



## GUILDFORD AREA

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### NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2009

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#### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This is the last contribution I will be making to the newsletter from the position of chairman as I have decided to stand down as from the AGM on 30th November. I will have completed nearly 5 years in post and feel it is time that a new chairman with fresh energy, enthusiasm and ideas took over.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members for allowing me to do a job that I have thoroughly enjoyed and in particular I would like to thank most heartily my fellow officers and committee members for all the support they have so willingly given me. Lastly can I encourage you to all come along to the AGM and show your support for the new chairman.

*David Quick*

#### From the Secretary, Mervyn Tremeer

The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General meeting of the Guildford Area U3A will be held at **St Joseph's Hall, Denmark Road, Guildford on Monday 30 November 2009 commencing at 2pm.**

After the formal business, which will be kept as brief as possible, we will be privileged to be addressed by Mr Gordon Bridger, retired economist, who has been Mayor, Chairman of Guildford Society, Councillor and conservationist. At the end of the meeting light refreshments will be available as usual.

A formal agenda for the meeting is attached with this newsletter.

#### Your officers and committee 2009/10

In the absence of other nominations your present committee will be recommending that the following should be elected as officers and committee members for the year 2009/10:

Chairman – Ann Watson  
Vice-Chairman – Mike Markwick  
Secretary – Mervyn Tremeer  
Treasurer – Rosemary Crow

#### Committee members:

Mike Smith  
Helena Greig  
Doreen Williamson  
Irene Black  
Olive Wholey

Katie Butcher  
Caroline Sawers  
Sybil Jubb  
Wendy Callegari

Hon Auditor – Tony Knapp

#### A message from the Director of Studies

Welcome to Guildford U3A 2009 -2010 - remember when 1984 seemed to be way in the future? Some new groups, lots of 'old' groups, new friends, old friends, enjoyment, learning and involvement – all advantages of belonging to the U3A launched for another year.

We had a busy enrolment day at St. Joseph's on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. It is always a pleasure to watch the transformation of the hall with tables, chairs, notices and happy faces into our own venue ready for members, old and new, to come flooding through the doors to sign up for their chosen courses. Thanks to our hardworking committee and group leaders it was a very pleasant and friendly occasion.

Reports from the new groups are favourable. We have a couple of extra courses which were arranged too late for the publication of the prospectus, these are Economics which takes place on alternate Mondays at Burpham Village Hall and an introduction to Outdoor Bowling which will start next Spring. There are still some places available, if you are interested let me know and I will put you in touch with the group leaders'

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.

The Monthly Meeting programme for this year began on 28<sup>th</sup> September with a fascinating account by James Hetherington of his experience of sailing around the world as part of the crew of a yacht taking part in 'Global Challenge 2006' scary stuff and not for the faint hearted!

Just a reminder - these meetings take place on the last Monday of the month 2pm in St. Joseph's Church Hall, details in the front of your prospectus.

Don't forget to check our website <http://www.guildfordu3a.org.uk/> Colin updates it regularly and posts information which is of value and interest to us all.

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.

Best wishes  
Ann (Director of Studies)



A ten-minute sketch of Bayeux Cathedral, by Jane Olds

## THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009

At the beginning of September representing Guildford U3A I attended the U3A National Conference and AGM at Herriot Watt University in Edinburgh and incidentally I also represented Milford U3A who had asked me to act as their proxy.

There were 2 resolutions put up for consideration at the AGM. The first asked the National Executive Council to reconsider its own membership. Presently the NEC has 12 members representing the 12 regions into which the U3A divides the country. Uncontentious you might think but the South East Region alone, in which we are situated, has 135 out of a total nationally of 651 U3As and an aggregate membership of 44,245 out of a total of 187,042 members. It was argued that the SE warranted greater representation than some of the smaller regions. The resolution was carried on a vote and we must now wait to see what action the NEC propose in consequence.

The second resolution up for discussion was tabled by the NEC itself and proposed that the constitution be altered so that the Conference and the AGM need

not be held together. This was also carried by a majority. The purpose of this resolution became clear later when it was announced that there was an intention not to hold a conference in 2010.

*David Quick.*

## STUDY DAY AT St JOHNS, MERROW **CORRECTION**

This study day is on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010, not Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May as published in the prospectus.

### A U3A Surrey Network Study Day

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am – 4 pm  
The Menuhin Hall, Stoke D'Abernon  
**From Mechanical Music to  
Mechanical Television**  
Ken Tythacott & Jon Weller

Cost: £10 including coffee/tea and biscuits.  
Bring your own packed lunch. Booking is necessary and forms should be available at the Monthly Meetings, and sent to Sheila Hill, 21 Yarm Court Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22, 8NY Tel: 01372 372165  
[sheilahill@hotmail.com](mailto:sheilahill@hotmail.com)

## ANNUAL LECTURE 2010

This will take place at 1.30 pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2010, 1.30 for 2 pm at the School of Management, University of Surrey. This is close to the usual lecture theatre. The speaker will be Dr Alex McMinn, JP, MBE, FRSM, consultant in International Medical Education at the UN, and the subject "Active Retirement for Healthier Ageing".

This is a free lecture, but it is necessary to book. Please complete and cut out the slip below and send, by 14<sup>th</sup> December with an SAE, to Katy Butcher, 8 Newlands, Buckingham Close, Guildford, GU1 1TR

### Annual Lecture, 2010

Name.....

Address.....

Tel No.....

**The SAE is for your free Parking Permit,  
which must be displayed otherwise a fine  
will be issued.**

## GROUP NEWS

### SPRING 2010 – OUTDOOR BOWLING

Still some spaces available !

A brand-new U3A course at Astolat Bowling Club, Stoke Park, Guildford  
Monday afternoons in April and May 2010

Bowls is a game that can be played and enjoyed by people of all ages and provides a reasonable amount of exercise and relies on hand/eye co-ordination rather than strength.

Includes an introduction to bowls, the principles of the game, explanation of rules and etiquette, followed by practical coaching on the bowling green.

Astolat Bowling Club will provide all equipment required. You just bring shoes with flat soles/heels. Yes, it is free !  
Contact *Alan* 01483 82707

### WANTED Mah-Jong Maestro

Is there anyone in Guildford U3A interested in starting a Mah-Jong group?

Mah-Jong is a charming, late nineteenth century, Chinese game played with engraved tiles that has become very popular with U3A groups throughout the country.

A U3A member in Peterborough started a U3A Mah-Jong group there two years ago. Because he had some previous knowledge of the game, he was asked to teach the others how to play. This led him to produce a web site which, besides explaining the rules, gives a gentle introduction to the game - suitable for someone who is not familiar with it.

The web site [www.mahjongbritishrules.com](http://www.mahjongbritishrules.com) also contains lots of other information about Mah-Jong: where to get Mah-Jong sets, a list of U3A clubs, and web sites you can visit.

Guildford U3A will help you set this up, including buying equipment.  
Contact *Vaughan* 01483 303295

### RECORDED MUSIC GROUP

This group is one of the oldest in the prospectus. Some of you may well remember when it was started by Arthur Hoare over 20 years ago. Over the last couple of seasons the group has been losing membership and is in danger of becoming too small to be viable. Marcus Stonebridge who has been leading the group most ably for a considerable time and now feels he needs to retire at the end of the present season. It would be a great pity if after giving so much pleasure for so long if the group had to wound up so we need a member who is willing to take its leadership on. Anyone interested please let me know.  
*David Quick*

### ANOTHER BRUSH WITH SHAKESPEARE

20 years ago, Bruce Andrews, a journalist newly-arrived from South Africa, discovered Guildford U3A. Sadly, he had to wait to join; he was still employed. When at last he did retire, the course he wanted was full. This was the very popular "Brush up your Shakespeare" run by the extraordinary Margot Clegg. Bruce had heard about this course when he moved to Guildford. He had heard how people who had never before even thought of Shakespeare were now buying the plays and talking excitedly of seeing them in London at the new Globe theatre. Well, either by bullying or by guile, Bruce got onto the course and loved it. He found Margot a stimulating and knowledgeable teacher and found himself not only reading the popular comedies and tragedies but also the lesser-known last plays such as "The Winter's Tale" and "Cymbeline".

Time passes. Margot became ill and the class folded. And Bruce, well, he died. But I, his wife, remember his enthusiasm and thought I would like to start another Shakespeare class and give members the opportunity to look again at the work of our greatest playwright. And so I have but it is with great trepidation. I know I have a great deal to live up to. Margot was an inspired teacher. I am playing safe. No difficult plays for me. I am starting with the tragedies, strong stories with lots of blood and drama. Please wish me luck. *Shirley Andrews*

### CHAMBER MUSIC GROUP

This new group got off to a good start with nearly 40 members and it is hoped that they will continue to enjoy the monthly concerts of music from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. At the first meeting we listened to a wide variety of instrumental works from piano, violin and guitar, voice, clarinet trio and a string quartet.

### CONCERT VISITS

The first U3A visit to the Proms took place in August. Members enjoyed the special Prom atmosphere and music by Tchaikovsky including a Piano Fantasia with Stephen Hough and the Rococo Variations for cello with Steven Isserlis. We hope to have another visit in 2010.

The autumn series of concerts are well booked but members can still go on a waiting list for any concert as there are often last minute cancellations. The Spring concert programme is enclosed with this circulation.  
*Iris Hawkins*

### VIRTUAL U3A (vU3A)

The vU3A is an online learning community of older people meeting only on the Internet who adhere as far as is possible to the principles of participative

learning which has always been a characteristic of the U3A.

The vU3A does not aim to provide formal courses and so members are encouraged to form their own learning groups, choose their own topics and share much of the teaching/learning in a collaborative way. An important target group for vU3A includes older people who are isolated – geographically, through illness or perhaps because of personal commitments (carers, for example). They do however need basic computer skills.

More information is available at <http://vu3a.org> including an online application form for membership.

## TRAVEL GROUP

We have an ambitious programme of outings planned for 2010. These range from low cost coach visits to Devon and to Normandy, to more ambitious (and more expensive) visits to France. An in depth study of the “Wines of Western France” taking 12 days to reach Bordeaux and return, and a River Cruise along the Rhone Valley sampling good food and wines with a stop-over in Paris on the way home.

Problem: Coach tours have to raise significant numbers to complement their low prices, so please book early or I shall have to cancel them. Phone me on 01483 424945 for more information and application forms. *Mike Bakall*

## COMPUTER LEARNING

Age Concern offer friendly individual tuition AT YOUR OWN PACE on basic Computer skills for absolute beginners. Also help in training & advice for the more advanced, in which one may bring and use their own laptop. This service is free although donations are welcomed. Now come along and master the Internet and Email. No booking necessary - call anytime between 9.30-11.30am Monday to Friday at Riverside Cafe Friary Passage. Our friendly staff await you so don't be shy. U3A does not cater for IT tuition.

*Reg Wholey*

## Visit to Charles Darwin's Home and Garden

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November

There are a few places left for this trip. The visit to Darwin's house will be followed by a tour of Lullingstone Roman Villa. Cost £28, including lunch. If interested please send an SAE to Katie Butcher, 8Newlands, Buckingham Close, Guildford GU1 1TR who will confirm the booking and the receipt of the cheque.



The pond at Shalford by Juliet Renny

## COME AND SING!

### VIVALDI'S 'GLORIA' A SINGING DAY WITH U3A

The Guildford U3A Singing Group will host a workshop on Monday 9 November 2009, at Emmanuel Church, Stoughton, Guildford. All are welcome to sing, or to listen to the afternoon performance of Gloria in D by Vivaldi.

The Workshop will be led by Marion Arbuckle, with organist John Belcher, at Emmanuel Church, 1 Shepherd's Lane, Stoughton 10.45 am – 3.15 (Performance at 3.30 pm)

Bring a packed lunch - drinks provided

Charge for Guildford U3A members £2.50 (Non-members £5) You may hire a copy of Gloria in D by Vivaldi. Please book in advance, before 24th October. Application form from: Mrs Caroline Sawers, 8 Avonmore Avenue, Guildford GU1 2NB 01483 56

## HOW TO SPEAK 8 LANGUAGES

Our own **Jeffery Church**, Co-ordinator of the language groups, explains how you, too, can speak 8 languages!

***Quot linguas cales tot homines vales*** - A Personal Memorandum

People often ask me how many languages I speak and, when I tell them that I have paper qualifications in eight (including English), ask me how I do it and - don't I mix them up?

The answer is that honestly I don't know. I'm a qualified banker, I'm not a teacher and I'm a native English speaker.

Having given the matter a little thought, I have concocted some probably very unprofessional theories.

I don't play a musical instrument but I do enjoy a lot of music and can sing in tune because someone who heard me singing in church once invited me to join the choir. Now, my theory is that, if you can achieve good pronunciation you are less likely to wander off into the "different tune" of another language. That is why, in my U3A classes, I have always insisted on the importance of good pronunciation from the very beginning.

But this isn't the whole story. From a very tender age I was fascinated by the distinctive accents of family members who lived in different parts of the UK, such as Plymouth, London and Hastings. During the War we lived in Launceston (locally "Lanson"), Cornwall, where people could even tell from their accents which villages people were from. Imagine then the shock when my father, a shipwright, was transferred to H M Dockyard Rosyth in Scotland. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

My first contact with foreign languages was at secondary school in Launceston, where they taught Spanish, French and Latin (no opting out in those days) There I took my Oxford School Certificate, achieving "Matriculation" but, in Scotland, to get to university I had to do my Higher. My cousins had all done German and I insisted on taking the opportunity to do Humanities with Maths, which I enjoyed, against my Scottish teachers' recommendations to do Science on the basis of my performance in the School Cert results. If I had taken their advice, my life would have been a lot less interesting! – Maybe 40 years as a doctor somewhere in Scotland.

So, having achieved a place in the Scottish Universities' Bursary Competition Merit list, doing English French and German, I felt I had arrived!!

However I soon felt that languages by themselves lead only to teaching, translating or interpreting. I ended up combining a B.Com with my MA in the course of which I revived my Spanish (my only 1<sup>st</sup> Class Cert. at Edinburgh) and took Higher Italian as an extra.

At this point, in 1953, friends were talking about the National Service Russian Course, which seemed much more interesting than square bashing and weapons training and, after a very intensive 9 months' course with fascinating Polish, Finnish and Russian teachers, I eventually passed Advanced level Russian and qualified as a Services Translator.

So, at 24, I had tasted Spanish, French, Latin, German, Italian and Russian, which with English

make seven. I had a business administration degree and enjoyed maths.

Thus, considering the options, I thought it would be a good idea to become a trainee in foreign commercial banking in the old Bank of London & South America (BOLSA)

Over the years I passed my Bankers Institute exams, also getting on the merit list, learnt Portuguese and became an Institute of Linguists certified translator in French, Spanish and Portuguese in addition to my naval Russian.

My Spanish-speaking Argentine wife has coped wonderfully with living and bringing up a family in Paraguay, Portugal, Brazil and UK. Our two elder children are trilingual, the younger two bilingual. I speak to them in English and they went to British schools where we were posted; my wife speaks to them in Spanish.

We have two grandchildren in Spain who are trilingual (Spanish, English and Esker) and three in the UK who are studying Spanish at school and practise when we all get together in the summer on the Costa Brava. In conversation we have to keep apologising to those who are left out because they are monolingual in English or Spanish.

Every language being the key to a culture, it has been a fascinating life, wonderful to be able to chat to the locals in so many countries.

Jeffery Church, MA, Boom, ACIB, MCIL  
U3A Guildford Languages Coordinator

## **NEW CINEMA CLUB IN GUILDFORD**

Many members will welcome this initiative from Mark Gudgin. Screenings will take place at Guildford Institute on Wednesday evenings at 8 pm, preceded by dinner at 7 pm if required. The first performances were sold out. Coming up is "Che: Part 2" on 11.11 followed by (this year) Pan's Labyrinth, Persepolis, and Vagabond £5 for film only, £8 including food. For further details, more information and booking you have to get on Mark's mailing list. E-mail him at [mark\\_gudgin@btinternet.com](mailto:mark_gudgin@btinternet.com) Tickets are reserved On a first come first served basis and it is proving very popular, so act quickly if you are interested.

## **OPERA , BALLET AND THE NATIONAL THEATRE LOCALLY**

On the subject of cinemas, I wonder if all our members are aware of the excellent films of live performances of Opera and Ballet, usually from Covent Garden, The Royal Opera House or the Met, New York, shown at selected Odeon's – Guildford being one of them. The National Theatre has now decided to do the same, and recently it was possible to see "Phédra", and "Ails Well That Ends Well".

Next year they will be showing "Nation" by Terry Pratchett 30/1, and "The Habit of Art" by Alan Bennett 22/4. Operas coming up this year include Falstaff 20/11, and next year Don Carlo 18/1, La Bohème 8/3, and L'elisir d'amore 26/4, and ballets include La Bayadère 2/11, The Nutcracker 13/11 this year, and next year Mayerling 22.2 and The Tsarina's Slippers 24/5. All these performances are for one night only. We really are lucky to have the opportunity to see these world class performances – without having to go to London (or New York). Contact The Odeon for more information – it might be easier to go there rather than tackle their phone service – up until now the publicity for these events has been poor, but now they have produced a leaflet.

### FRENCH CINEMA ENTHUSIASTS

French Films which have been screened at The Onslow Arms in West Clendon, (together with an excellent dinner) have been popular with our member in the past. We have just received a notice that these films now have a new venue: Gate Street Barn in Bramley. They will be showing 4 vintage films (with English subtitles) this Autumn, also on a Wednesday evening. The first is "Diva" on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Food is available if required. For more information:

Tel: 01483 894 362  
Fax: 01483 892 637  
www.gatestreetbarn.com  
info@gatestreetbarn.com

### COMMUNICATION BY E-MAIL

Between issues of the Newsletter it is difficult to communicate with members so where we can we have started sending emails to alert you about events and developments. However, it is very evident that many members have not told the membership secretary that they now have an email address or that it has changed. If you have not been receiving "U3A Alerts" please send an email to [membership@GuildfordU3A.org.uk](mailto:membership@GuildfordU3A.org.uk) putting your name in the subject line and your address in the body of the email.

### TIPS FROM MEMBERS

You are reminded that you can catch the bus from Woking to Heathrow, and back again, for free with your bus pass. Ditto, the 515 bus from Guildford to Kingston is very useful.

Member John Lewington called in a computer expert who not only solved a particular problem, but tidied up the computer, getting rid of temporary files which slow everything down and on the way changing his anti viral software, which apparently wasn't right for his set-up. John is really delighted – his computer works like a dream, and he says it was £40 well

spent. For the information of others, this wizard can be contacted at [sghservices@dial.pipex.com](mailto:sghservices@dial.pipex.com)

If you have any useful tips, please send them to the editor for the next newsletter.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Details in the newsletter

9<sup>th</sup> Nov: Singing Group, Vivaldi's Gloria  
20<sup>th</sup> Nov: Surrey network Study Day  
26<sup>th</sup> Nov: Visit to Darwin's House  
30<sup>th</sup> Nov: AGM

8<sup>th</sup> January: Annual Lecture  
18<sup>th</sup> Jan: Tour of the Bank of England  
15<sup>th</sup> January: Group Leaders Meeting  
10 am Burpham Village Hall  
24<sup>th</sup> Feb: Dulwich Picture Gallery  
17<sup>th</sup> Mar: Tour of Wellcome collection  
14<sup>th</sup> April: Tour of Museum of Garden History

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

St Josephs Hall, 2 – 3 pm

25<sup>th</sup> Jan: A review of the Crimean War  
*David Williams*

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb: Butcher Extraordinaire  
*Keith Weston*

29<sup>th</sup> Mar: Edwina Countess  
Mountbatten of Burma  
*Douglas James*

26<sup>th</sup> April Sweet Chestnuts – A Walk  
in the Park *Chris Howkins*

31<sup>st</sup> May: Bank Holiday – no meeting

### Note from the Editor

I was trawling around the web-sites of other U3A groups in the country to see how we differ. There is no room in this newsletter for this research, except I would like to mention that Edinburgh U3A has a twice yearly newsletter which runs to 19 pages. They are full of contributions from members: pictures, photographs, poems, jokes etc. So how about it Guildford U3A, how about groups getting together to produce something for a newsletter – stories poems, puzzles, clarihews - what you will? How about some photographs for the photography group – or anyone else, and line drawings from the art groups? Many thanks to Jane Olds and Juliet Renny for producing some pictures to liven up this newsletter.

**COPY DATE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER, MONDAY  
FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>**