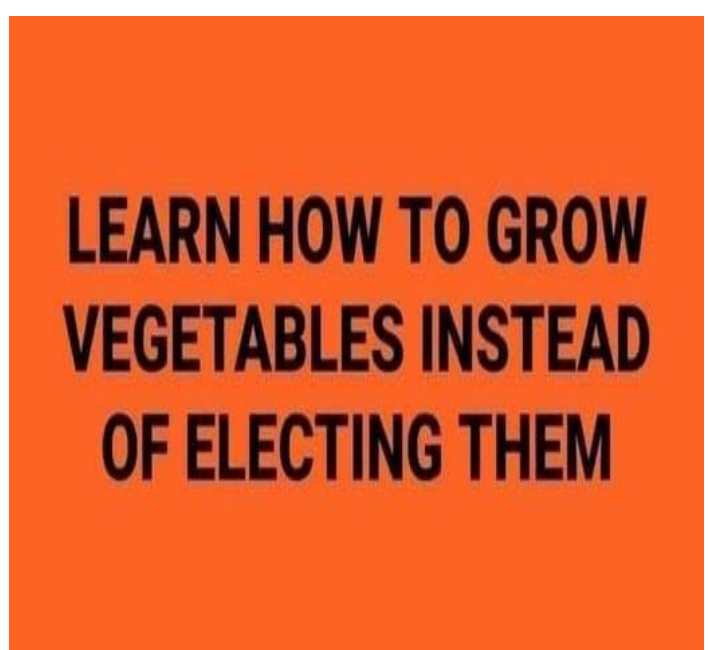
If interested contact David Claves dclaves@yahoo.co.uk

About time for some laughs



Our entire universe
is probably in a
tiny glass jar
somewhere, placed
on a shelf in an
alien child's room
as a science fair
project that got a
C-





How about a Quiz?

February has arrived so fast, let's hope it warms up at last

- 1) Who played the role of "Dirty Harry Calligan?
- 2) Teeth that are primarily used to tear food apart?
- 3) Which words are used to start a darts match?
- 4) Which US state is known as the "Sunshine State"?
- 5) Who is Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta?
- 6) Name Prince William and Kate's second child?
- 7) In music what is the opposite of "sharp"?
- 8) What name is given to trailing or climbing plants?
- 9) Who wrote "Beauty is truth, truth is Beauty"?
- 10) Who was the last Queen of France?
- 11) Who was the ancient Greek goddess of love?
- 12) Which chocolate bar used the slogan, "It's not for girls"?
- 13) "Haute Couture" means what?
- 14) Ralph, Piggy, and Jack are featured in what book?
- 15) Year Prince Harry was engaged to Megan Markle?

Questions by Grace Fall

'23 has now gone

Sorry, I didn't hear Big Ben's Gong.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1) How high is Mt Everest in feet? | 29,028 |
| 2) Sneazy, Doc, Grumpy, Happy, Bashful, Dopey. Who else? | Sleepy |
| 3) Identical twins have the same fingerprints? True or false? | False |
| 4) What is a loop of electrical conductors called? | An electrical circuit |
| 5) Where is the seat of government in the Netherlands? | The Hague |
| 6) What is Easter Island famous for? | Large stone figures |
| 7) What is the modern name for Tiddlywinks? | Pogs |
| 8) Who wrote the "Just So Stories"? | Rudyard Kipling |
| 9) What instrument did Chopin play? | Piano |
| 10) What is the capital of Pakistan? | Islamabad |
| 11) What is another name for a Puma? | Cougar |
| 12) Royal Navy sailors get a daily rum ration. True or false? | False |
| 13) Which of coal or oil is a fossil fuel? | Both |
| 14) How many players in a hockey team? | Eleven |
| 15) In which century was the Taj Mahal built? | Seventeenth |

Answers by Ellie Fant

More from Martin

Blackwater Valley u3a

The Art Group at our u3a
Meets on Mondays by the way
In order to create a masterpiece or two
With good company who's there too.
To enjoy each session is what we seek
When we roll up there every week.
The Songsters they gather on the first,
And, the third Wednesday, when they burst
Into song and joyful refrain –
At the Tythings and in Sandhurst Lane.
From small beginnings in twenty twenty,
Members now they're aplenty.
Photographers - they meet once a month
They've gone digital (what a bunch).
Their images now are shown on TV screen
Not small prints now, it would seem.
All are welcome to join the fray
And bring their pictures on the day.
The Walkers set off over hills and dales
For a good day out which never fails.
Keeping fit and enjoying the views,
Passing comments on local news.
Comparing notes on seasonal changes
That occur across our local Ranges.

7

MOTO is a monthly date
That members do appreciate.
They've all made pals amongst the group
Even visiting pubs (for a bowl of soup?!?)
A welcome break from the daily grind,
If you're alone, don't be left behind.
Various sports with summer bowling for you.
A Gardening group is being set up too,
A Book reading group with discussions to join,
Card games like Rummikub and Canasta are fine.
So why not come and see what suits you
We meet on the third Thursday monthly at quarter to

Just a Breath Away
Just at the corner of my eye
I catch a fleeting glimpse
Of you leaving the room
As you last left so many heartbeats ago
With just a precious memory remaining
Of what was but is no more.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Catharine Airy	07518745736	catharineairey@hotmail.co.uk
Barbara Brooks	01252 871333	Thebrooksies73@gmail.com
David Dickinson	01252 879056	Daviddickinson9@btinternet.com
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Carol Pascoe	01252 651872	capascoe@ntlworld.com
Sue Puxley	01276 513031	suepuxley@virginmedia.com
Philip Rowling	01252 870879	rowlingphilip@gmail.com
Meg Thomson	01276 33727	megtho@ntlworld.com

Group Meetings

Art

Meetings: Darby Green and Frogmore Social Hall
11:00 – 13:00 on Mondays
Group Leader: Martin Brooks 01252 871333
thebrooksies73@gmail.com

Books

Meetings: Private House at 14.00 on the last Thursday of the Month
Group Leader: Wendy Dauven 01276 513984
wendyandpaul53@gmail.com

Bowls (Summer)

Meeting: Hawley Bowls Club, Blackwater & Hawley Leisure Complex
10:30 to 12:00 every Wednesday between April and September
Group Leader: Dave Dickinson 01252 879056
daviddickinson9@btinternet.com

Canasta

Meeting: Private House
14:00 2nd and 4th Wednesdays
Group Leader: Clive Singer 07901568126
clive.singer1@gmail.com

Gardening

Meeting: Private House
t.b.a.
Group Leader: Catharine Airey 07518745736
catharineairey@hotmail.co.uk

MOTO A group for 'members on their own'.

Meetings: Arranged monthly times various
Group Leader: Judith Shaw 0118 9732724
jmshaw17@hotmail.com

Photography

Meetings: The Tythings, Yateley
14:30 on every 4th Tuesday of the month
Group Leader: Phil Rowling 01252 870879
rowingphilip@gmail.com

Rummikub

Meeting: Private House
To be arranged
Group Leader: Lyn Sado 01252 872221
sadlyn@ntlworld.com

Singing Group

Meetings: The Tythings Yateley
14:00 to 15:30 on the first Wednesdays of the month
Group Leader: Barbara Brooks 01252 871333
thebrooksies73@gmail.com

Various Sports

Table tennis, indoor curling, etc.
Meetings: Frogmore Leisure Centre
13:00 on Fridays
Group Leader: Val Green 07990 584571
greenvalley2043@gmail.com

Walking Together

A guided walk of about 5 miles
09.30 Meeting in the car park of Potley Hill Campus
Mornings Second Thursday of the month
Group Leaders: Min Gardiner 07450256948 xansamaz@aol.com
Rosemary White 01276 503813 romyandjohn@hotmail.com