

u3a Knole

learn laugh live



Chairman's Report Newsletter September 2004

September has come round again and that means we have our annual Open Afternoon coming up on Monday 23rd September at the Community Hall at Bat and Ball. The Open Afternoon has two main functions, the first is to show prospective new members what a fantastic range of opportunities Knole has to offer. Secondly, it is an opportunity for current members to see what the other groups are all about and perhaps encourage you to join a new group. With our new format we had a very enjoyable afternoon last year and I am sure this year will be even better, so do come along and perhaps bring a friend or two who you think might be interested in joining us.

We would like to thank all those members who have renewed their membership this year, especially those who renewed online, making it much more efficient for us. We would also like to gently remind those members who have not yet renewed their membership, that you have until 30th September to renew. After this date your membership will lapse and you will cease to get any communications from us and you will not be eligible to continue with any of the groups you attend. That would be such a shame so if you have overlooked this matter, then please look at the instructions on our website or get in touch with Jenny Wickham; membership@knoleu3a.org.uk and she will help if you are having difficulty.

Once again the annual Knole u3a holiday to Northampton this year was a great success and enjoyed by all who went. There are one or two pictures of the holiday on the website, look under Photo Gallery – Social Events, to see them.

Margaret Thorpe has come up with a unique and exciting itinerary for the holiday next year which includes a visit to Durham Cathedral and Castle, tickets for Kynren, a visit to the National Space Centre and many other exciting visits in and around the Durham area. The holiday was sold out in two days, which is unprecedented so it must have appealed to many, well done Margaret.

Debbie Magness

Chairman

Play Reading

Our group has continued to meet every month with great pleasure (2nd Monday; 2.30-4.30 Sevenoaks Library) but we would still welcome new recruits. Come and join us !

So far we have enjoyed 'Fawlty Towers', 'Blackadder', 'The Importance of Being Earnest', 'Arsenic and Old Lace', 'Noises Off', Alan Ayckbourn's 'Confusions', 'Under Milk Wood' and 'Blithe Spirit'. Ahead lies 'Charley's Aunt', 'Hay Fever', 'An Inspector Calls' and 'Lark Rise To Candleford'.

You may have missed the chance to meet Lord Edmund Blackadder and Baldrick, Sybil Fawlty and Manuel, Blind Captain Cat and Polly Garter, Lady Bracknell and Miss Prism, Mrs Clackett and Dotty Otley, Abby Brewster and Dr. Einstein, and Gosforth and the Waiter...

But surely you can't resist becoming Madame Arcati or Elvira, Sheila Birley or the Inspector, Bishie or Boamer or Pumpkin, Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez or Lord Fancourt Babberley, and Judith Bliss or Myra Arundel !

Pure escapism ! Come and join us !

Simon Claxton playreading@knoleu3a.org.uk



London Studies 1

On one of the hottest days in July, a stoic band of LS1 'explored' a stretch of Oxford Street. We started at Marble Arch and finished for lunch at John Lewis, finding enough history and interest in the side streets, to venture into the main thoroughfare only twice. We ranged from the site of the Tyburn Tree to the original multi-storey car park now a hotel in Mayfair and the fine cul de sac, that is Stratford Place.



Brown Hart Gardens, with the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in the background.

Brenda Johnson londonstudies1@knoleu3a.org.uk

Book Group 1 has a space for one new member.

We are a group of eight who meet at 3pm on the third Monday of the month.

We take turns to choose books to read and discuss them when we meet up, usually at my home in Riverhead.

Details in the online handbook.

Christine Cowland book1@knoleu3a.org.uk

London Studies 5

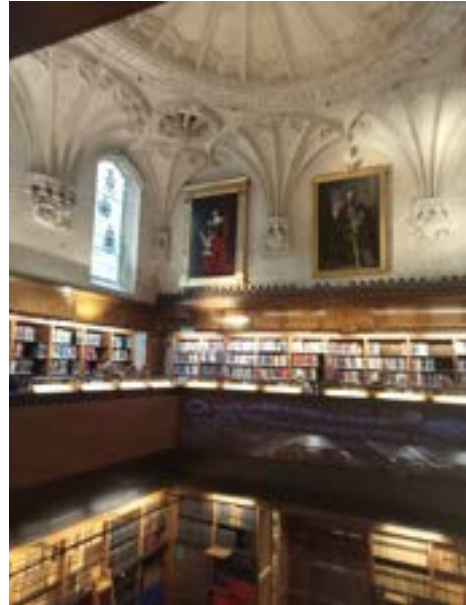
We had an extremely interesting visit to the Supreme Court in Parliament Square. Although a grade II listed building, previously the home of the Middlesex Guild, it only became the home of the Supreme Court in 2005. Its purpose being to settle disputes in principle not like the law courts. Our guide, Daisy, was so knowledgeable and informative, being able to explain the intricacies and purpose of the courts in a lively and, relatively, simple way for the group as laymen. As the courts cover the United Kingdom the symbol of rose, thistle, leek



and flax was prominently displayed but most especially in the carpets throughout. Beautiful damask, hand painted curtains also represented this.

We were fortunate to be able to see all three courts, as it was the summer recess, and a very impressive library, with a beautiful domed

ceiling, that looked like stonework but was, in fact, plaster.



. " In fact the whole building was a mix of ancient and modern. On display was a law book dating back to 1661, amazingly well preserved.

Truly a fascinating visit that Linda Dare coordinated so well that enabled us to be able to visit this extraordinary place.

Alison Wickham

(Alison insisted that I include the last paragraph, I am just so thankful for all the people that responded to my plea for more people to enable the minimum number for the tour, and to all the coordinators for forwarding my email to their group.) LD



"The Lord and Lady Justices of Krole ponder the meaning of the word "regular ". In real life their decision reversed that of the lower courts and resulted in a man, who had taken his child on holiday during the school term, paying not only the £140 fine but also the legal costs of both parties to the case."

Richard Clout

London Walks 1

Our London Walkers have enjoyed more outings in various parts of London. In June we enjoyed the visit to the Kings Cross information centre for a brief introduction to the redevelopment of the old railway yards and lines. We then walked along the Regents Canal through Camden market and Little Venice to Paddington Basin. A scenic and beautifully peaceful walk. You could forget you were in London!

Preparations were disrupted for a July three Parks walk due to closure of Pall Mall whilst the Royal household prepared for the State visit of the Emperor of Japan.

When we made our visit, the road was again closed. This time we were allowed access as pedestrians and witnessed the Royal procession en route to the state opening of Parliament. The first glimpse of King Charles III and Queen Camilla for most of us. It being Camilla's birthday we were also treated to a 62 round gun salute from the Honourable Artillery Company as we crossed Green Park. Progress was slow but spectacular!



August saw us walking from Blackheath across the heath into Greenwich Park by the observatory down the hills to Greenwich Cutty Sark Gardens admiring the spectacular views and landmarks on the way.

We have been blessed with good weather and a fine variety of routes. Well done to those who organised our trips.

Margaret Thorpe

A Warning from Margaret re Hidden London Underground

I was able to visit 'Hidden London' a TFL attraction which gives access to unused underground stations which may have been used for film sets, et cetera. In my case, a group of people went down to the old Jubilee line platforms at Charing Cross. As always, I had the intention of checking the suitability for a U3A visit. I found the access would not necessarily suit all members of my London Studies Group. Access to the platforms was by escalators which no longer work, so effectively steep staircases. We went into maintenance tunnels littered with tools and boulders. We accessed air ventilation shafts which were very hot and airless, taking the stale air to the outside as forced by the motion of the trains below. One needed a flexible figure to bend around large pipes whilst stepping over the curving struts where the wall joined the floor. Everything was filthy dirty and we were warned not to lean on or touch anything. Of course we did by mistake!

If the audience is keen on James Bond films, there was a chance to see where some of the action had taken place.

Our guides were very enthusiastic but I do not feel I can recommend the experience as a safe one for our members.

Margaret Thorpe



MOT 2

In July a group of us went to the Van Gogh immersive exhibition near Spitalfields Market. It was very interesting and extremely relaxing sitting in a deck chair with the paintings moving around the walls.

August saw us visiting Cobham Hall for a guided tour followed by tea and cake in the beautiful Gilt Hall.

In September we are going to Eagle Heights for a cream tea.

Lesley Mitchinson

mot2@knoleu3a.org.uk

MOT 3

On Friday 5th July we attended Bite Size and saw a play called Outside Edge and had a very good meal - lovely evening.

Sunday 14th was a very pleasant day and some of us went to Covent Garden and walked around, seeing some entertainers and we had coffee in Covent Garden Opera House. It was busy because it was European Cup Final day and people were beginning to arrive in London to watch on big screens. We walked to Five Dials and had some lunch and then retraced our steps to St Paul's church and went inside to see the various wall plaques commemorating some well known actors.

On Wednesday 31st a few of us went to Bat and Ball station to hear a talk by Bob Ogley.

Wednesday 7th August we were in London again at Kings Cross to see the Hockney Exhibition and The Canal Museum - both worth a visit.



Sunday 11th August we went for lunch at Eastwell Manor, near Faversham. The dining room is very nice and the food was excellent and everyone enjoyed their menu choices.

Friday 23rd August we visited The London Fashion and Textile Museum near London Bridge to see the Biba exhibition.

Finally on Wednesday 28th to Bat and Ball Station for a talk by Sevenoaks Town Cryer and in the evening a meal at Miller and Carter for a meal deal involving a cocktail and a choice of steak.

We have plans ahead for visits to The Oast and Beefeater, Danson House, Eltham Palace, The Bob Hope Theatre, Battersea Power Station,

another Bite Size in October and a lunch at The View so looking busy but enjoyable.

Marian OBoyle mot3@knoleu3a.org.uk

Poetry Group 3

Here is a photo of the Poetry group 3 at our last meeting.

Unfortunately 1 member was on holiday so missing!

We are a group of 7 and choose a theme each month to reflect a poem of our choice. This photo was taken when the theme was 'byways' and we had a really diverse interpretation of that theme from the 18th C to the 21st, from Walt Whitman to Roger McGough.

We have a vacancy and would be delighted to have new members.

Fran Tulett poetry3@knoleu3a.org.uk



Painting group 1 has been having outside visits for the past 3 months, which has been extremely successful.

Great news we have a new member starting in October and would welcome more.

Peter Smith paintdraw@knoleu3a.org.uk

Knitting for Charity Group



Members crafted 8 twiddle muffs and 3 twiddle mats for a campaign by Woman's Weekly Magazine in support of people living with dementia.

Maggie Leighton

Historic Buildings

During the summer we go to places away from London. In August we went to Belmont House near Faversham.

The important part of the house was built in the neoclassical style by Samuel Wyatt in the late 18th century. This was stunning. So elegant. The gardens were pleasant with sculptures and woven wood items such as the two hares in the photo. In September we visited Godinton near Ashford. The original part of this was a Kentish Hall house with a solar. This had been cleverly integrated into additions from the 1600s and later.

Two very pleasant visits.

Jacquie Martin



Medieval History Group

In place of our usual monthly group meeting, we went to listen to Dan Jones talking on his new book on Henry V. It was a very interesting and entertaining talk followed by a question and answer session.



Open Day

23 September 14.00 Bat and Ball Community Hall

Membership Renewals

By 30th September

Please let me know if you need any help.

Jenny Wickham Membership Secretary Membership@knoleu3a.org.uk

Monthly Meetings

Bat and Ball Community Hall, Speakers TBA

28 October 14.00

25 November 14.00

Next Copy Date

10 November 2024

newsletter@knoleu3a.org.uk