

u3a Knole

learn laugh live



Chairman's message

First of all, a very big thank you to all of you who came to the AGM. I know it's not the most exciting meeting in the Knole calendar but we really appreciate the support and it was a good turnout.

At the AGM I gave a demonstration on our new Facebook page which is now up and running. I know Facebook isn't for everyone but it is a great way of letting people know all about u3a, the varied activities that we do and what a lot of fun we have. Do remember to keep taking photos of all your activities and send them to me so that I can continue to update the page with interesting posts and if you haven't seen us yet then please search Knole u3a on Facebook and give us a 'like'!

The committee is looking ahead to September and we are already beginning to plan the Open Afternoon on Monday 22nd September which happens to coincide with u3a week, so put that date in your diary. We would like to have an even more all singing, all dancing Open Afternoon so prospective new members can see what is available and how much they could benefit from joining Knole. We always have a good turnout and wonderful displays but talk about it in your groups and start thinking about what you could do to contribute towards the success of the afternoon.

Debbie Magness

Membership Renewals

At the AGM Jean Zariffis gave a demonstration on how to renew your membership online. This is our preferred method as it is all automatic and saves an awful lot of administrative work for all involved. At the time of writing, 310 out of 505 members have renewed their membership and out of that 310, 276 members have renewed online so thank you to all of those. However, we still have 195 members who haven't yet renewed. Please renew your membership as soon as possible as it saves time in having to send out reminders. If you are having trouble renewing your membership then Jean is very willing to help you so email her at beacon@knoleu3a.org.uk

Most members manage to renew without a problem but I know for some it may seem a little complicated and I know many don't like PayPal, however we didn't devise the system, it is recommended by the Third Age Trust and we have to work with it.

For the very few who cannot renew online for any reason, if you pay by BACS or cheque then please remember that it is very important that you download a renewal form and send it to Jenny, our membership Secretary [address is on the form]. We can then check your details are correct and you can tell us about your Gift Aid status. This is done automatically when renewing online.

If you do not wish to renew your membership for any reason, then please let us know so that we can resign your membership. If you don't do this then you will be listed as 'lapsed' and we will be chasing you for renewal.

FILM GROUP 1

We meet monthly to discuss the current month's film. During the summer recess each group member suggests films then we vote to choose the 10 films we'll view during the year. This process gives us the opportunity to view films we might otherwise not have seen.

Our chosen films are varied: historical, humourous, feelgood, drama etc We don't shy away from controversial issues. Foreign films are included and most films have been award winners, including: The Kite Runner, Grand Budapest Hotel, Zone of Interest, The Full Monty



Parasite, The Lives of Others, I, Daniel Blake, Tea with Mussolini

Our discussions are led by the person who initially suggested the film and are interesting and lively, sometimes calling on members' experiences.

There are usually differing views on the merits of the film but everyone has the opportunity to give their opinion. Consideration is also given to the director's techniques to set the atmosphere of the film.

We all agree on the good quality of our coffee, tea and biscuits!

Sue Hurst

London Studies 2 enjoyed a fabulous day out around the Blue Plaques of Mayfair and Shepherd's Market. Our tour guide was 'one of our own' and he provided an interesting and informative walk around the less travelled paths and buildings, telling us many unknown facts about past residents.

We started with coffee and ended with lunch and were blessed with a day of beautiful sunshine.

Lesley Tibbitts





Knitting & Crafts for Charity

Our group have been “busy as bees” knitting and sewing bees after a request from Sevenoaks Town Council to craft groups in the area. Sevenoaks is a finalist this year in Britain in Bloom and the bees are to be used in floral decorations around the Vine and other areas of the town this summer.

We hope the bees enhance the many floral displays around the town and Sevenoaks has a good chance of being a winner this year! As a group we enjoy taking on projects for charity whilst having a chat and cup of tea!

Linda Kyte

July sees the end of The Big Knit. This campaign is to raise funds for Age UK.

Volunteers make hats for Innocent smoothie bottles.

Our Group submitted this little collection

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New members are always welcome. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. For further details contact Maggie on 07932 014792

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knittingforcharity@knoleu3a.org.uk



MOT3

I can't believe another two months have passed already!

In May our visit to Scotney Castle was not quite as expected because there was no one to lead a guided tour. However we enjoyed walking around the garden which was looking very colourful and enjoyed a lunch there.

Our visit to Sissinghurst did go to plan and we enjoyed the garden and the Vita Sackville West exhibition which encouraged me to buy some of her books because I had never read anything written by her.

In June we went to The Stag to see The Salt Path about which our opinions varied. Our visit to The Forget-me-Not Cafe at Bat and Ball was a surprise craft experience which I think most participants enjoyed and we went to The Beefeater and onto The Oast theatre to see Visitors - a very well acted performance.

On July 7th we are going to Miller and Carter for a steak and cocktail special and visiting Hall Place on 22nd for a guided tour.

Marian O'Boyle

The Cooking Group

The recipes are varied. Previously, Lebanese, wartime, Tapas etc.

We are having a Cheese and Wine Tasting event. We take turns to Host in our own home.

It's important that we do the suggested recipe at our own home. And take it to the Host.

Space for two more members. Contact Avril at cookeryandbaking@knoleu3a.org.uk

Film Group 2

Looking for more members. Contact Avril at films2@knoleu3a.org.uk

Spanish Intermediate



Esta es la novela que estamos leyendo ahora mismo en el grupo intermedio de español. Es la séptima de una serie de novelas sobre un ex policía, llamado Miquel Mascarell. La novela se ubica en Barcelona a finales de la década 1940 y a principios la década de 1950. El señor Mascarell era policía durante la época de la República. Al acabar la guerra civil fue condenado a muerte. Posteriormente, después de unos años como prisionero, fue indultado y volvió a Barcelona donde continúa resolviendo problemas y casos.

Cada semana durante la reunión discutimos nuestras noticias de la semana y temas de interés general. Además, hay la oportunidad de escuchar, leer y traducir artículos contemporáneos.

De vez en cuando comentamos algún tema de gramática.

Nos reunimos todos los viernes de 10 a 12 de la mañana en línea. Si le interesa unirse con nosotros, por favor póngase en contacto.

John Stambollouian spanishintermediate@knoleu3a.org.uk

Golf is good for you.

"Golf is much more than a sport; it is a holistic experience that nourishes the body, sharpens the mind, and uplifts the soul".

Whether you seek fitness, friendship, serenity, or a lifelong challenge, golf is the game for you.

We have room for more players, both for our 9 hole and 18 hole groups.

Come and join us - even if it is just for fun.

Brian Rawlins golf@knoleu3a.org.uk

Garden Group

Some of the Garden Group Members in the White Garden at Sissinghurst.....which was looking beautiful. Next meeting at Julie's house, bring your gardening questions! New members welcome.

Julie Stevens garden@knoleu3a.org.uk



The Men's Shed

Our vision is to create a welcoming, inclusive space where men can come together to share skills, work on meaningful woodworking projects for charity, repair household items for those in need, and enjoy each other's company over a cup of coffee.

We need more men to join us for our monthly meetings and ideas for places to visit. This month we hope to have a chat about Prostate. That should be fun!!!

We need more members and a venue. Help us to get this really under way.

Please contact us for more information. Bryan Rawlins themensshed@knoleu3a.org.uk

London Studies 8

Earlier this month, London Studies 8 visited the magnificent Sikh Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara at Gravesend. It is the largest of its kind in Europe and one of the largest outside India. We were met by our excellent Sikh Guide, who led us through the prayer room and talked to us about Sikh history, traditions and customs, as well as responding to a barrage of Q&As. We were then taken to one of the langar halls (dining room) and invited to join the diners for a traditional vegetarian meal. It was unanimously agreed that this had been a fascinating day.

Sue Holt





MOT2

A few MOT2 members recently enjoyed a performance of Witness for the Prosecution at County Hall followed by a lovely meal.

We are looking forward to a trip on the Spa Valley Railway for a cream tea.

Lesley Mitchinson

London Studies 1

Visit to Battersea Power Station

On a very sunny day in June LS1 visited Battersea Power Station to understand the cycle of events that have occurred over the last ninety years for this iconic building to be transformed into its current role. It is now a mixed-use complex including retail and entertainment spaces.

After exiting the tube at Battersea's very own underground station, we walked along Prospect Way and Circus Road West to look at the amazing array of extremely expensive apartments before enjoying a very welcome coffee.

We learnt a little about the history of the site, its importance to London and its subsequent downfall and change of use. We then went inside the power Station via the West entrance where there is a large informative timeline along the walls.

Once inside Turbine Hall A we looked at another small exhibition with lots of information about the history of the place. We walked into Turbine Hall B before agreeing

on a time for meeting up which enabled everyone to have some free time to look around – or to take lift 109 up the chimney! (This costs £23.60pp and is best booked before you visit.)

After lunch we walked through to Arches Lane, which is the bistro area with its own local brewery, and continued to walk along the riverside where there are some interesting views of London and good views of Battersea Power Station.

Lesley Allum-jolly



London Studies 5

This is a newly formed group that began earlier this year, so there's still much for us to explore. We kicked things off with visits to the Hunterian and Sloane Museums, located on opposite sides of Lincoln's Inn Fields. Though very different in character, both are well worth seeing. The Hunterian, housed within the Royal College of Surgeons, is especially fascinating—though not for the faint of heart.

Our next outing was to the Gilbert & George Gallery, where a passionate guide brought the experience vividly to life. We've also visited the Wallace Collection, the Bank of England Museum, The Lookout, and the V&A, where we enjoyed the spectacular Cartier Exhibition. If you're ever in the market for a tiara, that's the place to go!

The picture is of the group in The Lookout in Bishopsgate.



Ronald Edmondson

Historic Buildings Group 1

In June we went to Trinity House. The building was bombed in WWII but has been restored. They are responsible for lighthouses and also for lightships which were common in the past.

They had models of various ships.



One of a lightship is shown here.

The last 2 visits have been away from London, as we always try to do in the summer. One was to Salomans in Tunbridge Wells and the other to Tollsworth Manor near Caterham. The first part of this was built in 1326. Dendrochronological dating of a beam in this earliest part of the house has confirmed this date.

Jacque Martin



Tollsworth Manor

Half Day Walking Group 4

A lovely morning walking in the shade, just what was needed on the 10th of July, one of the hottest days this year.

Jane Maxwell



Science Group

Our new season of talks starts on Thursday 2nd October and carries on mainly on the first Thursdays of the month at 2:30pm at the Weald Memorial Hall. The only exceptions are in January and April when New Year and Easter have made us change it to the second Thursday in those months.

Our first two talks are:

David Robins

Who is giving the October talk on

“Chemistry and the Earth’s Vanishing Resources”

And then in November we are having

Mike Trescothic.who will be talking on

“Antibiotics”

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible then

Howard Dilley

Monthly Meetings

Bat and Ball Community Centre, Crampton’s Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5DN
on the 4th Monday of the month between 2.00 and 4.00pm.

Except bank holiday Mondays

Monday 28th July 2pm Bat and Ball

BEHIND THE SCENES OF TELEVISION’S GOLDEN YEARS

Who can forget Morecambe & Wise, the Two Ronnies, etc music from Top of the Pops to the Last Night of the Proms. These were truly television’s ‘Golden Years’, but how these and many other great programmes were made, the situations and ‘characters’ involved, was often astounding and hilarious. Never has ‘you wouldn’t believe it’ been more appropriate!

WILF LOWER

Wilf’s early life was surrounded by performers as the family home provided ‘digs’ for ‘pros’ appearing at local theatres. Growing up with the ‘stars’, it was hardly surprising that he acquired an intimate knowledge of ‘the business’. Joining BBC Television where for many years – including the so-called ‘golden’ period of the seventies and eighties, he was responsible for Scenic Operations - the scenery, props, ‘working’ the shows, essentially everything seen on the screen except the performers, their costumes and make-up!

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