



GUILDFORD AREA

# NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN ISSUE. No 40

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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Katie Butcher and I both attended the U3A National Conference and AGM last month to represent our Guildford Area U3A. Many matters were discussed but, in particular, a need to increase the capitation was debated. Capitation is the contribution that each U3A makes to the National Office to cover their expenses. After standing at £2.50 per capita for many years, it was agreed that this should be increased to £3.50, but not until April 2010. The delay would allow individual U3As time to adjust their own subscriptions. Rosemary Crow, our Treasurer, is currently reviewing whether any change in our subscription is necessary. She will report at the AGM on 24th November.

It was confirmed at the National Conference that the National Travel Group would be discontinued at the end of 2008 because it was preferable that individual U3As arrange their own travel programme in future. Many of you will already know that Mike Bakall, who has substantial experience in travel arrangements, has agreed to lead our Travel Group and has prepared an interesting schedule of trips (see his announcement overleaf). He is working with the Committee to ensure that any financial risks not covered by members' own travel insurance are fully covered.



**The Enrolment Day (1st September) was a great success with crowds of new and existing Members signing up for Groups throughout our list of over 100 topics. In the foreground, Jeanie Tripp enrolls newcomers to Computer Studies.**

It has been necessary this year to move a number of Groups from their traditional venues. Some of these changes have come about after the Prospectus was printed. In every case they have been forced upon us by factors beyond our control. I can only apologise if you have been confused or inconvenienced, and suggest that you telephone me or the Group Leader concerned should any further problems arise.

**David Quick.**

## FROM THE SECRETARY

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Guildford Area U3A will be held at St Joseph's Hall, Denmark Road, Guildford on Monday 24th November 2008 commencing at 2 pm. After the formal business, which will be kept as brief as possible, we will be privileged to be addressed by Mr Roger Nicholas. He will talk about Henry Peak, a well known Guildfordian in the latter half of the nineteenth century. He was surveyor and Mayor of Guildford from 1899/1900. At the end of the Meeting, light refreshments will be available as usual.

A formal Agenda for the Meeting is enclosed with this Newsletter.

### Your Officers and Committee 2008/09

In the absence of other nominations, your present Committee will be recommending that the following should be elected as Officers and Committee for the year 2008/09:-

Chairman – David Quick  
Vice-Chairman – Marcus Stonebridge  
Secretary – Mervyn Tremeer  
Treasurer – Rosemary Crow

### Committee Members

Mike Smith                      Katie Butcher  
Mike Markwick                Ann Watson  
Doreen Williamson         Gordon Pullen  
Joy Cheatle                     John Borwick  
Olive Wholey.  
Hon. Auditor – Tony Knapp

### U3A Diaries 2009

These are selling fast but I still have a few left and might be able to obtain more if this is necessary. Diaries cost £1.95 and are considered very good

value. Please contact me on 01483 568936 if you wish to purchase one. **Mervyn Tremeer.**

## GROUP NEWS

### A message from the Director of Studies

New U3A year - new groups, old groups, new friends, old friends, enjoyment, learning and involvement - just a few of the advantages of belonging to Guildford U3A.

### Enrolment Day

The 2008-9 year was launched with a busy enrolment day at St. Joseph's on 1st September. It is always a pleasure to watch our hard working Committee and Group leaders transform the hall with tables, chairs, notices and smiling faces into our very own enrolment venue. Members, old and new came flooding through the doors to sign up for their chosen courses.

### Group News

Reports from the new Groups are favourable, Pat Burroughs tells me that her first 'Painters and Painting' session went well and she is busy preparing for the next talk. The first of the new 'Ballet' group meetings was reported to me as 'Magical'. Well done to both Pats! The Programme Planning Committee met recently and the reports from the coordinators are that all is well and off to a cracking start, with many groups full to bursting.

### Monthly Meetings

We kicked off the Monthly Meeting programme for this year with a very interesting account of the building of the Thames Barrier by John Reeves. He was Chairman of the consortium of contractors who did the work.

Unfortunately Barry Newcombe, who was due to talk to us on 27th October has had to postpone and will come later in the year. However, Neville Lyons has kindly agreed to bring his talk forward from April, as



**Our monthly Meetings are always well attended. Here Members learn about the building of the Thames Barrier from John Reeves (29<sup>th</sup> September). Our President, Margot Clegg, is fourth from the left.**

published in the Prospectus. He will be telling us 'The Story of Joe Lyons' (see his synopsis below). I will let you know about any other changes.

This is the last year for which I am responsible for the Monthly Meeting programme. I hope you enjoy getting together in St. Joseph's hall on the last Mondays of each month and that everyone will find at least one talk of interest. Doreen Williamson will be taking over from September 2009 and I hope you will support her with your presence, ideas and contacts.

Enjoy your U3A Groups and, if you have any ideas for extra activities or new Groups you would like us to run, or would like to run yourself - please get in touch.  
**Ann Watson. Director of Studies.**

### The Story of Joe Lyons: Food for Thought

I was pleased to receive an invitation to give a Power-point Presentation to the Guildford U3A on 27th October (see Dates for your Diary). This will be a trip down memory lane for most people; memories of the many teashops, the Corner Houses and, of course, the Nippies! The illustrated presentation stretches from 1887 to 1998.

We shall see archival slides covering all the main activities throughout the history of the company. Expect some amusing anecdotes and surprises along the way. It happens that next year (2009) coincides with the centenary of the opening of the first Corner House in Coventry Street and the Strand Palace Hotel. **Neville Lyons.**

### Speakers needed

Anyone with suggestions for interesting speakers or topics for the 2009/2010 Monthly Meetings should contact Mrs. Doreen Williamson at 01483 422792, [dorpetewill@btinternet.com](mailto:dorpetewill@btinternet.com) or by writing to 22 Warren Road, Farncombe, GU7 3SH.

### Equipment for talks

This is just to remind Group Leaders that the Guildford Area U3A has available a wide range of projecting equipment for illustrating talks. We hold 2 laptops with PowerPoint, a DVD player, a VHS player for tapes, a 35mm slide projector and an overhead projector for acetates. There are loudspeakers and an amplifier for the sound on DVD or tape. These can also be used with a lapel microphone, which is useful for larger meetings. Learning how to use the equipment takes very little time and most Group Leaders that have adopted the technology have become independent very quickly.

The equipment stock is maintained and administered by Mike Smith (01483 567076). It is usual to book what is required a day or so before the presentation. It can be picked up from Mike's premises and should be returned on the day of the talk or very soon afterwards, as demand is growing. At present it is used by all the Science Groups, Opera, Ballet, Local History, Jazz and other one-off occasions. The Committee has agreed to purchase more

equipment if the need arises but for the moment everyone can be fitted in. If demand does exceed availability, then more can be added.

**Mike Smith, Group leader Science Forum.**

### **Science Forum happy with PowerPoint**

Gone is the clatter of slide carousels and the tussle with homemade overhead transparencies. The Science Forum presentations via PowerPoint are slick and beautifully illustrated. Thanks to the Internet, our presentations are well informed and topical. Presenters from the audience or from outside are folk with a message who enjoy assembling information (and/or like the sound of their own voices!). The Group membership has steadily climbed and we now have 76 members for 2008-9. In practice, the audience averages 45 as U3A members lead busy lives. Subjects have ranged from antibiotics to global warming, from astronomy to the life cycle of the Scottish midge! It is heartening to see that retired folk find life so interesting.

**Mike Moore.**

### **Bridge Beginners**

Please note this Group meets at the Riverside Centre 1.30–3.30 pm (not 10-12 as stated in the Prospectus). Anyone interested in joining this Group will be most welcome. Contact Reg Wholley: 01483 823733.

N.B. Reg would also like to hear from the member who borrowed his set of "AutoBridge".

### **Travel Group**

The Group has got off to a good start, with a small party to Burgundy in May. A taxi was provided from Guildford to St Pancras. A handful of Guildford and District members joined the National Travel Party to Paris, and more will be going to Glasgow in September, Rhodes in October, Madeira in December and Morocco in January. Mike regrets that these are all now closed to new bookings.

Future plans are aimed more specifically at Guildford members and some appear to be very popular. We have 15 firm bookings for our Midlands Houses and Gardens visit in July, nine for a more sophisticated visit to India in late February and a handful interested in Oberammergau in the summer of 2010. For a copy of the current programme, ring Mike Bakall on 424945 (answer-phone available).

### **Social Anthropology Outings**

Two outings are scheduled as follows:-

**SOUTHALL,** Friday, 7th November, 2008 leaving Sutherland Park, Burpham at 9.45 am. Return 5.00 pm. Cost £11.00.

Includes a visit to the Gurwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, the largest Sikh Temple in the UK. The visit will take about an hour with a talk and conducted tour, followed by light refreshments. There is a strict protocol to be advised.

There will then be the opportunity to explore the

## **U3A JAZZ CONCERT**

**MONDAY 15 DECEMBER, 2008**

The Jazz Group are holding their Christmas Concert at Shalford Village Hall on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2.00-4.00. This year the internationally renowned pianist-arranger Keith Nichols' all-star Hot Five will be playing for us. The band features the fine cornet player Andy Woon and the dynamic young clarinettist James Evans. Please join us for an entertaining afternoon of first class jazz. For tickets please send a cheque for £7.00 per person, made payable to U3A Guildford Area, along with an SAE, to Tim Downing, Hollywell, Ferndown Close, Guildford, GU1 2DN. (Telephone 01483 856856.)

exotic shopping area, not forgetting the food. We will choose the Sri Lankan Restaurant, Palm Palace. Let me know if you wish to join us.

**SPITALFIELDS,** Sunday, 14th December, 2008 leaving Sutherland Park, Burpham at 9.30 am. Return 5.00 pm. Cost £10.00 (for the third year in succession).

See the restored Huguenot houses and Christ Church. Stroll around the Christmas decked Spitalfields market. Trip down Petticoat Lane. Saunter down Brick Lane and select your favourite eating experience. I will again lead an optional (free) walk of about 45 minutes.

Please send a cheque for £11.00 (Southall) and/or £10.00 (Spitalfields) per person made out to U3A Guildford Area with SAE to Sheila Darzi, 160 Dorking Road, Chilworth, Guildford, GU3 8RL. (Telephone: 01483 575 697).

### **Bridge to improvement**

As a new member of Guildford Area U3A in 2007, I enjoyed looking through the Prospectus and its splendid range of Group topics. What especially caught my eye was the range of Groups devoted to the game of Bridge. I was first introduced to Bridge a couple of years earlier and soon discovered that you perform well only if you apply a systematic method of playing your cards.

I also understood that "Proper Bridge" involved playing in a room full of strangers, and at a speed which left no time to look at notes or ask for advice. Could the U3A Groups really help me cross the great divide to the sunny uplands of playing "proper Bridge"?

What marked out all these Groups was the great friendliness of the players, and the unstinting help and advice from the tutors. I know I have definitely moved upwards in my level of understanding of this stimulating game, and would recommend others to try it.

**Vaughan Williams.**

### **Fun at Sociology**

Sociology, according to the Concise Oxford English Dictionary, is "the study of the development, structure and functioning of human society. The

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Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY, 2009

study of social problems". Shalford Village Hall witnesses all this on the first Monday each month.

Tutored by June Loewenstein, this very enthusiastic Group explores the vagaries of our wonderful world. The subjects June covers are all close to our hearts . Drugs and Addictions, Violence, Prisons and the Probation Service, Family, Teenagers, Marriage, Divorce and Civil Partnerships, Disability, Gambling, Retirement, Universities, Racism, Public Health and the Countryside - to name just a few.

On occasions, outside Professionals give talks. The speakers have included a Police Officer on 'Drugs in Education', the Imam from Woking Mosque giving an insight into the Muslim Religion, and the Manager of the Probation Service in Guildford told us of the background and current operation in our community. But 'Sociology' at Shalford isn't all about lectures and facts. The latter half of the session is when we

all split into 'discussion groups' hoping to solve the problems of the day; everyone argueing their corner. Whatever the outcome, one thing is sure, this enthusiastic, stimulating afternoon is FUN.

**Stephanie Hibberd.**

#### **Guildford U3A website**

Members may like to be reminded of our very own website. It shows the full programme of Courses and Groups, the objectives of the U3A, a diary of Meetings and how to join. In addition, it reprints this Newsletter with photographs in full colour.

Our Webmaster is Colin Callegari (Telephone: 01483 569490). and the website is located at [www.guildfordu3a.org.uk](http://www.guildfordu3a.org.uk).

**The Editor.**

#### **Music Groups website**

Hello folks. I thought you might be interested in the new Wiki website specially for U3A Music Groups. I think it is a handsome looking website (95% the work of Tom Holloway of U3A Signpost and 5% me). It should help to spread the words U3A and Music, and may encourage more people to venture into the fascinating world of the Internet. It can be accessed in the UK simply by entering "U3AMusicgroups" in Google and then you can select Books, Films, Youtube, etc. The Book entries include my own "Questions of Music" which is full of ideas for anyone putting together talks on music. It sells at £12.50 but I can send it to U3A members at £11.00 including postage.

**Norman Edwards.**

#### **What a performance!**

Intrigued by the paragraph above from Norman Edwards, I clicked into the Youtube link on this new

website and spent the next hour or so completely hooked. I thrilled to beautiful singing by much-loved voices from the past like Deanna Durbin, Conchita Supervia and many others. I could select clips from numerous films dating back to the 1930s - seen by me on video for the first time – though I vaguely remember seeing some of the original films many years ago. There was also a veritable Aladdin's Cave of performances by famous pianists, conductors, etc. - right up to the latest releases. Of course there are links to help you purchase the videos themselves. In any case, I can see myself tuning into this website many more times in future.

It should be particularly helpful to our own Music Group Leaders as an aid to building and presenting their programmes to Members.

**The Editor.**

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

#### **2008**

##### **Monday, 24 November**

Annual General Meeting, St Joseph's Hall, 2.00

##### **Monday, 15 December**

Christmas Jazz Concert, Shalford Village Hall 2.00-4.00. (see separate Notice)

#### **2009**

##### **Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> January**

Annual Lecture "Nutrition and Healthy Ageing", Austin Pearce Building, University of Surrey (see attached Booking Form)

#### **MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMME**

(The Monthly Meetings are held at St Joseph's Hall, normally at 2 pm on the last Monday of the month, unless public holidays.)

#### **2008**

##### **27 October**

Food for Thought – the story of Joe Lyons  
Neville Lyons

#### **2009**

##### **26 January**

The Cold War, V-Force and the Nuclear Deterrent  
Bill Turnill

##### **23 February**

Medical Matters

Dr. Mike Smith

##### **30 March**

Modern Russia – a look behind the politics  
Speaker to be announced

##### **25 May**

Bank Holiday – no meeting

All members are most welcome.  
**BRING ALONG A GUEST OR TWO.**