



**The University  
of the Third Age**

**WOKINGHAM  
NEWSLETTER**

**SEP - OCT.  
2010**

September's Evening Meeting

Tuesday 14th at 7.30pm

at

St Paul's Parish Rooms

**Life in the House of Lords**

Pauline Humphreys began her career as a freelance Court Reporter in London and went on to work at the World Bank and the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. For many years she worked in the House of Lords as a Hansard Reporter.

September's Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> at 2.00pm

at

St Paul's Parish Rooms

**Army Presentation Team**

The Army Presentation team routinely give presentations to a wide variety of audiences. It is not to recruit but it is intended to inform the public on what the Army is doing, who the people are who make up its fabric, about training and selection and its accountability to the tax payer and to those who serve in it.

October's Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 19th at 2.00pm

at

St Paul's Parish Rooms

**Food and the brain:**

**Can blueberries improve our memory?**

Georgina Dodd will talk about her current research which is looking at the acute effects of blueberries on executive function and memory in younger and older adults.

# Wokingham U3A

WEBSITE [www.wokinghamu3a.org.uk](http://www.wokinghamu3a.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: 1049995

Members Area Username: wokingham (all in lowercase). Password see your membership card

E-group sign-up: [wokinghamu3a-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:wokinghamu3a-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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## A View From The Chair

As I write this, it is high summer. The bees buzz in the lavender, the clouds are high and few, and the lawn is.....what lawn? Whether you intend to gambol on the beaches this August, or put your favourite deckchair under the apple tree and lose yourself in a book, you have my very best wishes for a happy and relaxing time.

Meanwhile, your U3A continues to thrive, with new groups beginning, and new members joining. It was my pleasure, yesterday, to say "hello" to some of these new members at their introductory meeting. They were a lively and responsive crowd, who seemed to appreciate the help we were able to give them in making the best use of the opportunities we offer. For them, as well as for all our members, the Open House at Emmbrook School on Tuesday 26th October will be an ideal occasion to see what Wokingham U3A has to offer. The convenors will set out their tables to show how their groups work, there will be a help-desk to help folk find their way around, and there will also be hands-on help in getting started with access to our website. Do come and bring your friends who might consider joining. It has always been a most popular day in the past, and the larger we grow, the more necessary it becomes.

An innovation this summer is the Drop-in Coffee Morning at Cantley Lodge on every Tuesday morning from 10.30. It seemed to us that there was rather a large gap left in the summer when we don't have monthly meetings, so we decided to try these informal mornings. Pop in and buy yourself a coffee, home-made cake or cream tea, chat to friends and make new ones, and find out about the latest activities in the U3A. The first meeting was very successful, so we shall continue through the next couple of months if demand holds up.

As usual, Wokingham members are in the forefront of participation in events across the Thames Valley. 9 members took part in the very first Riverside walks on a glorious day around Lechlade this week, more than 40 have signed up for the exciting Henley Riverside Events Day centred on the River & Rowing Museum and more than 100 will be taking part in our 3rd Study Day at Wellington! Look for reports of activities, as well as future plans, in your Newsletter and on the website.

Enjoy your summer..

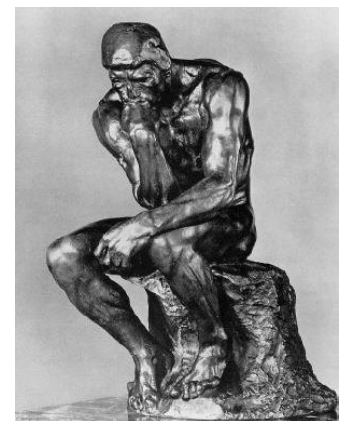
Patsy Thornton

## St Paul's Public Address System

Do you have a problem hearing speakers at St Paul's Monthly Meetings? If so, please contact Richard Hughes ([treasurer@wokinghamu3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@wokinghamu3a.org.uk) tel 01344 771547) as the Committee is currently investigating how our Public Address system could be improved and would like to hear from anyone who has found it inadequate or who does not go to Monthly Meetings since they feel they will be unable to hear the speaker clearly.

## History of Philosophy

As reported in the last newsletter, this group will study the history of philosophy and ideas from the Ancient Greeks to the 20th century. We are about to get fully under way, looking at Greek thought before Socrates on September 1st and the great sage himself in November (after a special meeting in October). New members are welcome to join us at any stage, or come to a meeting to find out if this is something for you. We meet at the Friends' Meeting House, Denton Road at 10 am on the first Wednesday of the month. If you are interested or would like to know more, please phone Hugh Davis on 0118 978 6532.



## Spanish For Beginners:

Following the recent upgrade of the Beginners Spanish Group to Spanish Improvers we have received some interest in setting up a new group for Spanish Beginners. If you are interested in learning to speak Spanish or already have a little

knowledge of the language and would like to develop and improve those skills whilst being part of a new group then please call Jennie Mew on 01344 483318.

## **Spanish Speaking Leader.....**

We are also keen to hear from any Spanish speaking member(s) who would be willing to take a part in helping a new Spanish Beginners Group start up. This person(s) would be involved in helping those in the group with all aspects of the language. This could be shared between 1, 2 or even 3 people. The role of convenor would be held by another member within the group. If you feel you are able to share your knowledge of the Spanish language with other interested members then please call Jennie Mew 01344 483318 ~ thanking you in anticipation.....

## **Rummikub**

The first group meeting to play Rummikub was very successful with 10 members attending and all enjoyed themselves. The group is now closed with 12 members and there are three people on the waiting list. It may be possible to start a second group as one or two people have expressed a preference for an evening meeting. This would be at a different venue. Anyone interested could initially contact me and I can pass the names on. Two games of Bananagrams - a scrabble like game - were also played, and all were in favour of playing both games at the meetings.

Val Cresswell

## **Aerospace**

This is a recently formed group (March 2010), with Richard Watson as the convenor. All aspects will be covered, and the technical level has been tailored to that required by the members in the group. At present, the group has ten members.

To date the presentations covered have been:

- Basic aerodynamic theory. How can planes fly?

- Airliner take-off performance. Basic propulsion system theory. Basic orbital mechanics.

- History of aviation.

Future meetings will cover:

- Berkshire man powered flight;

- Lightning supersonic interceptor;

- Visit to Woodley/Berkshire aircraft museum.

Richard Watson

## Handbells

We are still looking for just a few more members to make up a Friday morning hand-bell group. If you're not sure whether you'd enjoy bell-ringing, why not come along on a Monday morning and see what fun it is.

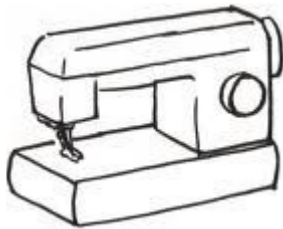


Just give me a call on 0118 978 3590 to let me know when you would like to come.

Joan Bulpitt

## TWAM appeal

Members may recall that I made an appeal for useable, unwanted tools and sewing machines to send out to the less fortunate souls in Third World countries.



I would like to thank those who responded, particularly the ladies and others with a sizeable number of sewing machines. This is an ongoing appeal as the demand is always there so if you haven't had that long overdue clear out of the shed or if you have friends, relatives or neighbours who may be able to help, this would be most welcome. I would stress that tools

of any sort are wanted (except lawn-care items) but must be useable (No blunt saws please!) and if ladies are donating material, they must be dress or skirt length.

Please get in touch with me on [peter.harms@talktalk.net](mailto:peter.harms@talktalk.net) (preferred) or on

0118 978 2709 (between 10.00 and 17.00) and we'll go from there.



## A Golden Moment in June



The "Opera at Home" group enjoyed a cream tea after the June meeting to celebrate the golden wedding of the hosts, Shirley & Geoff Mather. The group was started in 2004 and has watched over 60 operas.

# The Sin Bin

I must begin by apologising to Fiona Huggett for putting German Beginners into the Sin Bin in the last issue. I had received, but misplaced, her input.

The following groups have not provided input for this edition of the newsletter. Some of the groups have not been included in the Diary Pages for some months. If members of those groups miss not having information about these groups in the Diary Pages please let me know.

Ed

Group	Convenor
Italian Beginners	Linda Baker
Bird Watching 2	John Beeston
French Beginners THREE	Jim Cooper
Tai Chi	Pat Crone
MOTO 4	Daphne Ferguson
Beginner Bridge Lessons	Marion Holden
MOTO 5 Events meeting	Jacqui Myatt
Recorders	Foy Rees
Petanque	Ken Ridgway
Badminton 2	Fred Simpson
Card Making TWO	Eileen Williams
Out & About 1	Paul Williams
Bridge for You	Ann Zebedee

Copy date for the next issue of the Newsletter is Friday 24th September

## Computer Panel - at your service

Wokingham U3A has, from within its membership, set up a small panel who between them have a variety of IT skills and knowledge, in a wide range of different software products and some hardware matters.

Their aim is to assist members with queries and problems that they may be experiencing. This can be from the simple user issues, for example attaching photos to your emails, setting up files, or getting around the internet, using Word/Excel, or possibly more advanced technical matters.

Do you have a problem? Perhaps we can help.

Email or telephone us with full details of your query, give us a couple of days and we'll see if one of us can offer a solution. If we can't, it may mean you'll need to pay for professional advice.

Initial contact: Sylvia Mason                      email: sa.mason3a@googlemail.com

Tel: 0118 979 3502      PLEASE - no calls between 7pm and 9am



## Master Your P.C.!!



**If you are beyond a computer beginner this may be what you are looking for:!**

!!

- \* Would you like to improve your computer skills and knowledge?
- \* Do you have particular areas of concern?
- \* Would you like to get *more* from your PC and the Internet?
- \* Would you like to further your skills in using software?
- \* Are you looking to explore the unknown (!)?
- \* Would you just like to stop shouting at your p.c. and get it to do what you want?

If you have answered yes to any of the above then help may be at hand. For further information please send an

E-mail to [jenjoy50@hotmail.com](mailto:jenjoy50@hotmail.com)

# SHOWTIME PRODUCTIONS



PRESENT



## ***THINGS AIN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE***

(a musical and humorous nostalgic look back at the 1930s through to the 1960s)

Written and Directed by Barbara Carr

At Wokingham Theatre on the evenings of Tuesday 2 and  
Wednesday 3 November 2010 at 7.45pm  
and on Thursday 4 November a matinee at 2.30pm

Come along and sing along with the cast!

Please put these dates in your diary - tickets will be on sale **shortly** from **Muriel Froom** (see coupon below)

Tel 0118 9781647

Email [muriel-froom@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:muriel-froom@tiscali.co.uk)

Joyce Sweatman

Tel 01189 627104

Please send me tickets (£8 per ticket) for Showtime as follows:

.....tickets for Tuesday 2 November

.....tickets for Wednesday 3 November

.....tickets for Thursday matinee 4 November

I enclose a cheque for £.....payable to Wokingham U3A and marked on the back "Showtime" and also a stamped addressed envelope.

If you need wheelchair access please tick here.....

Send to Muriel Froom, 1 Mertonford, Pages Croft, Wokingham, RG40 2HQ

Name.....

Address.....

Tel No .....

# Riverside Project

These are your diary dates, and brief outlines:-

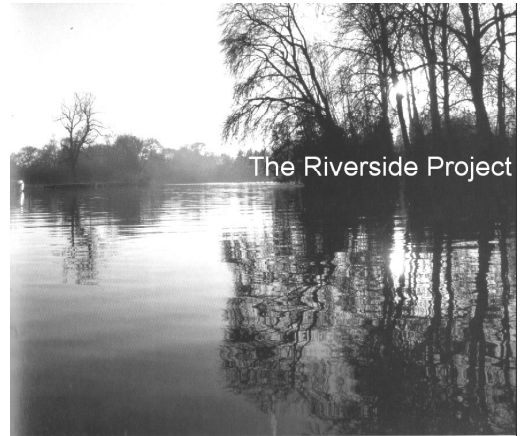
**Friday, September 10th** Short circular walk, Wittenham Clumps and Shillingford.

5 to 6 miles. Panoramic views, Thames Path and Dorchester Abbey

Option of photographers and painters joining the walkers for lunch in Shillingford

Patsy Thornton Wokingham U3A 01344 774812

[patsy@thorntac.co.uk](mailto:patsy@thorntac.co.uk)



**Wednesday, September 15th** Long Thames Path Walk, from the source at Kemble to Cricklade. 12 miles Route includes Cotswold Water Park

Phillip Eagle Swindon U3A 01793 700046 [eaglephillip@yahoo.com](mailto:eaglephillip@yahoo.com)

**Friday, September 17th** SECOND RIVERSIDE PLANNING MEETING

Goring Village Hall 10 am Coffee and Registration 10.30 am Start

Reports on activities and future plans.

Talks by Thames Warden on conservation and Berkshire Records Office on locks and weirs material.

Cost £4 Optional lunch £5

Agnes Budagowska Swindon U3A 01793 615501 [agnes-bud@supanet.com](mailto:agnes-bud@supanet.com)

**Wednesday, September 29th** Long Thames Path Walk from Cricklade to Lechlade

11 miles

Contact Phillip Eagle Swindon U3A as above

**Wednesday, October 6th** Marlow Photography and Walking Day

3 groups with walks and photographic opportunities; option of trip on 30ft river cruiser.

Ann Mary Ware Marlow U3A 01494 523231 [annware@sky.com](mailto:annware@sky.com)

**Friday, October 8th** Short circular walk around Kennington and Radley

Peaceful riverside walk including Sandford Lock and Weir, pub lunch option.

Terence Carter West Oxford U3A 01865 863379

**Friday, October 22nd** Long Thames Path between Reading and Henley

11 miles, flat terrain, option of fish and chips lunch in Henley

Lin Godfrey Reading U3A [lin.godfrey@btinternet.com](mailto:lin.godfrey@btinternet.com)

Patsy Thornton

01344774812

[patsy@thorntac.co.uk](mailto:patsy@thorntac.co.uk)

# THE GOTHIC PHENOMENON *from finial to folly*

Wednesday 24 November 2010 at  
Rewley House, 1 Wellington Street, Oxford

This Study Day will explore the influence of the Gothic from its beginnings, looking at the cathedrals of England, through the Italian experience and the neo-Gothic architecture of Strawberry Hill to an industrialist's garden in 18<sup>th</sup> century Birmingham.

## The Study Day programme is:

10.00 Arrive. Registration. Coffee

10.30 **Keith Hasted** MA lectures at the Oxford School of Continuing Education and for the WEA on *the History of Architecture*. He will speak on '**The arrival of Gothic - Out of darkness into light?**'

11.30 **Dr Diana Matthews** gained a Ph D in 2007 on Renaissance Italy and is currently writing a book on Pope Sixtus IV. She will talk about '**Adapting the Gothic in late Medieval Italy**'.

12.30 LUNCH

13.30 **Glenis Kerr-Elliott** MA is currently studying for a PhD on the Radcliffe Camera in Oxford. She lectures for the WEA on Art and Architecture. Her subject is '**Strawberry Hill - "Little Gothick castle by the Thames"**'.

14.30 Break. Tea/Coffee

15.00 **Dr Phillada Ballard** gained a Ph D at the University of Reading in 1984. She writes and lectures on garden and architectural history. She will speak about Matthew Boulton and his estate. '**Dulce e utile An eighteenth century factory in a garden**'.

16.00 Panel discussion with the speakers.

16.30 Close

The venue for the Study Day, Rewley House, is the main location for the University of Oxford, Department of Continuing Education. It is conveniently placed in the centre of Oxford with good public transport and Park-and-Ride.

The Study Day fee is £15. This includes participation in the full programme plus coffee/tea on arrival and mid-afternoon. A baguette lunch is available for £6.00. Members of U3As not affiliated to the Thames Valley Network are welcome at an additional fee of £5.

Further information can be obtained from:

**Joanna Hughes** Tel: 01491 873620 or email [Joanna.goring@virgin.net](mailto:Joanna.goring@virgin.net)

## Never Too Old For A Gap Year

The idea came to me one sunny Sunday morning in February when we were having a cup of coffee in a cafe overlooking a lovely little harbour in Gran Canaria. Richard, my other half, and a friend could sail our boat to the Canaries one autumn and I would fly down and join Richard for a winter of cruising round the Islands. By Tuesday it had grown to letting our house and taking a gap year and doing the whole thing together, on one condition, we stayed near land! I have only become a sailor in the last five years since meeting Richard and do not like being out of the sight of land for too long. According to Richard, everybody crosses to the Canaries from Cadiz, so I was delighted on our return home to find an article in one of his yachting magazines where the couple had crossed from the Moroccan coast.

All of our children thought that it was a brilliant idea and my youngest has already asked to join us for Christmas 2011 in Gran Canaria. We hope to start in May or June next year, and will cross Biscay then travel along the coast of northern Spain and Portugal, down to Gibraltar, cross to Morocco and then round to Agadir; from there the nearest of the Canary Islands is Graciosa.

Our boat is a twenty-nine foot Sadler 290 and she is named Cariad. She is just over two years old. When we decided to live together the choice was a new house bought together or a new boat. No choice really as, after that short time of sailing weekends and holidays, I was enjoying sailing so much, in spite of the seasickness at the start of each season and still on very rough passages. Preparations are already underway. Richard is in charge of the boat; an extra sail is in the loft, new rigging for it is also set to be done [is the another verb for rigging other than “do”?] and wood panelling is also in the loft ready for a carpenter to put doors on open shelving to give us more storage space.

I am in charge of the house, so have already talked to agents about letting and have a list of changes that need to be made. Running repairs that were in Richard's five-year plan have had to be brought forward! We have had to buy two new beds as all furniture must have the fire proof label attached; fortunately I did not cut all of the labels out of the three piece bought when I moved here ten years ago. I keep a charity shop bag permanently under the stairs and am



ruthlessly adding to it whenever I come across articles that have not been used for more than two years, as we will be putting personal stuff and winter clothes into storage.

Over the next few months I will keep you updated on our planning and preparations and, with some help, we should have set up a website before we leave so you will be able to follow our progress online whenever we can get wi-fi access.

Carole Beswetherick

## **Wartime Reminiscences**

### **Casualties and Prisoners of War (Part 2)**

Perhaps I should mention that at the time I am writing about you never addressed anyone by their first name unless they had given you permission to do so. Everyone was Mr, Mrs or Miss. Therefore, although I was only 17 I was always called 'Miss Carr', never 'Rosemary'. Naturally, this did not apply when I was with the few girls of about my own age where we all on first-name terms.

As I said in Part 1 we worked in pairs at large tables, and during my two years in CAS/PW I had a series of work-mates. My first colleague, when I was a 'new girl', was a young married woman called Mrs Perry whose husband was serving in the navy. She was instructing me in the work before leaving to have a baby. She was only a few years older than myself so obviously we used first names. After she left I was joined for a short while by one of the other young girls called Esther. When she was posted to another section I worked alone until one day Mr Fitzgeorge came and told me that the following morning I would be joined by a Miss Baldwin. I knew that there had been a prime minister of that name, but I made no connection, after all, Baldwin was common enough name.

Miss Baldwin duly arrived, she was a very pleasant middle-aged lady, and we settled down to work. That afternoon our cheeky cockney woman messenger came with work for our In tray and I introduced Miss Baldwin to her, the immediate reaction was "I hope you are no relation to that old b....r Stanley Baldwin". To this, Miss Baldwin calmly replied "As a matter of fact, I'm his niece". There could be no response to this, but I'm sure this juicy piece of information was divulged to the others in the messengers lobby with great relish.

We came to be, between ourselves, 'Monica' and 'Rosemary', although in front of the others it was 'Miss Baldwin' and 'Miss Carr'. Observing our growing friendship some of the permanent female civil servants started to patronise me; this I found most embarrassing.

One day Miss Baldwin said she would like to take me to see The Lisbon Story, a musical that was on in the West End at that time, she would ask Mr Fitzgeorge for permission for both of us to be away from the office on the same Saturday afternoon. Being who she was she obtained permission, and we went to the matinee. Afterwards she treated me to tea at Slaters, a well-known tea-shop.

Had I but realised it, this was her farewell gift to me. Not long afterwards she did not turn up for work, and Mr Fitzgeorge told me that she had left and gone

into the country to write a book. This book, *I leap over the Wall*, when it was published, described the years she had spent since the age of 18 in an enclosed convent in Italy. How strange everything must have seemed to her in the outside world after all those years. I never heard from Miss Baldwin again, but I have always remembered her kindness and generosity.

My final work-mate from then, until the end of the war, was a sweet, timid maiden lady, Miss Hilda Baker, although she may have called me 'Rosemary', I never received her permission to call her 'Hilda'!

The war in Europe was now coming to an end, Paris was liberated in August 1944. Mussolini was seized by Italian partisans on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1945 and executed the next day. Two days later Hitler committed suicide, and victory was finally announced on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, and we all went out to celebrate.

The 'posh' shoe shop in Albemarle Street, where I had bought my black leather court shoes at the beginning of my time in CAS/PW in 1943, were quick off the mark selling sandals with wooden platform soles when they heard that chic Parisiennes had been wearing them during the Occupation because of a shortage of leather. Of course, I had to have a pair. The platform soles were painted green and the suede straps of the sandals were banana yellow. You could certainly see, and hear, me coming!

I really needed something like those sandals to cheer me up during the years of austerity which followed. There was a shortage of food, fuel, and housing, and frequent power cuts. Bread, which had never been rationed during the war, was now rationed. A thriving black market came into being operated by people called 'spivs' (one who lives on his wits, often fraudulently, on the credulity of others). Kind people in America and Canada sent us food parcels. At last, clothing came off the coupon system in 1948, but food rationing did not end until 1954; the year I got married and became Mrs Rosemary Goldschmied.

Rosemary Goldschmied

*[Monica Baldwin was born in 1896 and spent 28 years in a convent before joining CAS/PW in 1942. Apparently during those 28 years she had not read a newspaper, seen a photograph or heard the radio. Ed]*



## Monthly Meetings Programme

The provisional programme of monthly talks until May 2011 is given below. Unless otherwise announced, all meetings will take place at St. Paul's Parish Rooms, Reading Road, Wokingham at 2.00pm. There is normally a charge of £1 for attending these meetings.

**21st Sept. 2010**

Army Presentation Team

**19th Oct. 2010**

Nutrition

Georgina Dodd

**16<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2010** humorous look at 19<sup>th</sup> century medicine

Colin Read BA FIBMS

**21st Dec. 2010**

A Christmas Carole

Jonathan Jones

**18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2011**

History of the RSPB

David Nobbs

**15<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2011**

London Oddities part 1

Sally Botwright

**15<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2011**

AGM followed by talk

History of the British Forces Broadcasting

**19th Apr. 2011**

Tibet - The Forbidden Land

Sandra Hurst

**18<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

Bishops, Sex and Money

Tony Strafford

## Evening Meetings Programme

The provisional programme of evening talks until Dec 2011 is given below. Unless otherwise announced, all meetings will take place at St. Paul's Parish Rooms, Reading Road, Wokingham at 7.30pm. There is normally a charge of £2 (which includes a glass of wine or fruit juice) for attending these meetings.

**14<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2010**

Life in the House of Lords

Pauline Humphreys

**22nd Mar. 2011**

Probation Officer (plus ex-offender)

**27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2011**

Functional Foods-Good Science or Marketing

Professor Robert A Rastall