

u3a Knole

learn laugh live



Knole u3a can be found at—<http://www.knoleu3a.org.uk>

Chairman's Report

It's July, well at least that's what the calendar tells me, but looking outside at the grey skies, I'm not sure if I'm being fooled! It's two weeks now since our AGM and I want to say thank you to all the members who came. It was one of the few warm and sunny days we've had this year so I'm very grateful to you for giving up your time. I can't believe that a full year of my chairmanship has gone by already and despite the **very** steep learning curve and the many hours sat at my computer, I have to say I have enjoyed it very much. I have personally learnt an awful lot, not just about u3a and its organisation but also about myself and as 'Life Long Learning' is at the heart of u3a then I can only think that is a good thing, I highly recommend it!

Our new committee will be meeting for the first time next week and there is a very full agenda. We shall be discussing what needs to be our focus for this coming year. One of the very important things that we need to focus on is a contingency plan. We are very well aware that at any time, one of our key people could become ill or decide to move away from the area or just decide to step down suddenly and so we need people who can step in. We need volunteers to work alongside people like Jean, our Beacon administrator, Lionel, our webmaster, Jenny, our membership secretary and the many other jobs that help to keep Knole running. Perhaps with a view to taking over the role if one of them suddenly becomes ill or leaves but it could just be to help lighten the load and it's important that more than one person understands the systems. If you think you could help by shadowing one of these people then I am sure you would enjoy learning a new skill and the sense of involvement. Be brave, step out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself, you won't regret it.

What do you think the committee should focus on for this coming year? We have lots of ideas but it would be nice to get ideas from the members too. After all, it is meant to be *For the Members, by the Members*. Is there something that we don't yet offer that you would like to see? Is there something different that you think *you* could offer? Would you like more social activities, short courses, study days? All these things are possible but they all need initial ideas and people to carry them through. This needs to be a two way conversation, talk to us!

Debbie Magness

Chairman Knole u3a



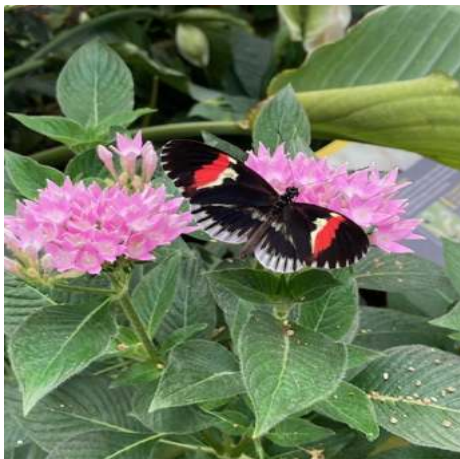
London Studies 4 visit the Horniman Museum
Members of London Studies 4 recently visited one of the most unusual museums in London: The Horniman



Forest Gate, voted Museum of the Year in 2022. The museum was founded in 1901 by Frederick Horniman who used the fortune created by his father's very successful international tea trading business to travel the world amassing a vast collection of objects covering natural history, cultural artefacts and musical instruments.

The original museum building, which is adorned with a very fine mosaic, has been constantly increased to accommodate permanent and temporary exhibitions.

The large anthropological 'World Galley' has many displays housing a vast collection of objects from around the globe whilst the music gallery has an outstanding display of fine and sometimes exotic instruments. Other attractions are an aquarium, extensive grounds with fine views across the capital and



The not-to-be-missed Butterfly House where a mesmerising collection of exotic specimens circle endlessly to the delight of visitors of all ages. The Horniman Museum offers a classic U3A visit: it is not only very interesting but truly educational and is highly recommended.

Pauline Gibbons

London Walks 3 Here is a photo taken on our June walk around the Covent Garden area which was very interesting with beautiful weather and finishing with a delicious lunch.

Jenny cousins





London Walks 1 has a full complement of members and is enjoying exploring a variety of interesting parts of London. This photo shows part of the group reflected in a teardrop art installation in the Canary Wharf area, when we followed an art trail there visiting the many docks. Other recent visits have included a walk along Regents Canal from Kings Cross to Paddington Basin via Little Venice and Camden Market and a very interesting tour of Pimlico following which we crossed the Thames and ate our picnic lunch on the pontoon which is the Coal Jetty at Battersea Power Station. Our visit to Clerkenwell and Charthouse took us to the oldest parish church in London, St Bartholomew the Great which led

to the establishment of St Barts Hospital next door. I am reliably informed that the church also forms the backdrop for clandestine operations in the Sky TV series *Slow Horses*, indeed when we did the recce for the walk it was closed for filming as was part of Clerkenwell. Our next walk will be through the London Parks to Kensington with a picnic in Hyde Park, followed in August by an adventure from Blackheath to Canary Wharf via Greenwich Park, the foot tunnel and the Mudchute farm on the Isle of Dogs.

Margaret Thorpe

London Walks 2

Our June walk started at Lambeth palace. Garden museum - tombs of the Tradescants plant hunters and Captain Bligh of the *Bounty*. Garden museum set up in the 1970s.

Lambeth Walk, not its original name, initially called Coney Walk reflecting this once rural area. Newport Street Gallery. Then we continued to visit the following places of interest: Pelham mission hall with an external pulpit. Now used by Morley College for sculpture classes. Imperial war museum and Tibetan peace garden opened by his holiness Dalai Lama in 1999. Morley college adult education for men and women was founded in the 1880s and it started in what is now The Old Vic Theatre where Penny lectures were very popular. Roupell street conservation area used in filming *'Call The Midwife'*.

Passing the London Ambulance headquarters with one of its original Daimler DC27 used into the late 50' ambulances on the forecourt. Finishing with lunch in a bar with a roof terrace just by Waterloo East platforms!

Rosy Newman



London Studies 8

We had a very enjoyable outing to Kenwood House on Hampstead Heath in June. The house is impressive with a great art collection - we had a talk on one of the Turner paintings by a very knowledgeable guide. And we were lucky - we had a sunny day so we could have a walk round the beautiful grounds.

Pat Lowe.



Play reading.

Our newly-formed group has now had six meetings and intends to continue monthly through the summer. We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month, 2.30-4.30, in Sevenoaks Library.

Why don't you come and join us ???!

We can guarantee you at least one role in every session, performing in some of the great dramas of our time !

So far we have enjoyed 'Fawlty Towers', 'Blackadder', 'The Importance of Being Earnest', 'Arsenic and Old Lace', 'Noises Off' and Alan Ayckbourn's 'Confusions'.

Ahead we look forward to 'Under Milk Wood', 'Blithe Spirit', 'An Inspector Calls', 'Hay Fever', 'Charley's Aunt' and 'Lark Rise to Candleford'.

Who needs to go to the theatre when you can be a star here completely free of charge !

Simon Claxton playreading@knoleu3a.org.uk



AMBLERS 2

Have had many interesting walks in the Kent countryside over the last year - and on a recent walk found some very inquisitive new members! We currently have 12 in the group but new members are always very welcome! We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month and aim to walk between 3-4 miles - without too many stiles or hills. However, the most important part of the morning is coffee at the end. If you would like to join us please contact:

Sandy Hull amblers2@knoleu3a.org.uk

Birdwatching

Nine of us made the trip to Northward Hill on 10th May - a beautiful warm and sunny day. As soon as we parked up and switched off the car engines we could hear the cuckoo calling from the wood nearby. We followed the yellow trail which gives great views across the grazing marshes and has conveniently located benches at various points along the way. We watched from two different viewpoints and visited the only hide on this reserve where we were rewarded with a Little Egret fishing busily in the shallows in front of us. We could see vessels moving in and out of the port and at the highest viewpoint could even see the Queen Elizabeth Bridge at the Dartford Crossing.

This reserve has the largest heronry in the UK with apparently over 200 pairs nesting. But the heronry is off limits at this time of year, and visits are usually by prior arrangement only.

Here are two great pictures taken by Gillian of the Marsh Harrier and the Little Egret.



The list of the 31 species seen and heard were as follows:- Cuckoo. Blue Tit . Great Tit. House sparrow. Linnet. Chiff Chaff. Rook. Nightingale. Whitethroat. Black Headed Gull. Shelduck. Coot. Wood Pigeon. Greylag Goose. Canada Goose. Marsh Harrier. Little Egret. Magpie. Lapwing. Feral Pigeon. Jackdaw. Swan. Mallard. Tufted Duck. Pochard. Redshank. Oystercatcher. Gadwall. Little Grebe. Heron. Crow. There aren't many facilities at this RSPB reserve, but there is a picnic area and toilets nearby behind the office, so we took a packed lunch and enjoyed it in the sunshine before we left. A thoroughly enjoyable visit. We plan to visit Riverside Country Park in Gillingham on 14th June.

Ann Windiate

London Studies 1

The June visit for London Studies 1 was to go mudlarking on the foreshore of the Thames. Twenty of us met up under the Millenium Bridge and were joined by Chris, our guide from Thames Explorer. We sat in the shade while she talked to us about items we might find on the shore. Using laminated cards and real artefacts she taught us how to determine the approximate age of pieces of pottery, glass, clay pipes etc.



After a H&S briefing we proceeded to the Trigg Steps and descended to the 'beach'. Who would have thought that scrabbling around in all that stony debris could be so compelling and such fun?



After an hour we came together and set out our 'treasures' for a 'show and tell'. Chris helped us to work out when our treasures had been made and their possible use. It was fascinating. Leaving our 'bounty' behind, we ascended the steps, said farewell to Chris and made our way to Cafe 101 for lunch. This large airy cafe is downstairs at the Salvation Army Headquarters, very close to the start of the Millennium Bridge. The rule is nothing ever leaves the 'beach', also you can't dig for anything or use any sort of metal detectors. The tide comes and washes it all away and sends it somewhere else - which is why you always find different things whenever you go. Lesley Allum-Jolly

Historic Buildings group.

Our last 3 visits have been to very different places. At the end of April we had a tour of Lords Cricket Grounds which included the Long Room and the home and away changing rooms.



In May we went to Farley House in Sussex where Lee Miller lived from the 1930s to her death in 1977. She was quite an amazing woman, having started as a model for Vogue, then became a photographer.



She was friends with several contemporary artists including Picasso who visited Farley House and drew a tile in the kitchen. June we had a tour of Charterhouse with its Medieval and Tudor buildings, and history from its foundation as an Abbey following the Black Death in the 1300s to its modern usage as a sort of almshouse for Londoners. Jacquie Martin

MOT 3

In May some of us went to see Chess at The Stag and the performance overall was very good but we felt it was slightly spoiled by the music being too loud and sometimes drowning out the singers but fortunately the story is quite simple.

We also had our regular visit to The Oast and our second outing this year to The View at North Kent College. There was also a visit to the Forget-me-not talk at Bat and Ball Station about Doodle Bugs by Bob Ogley organised by Sevenoaks Town Council .

In June we had a Sunday lunch at The George and Dragon at Tudeley which also included the opportunity to see the Chagall Windows at All Saints Church Tudeley. We saw a film about how The Stag was rescued after closing due to the failure of the company who were operating it. Whilst it was very interesting it also showed that The Stag has still not recovered to the level it was enjoying before covid and is having problems attracting enough volunteers. An Agatha Christie mystery at the Oast was enjoyable.

In July our plans are going to the Bite Size performance on 5th July. A walk around Covent Garden to see the buskers and visit St Paul's, The Actor's church, weather permitting on 14th July, The Stag for a performance of Pleasant Laughter by Noel Coward which is being streamed by the National Theatre starring Andrew Scott on 18th July. Visit The Beefeater and Oast on 22nd July to see An Ideal Husband. There is another talk at Bat and Ball Station about The Great Storm of 1987 by Bob Ogley, so quite busy and there are plans for future visits to Belmont House, Danson House and a Sunday lunch at Eastwell Manor so quite busy as usual.

Marian OBoyle mot3@knoleu3a.org.uk

Evening Dining 1

In May we went to The Bell in Kemsing, in June The Rose and Crown, Dunton Green and in July we are going to Sun-do in Sevenoaks. We meet at 7.00 pm on the 2nd Saturday of the month and would welcome a few more members. Contact Marian OBoyle eveningdining@knoleu3a.org.uk

Current Affairs

Are looking for a couple more members. Contact: David Small currentaffairs@knoleu3a.org.uk Meetings: 1st Monday, 2.30 - 4.30 pm at The Slater Room, Christchurch, Sevenoaks

Wine Appreciation Group

Tom Briody gave a presentation on wine at the recent AGM which generated a lot of interest. He has now offered to lead a tutored wine appreciation group. He taught wine appreciation for many years at Adult Ed and has organised dozens of local wine tastings. He says that wine appreciation is about improving your understanding of wine and helping you to get more enjoyment from the wine you drink and better value from the wine you buy.

The new group will combine a structured course with tutored tastings of several wines each week.

You don't need to know anything about the subject, the group will be suitable for all levels from absolute beginners to serious wine buffs.

Members will need to pay for the wine used in tastings and for the possible renting of a modest venue if numbers make that necessary.

If you would be interested in joining this group, please contact bryanrawlins@hotmail.co.uk so that he can arrange an initial get together

Membership Renewals

Thank you to those that have already renewed their membership.
Membership needs to be renewed by the end of September and can be done via the website:

<https://knoleu3a.org.uk>

On the website click on **Membership Renewals** and all of the different payment options and instructions are there.

Our preferred method of payment is online.
You can pay with Debit or Credit card; you do **not** need a PayPal account, just follow the instructions for **Pay by Debit or Credit Card** and **checkout or pay now as guest**.

Please let me know if you need any help.
Jenny Wickham Membership Secretary Membership@knoleu3a.org.uk

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**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2pm Coco Chanel, from pauper to millionairess, plus more than a whiff of scandal! A talk by popular speaker, Delia Taylor.**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2pm Open Afternoon – an opportunity to join a new group**

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Copy date for the next Newsletter : 10 September 2024 newsletter@knoleu3a.org.uk