

The Digest



u3a
Dacorum

Autumn 2026
Edition 129

Painting For Pleasure Group's Meeting at the Water Gardens

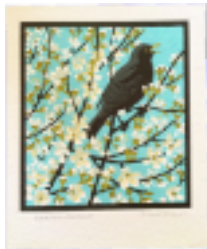
u3a Dacorum Digest

To become a member, join u3a Dacorum or renew your membership:

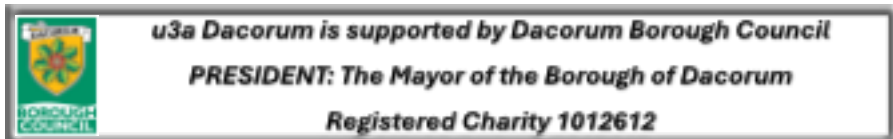
Online: Use this link to access renewing or joining instructions or scan the QR codes opposite:

<https://u3adacorum.org/2026-join-or-renew/>

By post: Request a membership form to be sent by post from the Membership Secretary (details on page 30).



Card Making Berkhamsted: "Birds"



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Future Committee Meeting Dates in 2026

Tuesday 6 October
Tuesday 3 November
Tuesday 1 December

Venue: Boxmoor Trust Centre, London Road, Hemel Hempstead.
Members are welcome to attend either in person or on Zoom.
Please let the Secretary know in advance.

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u3a Dacorum

Web Site



Membership



From the Trustees

Chair's Report

At the beginning of August we held our 36th AGM and I was able to report that all the current trustees had been re-elected to the committee. We have had seven trustees in office for the last year and, despite our best efforts, we have been unable to recruit any new trustees for the coming year. This unfortunately means that for the second year running we will have to operate without one of the four key officers. These officers are the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary – they are only allowed to be in post for three years before standing down.

This last year we were unable to fill the Secretary position, and this role had to be shared out amongst the other trustees. I am very pleased to say that Ellen Duffy who was previously our Secretary, having had a year off, is willing to resume that role. Ellen has been our Halls Booking Secretary, and we are very grateful to Lesley Drake who has now volunteered to take on that job. If you have any queries about hall bookings, please continue to use the same halls email address and it will go to Lesley. I have also to thank Jane Campbell who has been our Vice Chair for the last three years and now has to step down but will continue as a trustee – no one has come forward to fill this vacancy so we will have to operate without a Vice Chair this year.

The other two officer roles, Chair and Treasurer, will become vacant next August when we will each have completed three years and will have to stand down. We cannot run the u3a with two officer vacancies, and certainly not without a Treasurer, so now is the time when we need to find new recruits who will be able to shadow and understand the roles. Please take time to consider if you or anyone you know would be interested in finding out more about the work of the committee with a view to joining us. You can see a full list of our committee at the back of this Digest together with the email addresses to contact any of us to find out more.

I hope you enjoy reading about all the varied activities our members have been doing over the summer and discover the interesting range of talks we have booked for our monthly meetings this Autumn.

Carolyn Wallis

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present my second set of accounts, which are on our website. I am happy to say that the independent examiner's review went very smoothly this year, aided by learnings from last year.

The accounts show a surplus of just over £1,000 for the year and reserves of £19,500. We had budgeted for a small deficit for the year as part of our plans to reduce our reserves to about £10,000. There are three main factors in the results being better than anticipated:

- Riviera Travel donation – we received nearly £1,000 from Riviera Travel as donations for holidays booked by our members under a scheme organised by the Third Age Trust; this is much more than last year. We are very grateful to anyone who does this but it is not something that we can accurately forecast.
- Group income and attendance – In January 2025 we reviewed the amounts charged by hall-based groups, to ensure as many as possible were covering their costs. As a result, some groups increased their charges from £2 to £3 and some moved to cheaper halls. We also appear to have had more people coming to meetings this year, which is good to see.
- Hall charges – we expected halls to increase their charges significantly as many had not done so for 2 or 3 years. We had some small increases in charges (50p or £1 per hour) but not of the size we had anticipated. So far this year (2026), we have again escaped large hall cost increases. However one of our more-used halls has not increased their charges for 3 years and another has indicated that they need to increase theirs over the next year or so to break even.

We are continuing with our efforts to reduce our reserves down to the target level. This means that we can continue to keep the annual membership fee unchanged (which it has been since 23/24) and to keep the monthly meetings free (now for the 4th year). Our budget for the current year is for a larger deficit, in the order of £5,000, which will take us much nearer to the target reserves figure. We are also looking at ways that we can benefit as many members as possible. We have just bought first aid kits for a number of outdoor groups and are trying to ensure that the equipment in halls is kept up to date.

As I am now starting my third year as Treasurer, I can only stand for this year; so we need to find a replacement in the next year. Although I am a qualified accountant this is not essential and, indeed, I had never done this type of work before, so it has all been new to me! However, the Treasurer is one of the key roles that a charity needs and without one we would have to close the u3a down. Three years ago, when faced with the same situation, your committee had discussions with TAT about how to close the u3a down – we don't want to have to dust off these plans. So, if you are interested or know someone who might be, please think about it and get in touch to discuss with me. I have found it very interesting work and a great learning experience.

Henry Wallis, Treasurer

Secretary's Reports

Following the AGM, I am now Secretary for a further year. Elsewhere in this Digest there is a report about the AGM in August and the work of the Committee over the last few months. The Committee is working to keep u3a Dacorum thriving and active, but needs members to help us do so.

There is a small working group, reviewing the Coordinators Handbook and associated forms. If you have any thoughts on what should be included or changed, please e-mail at secretary@u3adacorum.org. We want to make the Handbook easy to follow and allow us to keep members safe and make our events a positive experience for everyone.

Summary of AGM

The AGM was held on Monday 5 August, with 77 members present and a further seven on zoom and six apologies. Proxy votes were submitted by 182 members (180 online and 2 postal) for the motions and the election of trustees and officers.

The Chair, Carolyn Wallis, reported that membership numbers remain steady at 1,285 with new members joining. She spoke about the display in the Marlowes shopping centre and stall at the Box Moor Trust fair and the Leverstock Green fete, which we use to promote u3a Dacorum.

However, there were still only seven trustees on the Committee following the AGM. As a result, the Committee will be without a Vice Chair for the coming year. Furthermore, both the Chair and Treasurer (Henry Wallis) must step down at the next AGM. U3a Dacorum cannot run without both these posts being filled. We need to find potential successors sooner rather than later. Henry reported that on the accounts and this is summarised in his report on page 5.

The Groups Secretary, Lee Pace, made her report, which set out that we have around 80 groups. A risk checklist had been completed for all groups this year. A review of the Handbook for Coordinators had been started.

Three officers were elected – Carolyn Wallis as Chair, Henry Wallis as Treasurer, and Ellen Duffy as Secretary. Four others, John Dodkins, Jane Campbell, Lee Pace and Mary Wyon were elected as Trustees.

Attendance at meetings

As we now approach the colder months, it is timely to remind members that if they have an infectious disease (for example cold, flu or Covid), they should not attend meetings. Some of our members are vulnerable, or live with those who are vulnerable to such infections. Coordinators may turn members away who appear infectious.

Hall Bookings

Following a couple of queries, if you need to cancel a hall meeting, as well as in forming the hall, please let the Treasurer, Group Secretary and Halls Secretary know. The e-mail addresses are in the back of the Digest, as well available through the web-

Continued on page 7...

...continued from page 6

site. If a cancellation is short notice, u3a may still need to pay the hall, so please cancel bookings as soon as you know the hall is not required. Of course, if this is the result of weather conditions (eg heatwave, or snow/ice), then we understand that this may need to be decided at short notice.

Summary of Committee meetings

At the June, and July meetings (two in July), we have:

- approved a revised privacy policy and a new policy on Organisational Risk Assessment, that sets out how the Trustees will manage risks to the continued existence and success of u3a Dacorum;
- agreed to a small working group revising the Coordinators Handbook, on which Coordinators will be consulted;
- approved the purchase of first aid kits for those outdoor groups that would like one;
- invited several groups making significant surpluses to suggest for Committee approval purchases for their groups. The table tennis groups have got new nets, while others consider what is needed;
- had a stall at Leverstock Green fair and another in the Marlowes to raise our profile and attract new members. The Committee is grateful to those members who helped. We also have a table at the Box Moor Trust Festival on Sunday 20th September;
- approved organising a First Aid course for Coordinators and other members;
- on-going work to launch a new website continues;
- approved the accounts for 2025-26.

Ellen Duffy

Vice Chair's Report

Having completed my three year term as Vice Chair I have agreed to remain as a trustee and will continue to support the three remaining officers. There can only be three as nobody put their name forward to replace me as the fourth officer.

A trustee and an associate member have agreed to share the role of refreshments coordinator so there will still be coffee at our monthly meetings but without more volunteers we will be in dire straights after the next AGM when both our chair and treasurer must step down.

If you are reading this and would like Dacorum's successful u3a to continue please contact one or more of the present committee members to find out more about the work involved in the running of the organisation.

Jane Campbell, Retiring Vice Chair

Monthly Meetings

5 October 2026: Boxmoor Playhouse

Andrew Baker: The Second Elizabethan Age: Reliving our own Story

Andrew Baker discussed the Profumo Affair with us in 2024. Now he turns his attention to the reign of Queen Elizabeth II and gives us a vivid pastiche of our many post-war social & cultural revolutions, the upheaval in values and the growth of a more permissive culture. Do you remember it and can you believe what we have all experienced?

2 November 2026: Boxmoor Playhouse

Anne Fletcher: The Story of the Man who Broke the Bank in Monte Carlo

Anne Fletcher is an historian and writer. She has a successful career in heritage and has worked at some of the most exciting historic sites in the country including Hampton Court Palace, St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Bletchley Park and Tower Bridge. She is the great-great-niece of Joseph Hobson Jagger, 'the man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo'.

Amongst the men 'who broke the bank at Monte Carlo', Jagger is the only one known to have devised an infallible and completely legal system to defeat the odds at roulette. He wasn't a professional gambler, he was a Yorkshire textile worker who had laboured in the Victorian mills of Bradford since childhood.

His motivation was strong. He and his family faced a situation so grave that their only escape seemed to be his desperate gamble on the roulette tables of Monte Carlo. His legacy is felt in casinos worldwide and yet he is virtually unknown.

7 December 2026: Boxmoor Playhouse

Ukulele and Folk Singing Groups: Christmas Party

Come and celebrate the Christmas Season with us! The Ukulele and Folk Singing Group will entertain us. There will be mince pies and a sing-a-long. It will be a fitting end to a very successful year of Monthly Meetings.

4 January 2027: Boxmoor Playhouse

Bobby Derbyshire: A Beginning, A Muddle and An End, Where a Writer gets Inspiration

Drawing on the experience of many well-known authors, in an entertaining, informative talk, Bobbie will explain how the complex fictional world arrives in a novelist's mind. Bobbie is author of five novels, including "The Posthumous Adventures of Harry Whittaker" and "The Third Bus". She has worked as barmaid, mushroom picker, film extra, maths coach, cabinet minister's private secretary, care assistant and volunteer adult-literacy teacher, as well as in social research and government policy. Bobbie lives in London and hosts a writers' group.

Lee Pace

From our Members...

Classical Music Appreciation

We have an interesting and varied programme for the autumn term, starting with a pair of master classes from our maestro Robert Hoare. Please put these dates in your diary:

3 Sept:	Robert:	Beginnings – Preludes
17 Sept:	Robert:	Beginnings – Overtures
1 Oct:	Ron:	The allure of Stravinsky
15 Oct:	Jack:	Handel's greatest hits (part video)
29 Oct:	Sue:	Chamber music beyond the string quartet
12 Nov:	Bob:	Memories of midsummer nights
26 Nov:	Jack:	History of Christmas carols (video)
12 Dec:	Robert:	(first hour) alternative carols (second half) carol singing

All are welcome to join us, just turn up; and feel free to bring a friend for a first visit. If you would like to play some of your favourite classical music, even a half session of around 45 minutes, then we will be pleased to help you put it together for some time next year. All queries to group035@u3adacorum.org.
Jack Scrutton

"Opera is when a guy gets stabbed in the back and, instead of bleeding, he sings." – Ed Gardner
"Heavy metal is just classical music played loud with more fuzz." – Yngwie Malmsteen

Music Miscellany

Our end July meeting was a BYO (bring your own) and we were treated to a range of offerings from several members. As always it was fascinating to hear what they had chosen, learning something about them as well as the music. We look forward to some making longer presentations, it is always good to have more presenters. We now include recent popular music, keeping old and new memories alive. You are welcome to come to any of our meetings; an interesting and sociable time guaranteed. The programme for the rest of the year is:

24 Sept:	Norman	Random 60's music, or is it?
22 Oct	Lee	Let's face the music
19 Nov	Mark	
17 Dec	Bob	Now and then followed by Seasonal Spectacular
14 Jan 2027		Let the New Year begin

Bob Day

Money Matters

We're a discussion group sharing what we know about money related topics that affect individuals and families. They might come from our personal experience or the news and may range from finding a good plumber to the likely effect of the Chancellor's budget. From "What are your rights if you buy a product that breaks after a few weeks" to "How to protect your house from being stolen?" No, I'm not joking, it has happened.

Occasionally we have visiting speakers. Recently a senior officer of Trading Standards gave us good advice about spotting and avoiding scams and rogue traders. Members raise topics which spark off discussion and questions are welcome – there's usually somebody in the room who knows the answers. What we cannot do is provide financial advice. Members should check and satisfy themselves that any suggestions made are suitable for them before taking them up.

If you're interested in joining or visiting to see what we do please phone one of the numbers in the Digest or email group025@u3adacorum.org

Tom Bloch

Song of the Tattooist to his Dying Wife

On your breast is where I'll mark a rose
Work the sagging flesh until a wondrous garden grows.
Over saggy skin and wrinkles I will wreath sweet vines
All circled here and there with sweet celandines.
Down dithery thighs set golden fishes darting to swim.
Their beaded eyes and flicking fins, flashing as the sun.
And on each toe a violet, gentle timid flower
That step by step will perfume this precious hour.
Then up your back a green and comely glade
Where angel wings spread sun-peeped dappled shade.
I'll prick shy orchids, red spotty mushrooms, rare,
Hang from an oaken branch a silken swing
Where you may rest at last, and wait me there.

Audrey Naylor

Breaking Point

The popular priest
At his leaving do,
Had the desperate look
Of the overstroked rabbit
I saw in the children's zoo
Audrey Naylor

Science and Technology group 165

Our monthly activities of talks have continued with very good support from our members. Some of them are of more general appeal to a non-scientific audience and we welcome anyone just to drop in to any that arouses their interest.

In May, we welcomed back Colin Richards from Watford u3a who gave us a splendid talk entitled Evolution and Convergence. Under that umbrella title, he showed how several devices that we use in daily life originated and he traced how they looked initially and how they developed into what we know and love (or hate?) today. He gave us the history of things like vacuum cleaners, telephones and fridges, all in his inimitable and lively style.

In June, I gave an account of how the German chemical industry developed between the two World Wars. Inevitably, after Germany's crushing defeat after WW1, it had to try to recover some of its former World dominance and this was achieved by consolidation under the new firm, IG Farben. With the growth of Nazism and the rise to power of Hitler, the programme of IG Farben came under militaristic control. I tried to show how this in turn gave rise to the moral and ethical issues that the victorious Allies tried to redress and which still hang over the German chemistry profession today.

In July Keith Redway gave us a very lively presentation with the rather mysterious title of "Viral parachutes and hand hygiene". This turned out to be based on his research as a microbiologist on how bacteria and viruses can be distributed in public loos by the simple act of washing and drying one's hands.

Written down like that, it doesn't sound like a topic that would hold most people's attention but as I said at the end of it, "I could not have thought that a talk about such an everyday activity could be so fascinating."

It turns out that his research showed that the best way of drying your hands, seen from a microbiologist's perspective, is using disposable paper towels.

The worst by a country mile, was using one these fierce air dryers, now so common but which scatter undesirable bacteria in all directions. A shame that, because I rather like them but will look at them rather differently from now on.

Norman Parkyns



Publicity and Events

u3a Dacorum Facebook group continues to grow, increasing from 31 followers the last quarter to 73 followers! Let's continue to grow and add your photos, post your group's activities and future events! It is really fun to see photos & updates from group activities along with future events. Go on, give it a try!

Search for u3adacorum from your account, Or type in this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1214692039477191>

If you need any help with joining u3adacorum, please feel free to contact Liz Penney at publicity@u3adacorum.org

The committee and members have been busy, attending events to share info and attract new members, the next upcoming event is: Boxmoor Trust Festival on 20 September – Blackbirds Moor.

If you have any ideas or connections to publicise u3a Dacorum to help grow our presence please feel free to contact me.

Liz Penney, Publicity

We have participated in several events this summer to publicise our u3a and to recruit new members. Our first event was at the Leverstock Green Village fete where, despite the hot weather, we attracted plenty of interest from passers-by, helped by a member of our Magic Group making balloon animals on request for the younger visitors.

At the beginning of August, we tried a new venture when Community Action Dacorum, who are based in the Roundhouse in the Marlowes shopping street in Hemel, offered us the opportunity to have a stand outside their building. We were going to do this in June but had to postpone due to one of the heatwaves. The August day was slightly cooler, but the gusty wind down the street proved a challenge for our displays! Despite that we talked to a number of shoppers who were interested in what we have to offer and even signed up one new member on the day.

A week later we attended our second OPALS (Older Persons Activity Learning & Safety) event, this time in Kings Langley community centre. We joined a number of stalls from other local organisations and were able to talk to many members of the audience who were interested in our activities. Several of our members were attending the event which is part of a series run by Herts Council across the county for older residents. Attendees heard talks on fire safety, avoiding scams and trading standards among others, as well as receiving a free lunch. These OPALS events are certainly worth attending if you get the opportunity.

Thank you to all our members who volunteered their time to help run our stalls at these events. We will also be attending the Box Moor Trust Festival on Sunday 20 September, so look out for our stall if you are there.

Carolyn Wallis, Chair

Exploring London, Autumn 2026

The hot weather and subsequent red weather warnings led to the cancellation of our planned walks in June with John Clarke, and in July with Hillary Wood. In August the weather gods smiled on us and we were able to explore North Woolwich led by Sue Miller; we walked under the Thames through the foot tunnel and then returned on the Woolwich Ferry. Pictured in Royal Victoria Park are the first group clustered around a steam hammer, dated 1888, from the blacksmith's shop in Royal Albert Docks, on the site of what is today London City Airport.



We walked over the former docks on the King George V Bascule Bridge and viewed the distinctive rounded halls of residence of Docklands Campus, reminiscent of the funnels of cargo ships and passenger liners which previously occupied the Royal Docks. The students have a grandstand view of London City Airport's busy runway.



So what delights for Autumn? Well in September it is Queens Park and Kensal Green with Bernard Lamb. For October, Tony Ford leads us around Baker Street and Paddington areas. We finish our year in November taking a look at Christmas preparations from Bond Street to Piccadilly Circus and exploring some of the lesser known byways with Sue Miller. Details of each walk will be emailed to all members the 3rd or 4th week of each preceding month, this includes details of how to apply direct to the Walk Leader.

Sue Miller

Shorter Walks

The second walk for Shorter walks group was held on 9 July attended by seven members. We started from Chipperfield Common wandering through the woods, across fields. We managed to stay cool in the shade of trees in spite of the warm weather and completed 4.8 miles. We finished with a cool drink at a local cafe! Thanks to Colin Taylor for leading the walk.

The walk on 13 August was originally planned for five miles starting from Chenies, but was postponed due to heat warnings. However we decided to do a 3 mile walk around from Chaulden. Twelve people joined the walk starting from Chaulden Lane, across the Moor and along the canal. In spite of it being the hottest day this summer it was actually pleasant and majority of the walkers stopped in at the Fishery Wharf cafe for a bevy and more chat at the end of the walk. Thanks to Steve Penney for leading.



Next walks are scheduled to start 10 am to approximately noon:

- 10 September 2026
- 08 October 2026
- 12 November 2026
- 10 December 2026

If you're interested in joining or would like to lead a walk please contact Liz Penney at group050@u3adacorum.org.
Liz Penney

Arts, Crafts and Skills

The Arts Crafts and Skills Group spent an enjoyable and productive session learning how to make professional quality lampshades and these are now for sale at Returned To Glory, Berkhamsted, where all profits go to support the work of The Hospice of St Francis. Our next meeting will be on 14 September when we will be creating an Autumnal Leaf using Trace and Pick – embroidery skills.



Space for newcomers, no experience required, so please contact:

Group223@u3adacorum.org
Susan Woodhams

Industrial History

The group continues to thrive, with our meetings continuing to attract a healthy audience each month at St John's Church Hall in Boxmoor. Our Speaker Coordinator Chris Green has been able to arrange some excellent talks by members. Recently we've enjoyed talks on 'The Northamptonshire Leather Industry', 'IRON – what has it ever done for us?' and more recently 'Leyland Motors'.

Chris has lined up talks on 'Agriculture through the ages', 'What's wrong with Fracking?' and 'Stephenson's London – Birmingham Railway' for the next few months.

Chris Coshan, one of our regular attendees and occasional speaker explained the satisfaction from researching and presenting a talk:

"Talks and presentations by members are of the essence for successful u3a Groups like Industrial History and the preparation is part of this endeavour,"

"This conclusion results from my doing three talks for the Industrial History Group and twice for the Military History Group. All have made me reflect on the interest and enjoyment I have derived from these efforts. Standing up and talking can be a little daunting especially for someone who does not regard themselves as an accomplished speaker, but I think there is no harm in being out of one's comfort zone occasionally and there is then a great sense of achievement. "However, it is the study and research for a talk that I have very much more enjoyed, never quite knowing where it would take me and of course gaining new knowledge to share with fellow members. It can involve a bit of travelling to venues such as museums or historic sites to gather inspiration and information as well as finding this online or from books. Even putting together a PowerPoint presentation is very satisfying, as one tries to set it out so as to communicate the subject to others and to meet time restraints as much as possible."

Chris concludes, *"I would urge anyone who has never 'had a go' and who has half an idea for an interesting subject to give it a try and see where it goes, at their own pace of course. There is always a helping hand for advice available from other members."*

Alan Olive Industrial History Coordinator

Out With Friends

A group from Out with Friends watched the solar eclipse together, with Dennis Harvey as their guide.

They followed this up with a trip to the local pub for refreshments. Finally they returned to watch the Perseid meteor shower and saw several meteors.

Debbie Sargeant





Garden Trips and Tours,
Holtsmere End Farm, Redbourn



If you think folk singing may be a bit genteel for you, this is a photo of Hamish and Brian leading a recent session



The Italian step2 group met for lunch at the Little Hay golf club. The air conditioning was a welcome break from the summer heat to enjoy a catch-up



Industrial History's August Meeting



Our stall at the Leverstock Green Fete



The OPALS Event in Kings Langley. The Dacorum u3a Stand is at the back, right of centre

Exploring Textiles (formerly Rug Making)

As many of the group have completed several rugs we have started to focus on a number of different crafts involving the use of textiles. This includes crochet, knitting and embroidery

amongst other skills and a number of blankets have been donated to DENS and various local nursing homes.

We have several newer members who are continuing to make rugs and the group is now full.

Pictures show members using a 'bodger' to pull pieces of recycled fabric into hessian to form a rug.

Jane Campbell



Railways

Our group were invited to visit the site of the HS2 station at Old Oak Common in West London. This will be the London Terminus for the line until work at Euston is completed and will have 14 platforms and connections to existing railway lines. There will also be a bus station allowing access to residents from many areas of west London.

Our group were given an introductory talk by three members of the team working on the project and then taken to a viewing room where we could see a scale model of the site which enabled us to identify some of the features which were close to completion.

Amongst other photo opportunities some members dressed in hi-vis protective clothing.

We will be visiting the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre for our final summer day out before returning to Adeyfield Community Centre in September for the first of our planned programme of talks.

New members are welcome, contact Jane and Victor Campbell: group167@u3adacorum.org for details.

Jane Campbell



Military History

We have had some very varied talks and speakers thus far this year. This makes for a very interesting programme and meetings. Because we cover such a range of time periods, geographical locations and differing personalities, there is always something for everybody. Using some external speakers who bring specialised knowledge as well as our own hard working researcher/presenter members, a balance is struck, which appears to be much appreciated. As an example, we have covered Alfred Dreyfus, Abraham Lincoln, British Colonial Wars and from currently the most renowned author on the subject, Jonathan Starkey, the Battle of Hastings, or wherever it took place!

Our members have delivered on Waterloo, because Bob Spence had recently visited the site, an introduction to the Samurai culture from Pete Williamson, who is somewhat of an expert and a very personal story about Robin van Geene's grandad in the six years of his army career which included World War One.

Within this period we also managed a trip to the Combined Military Services Museum in Maldon, which was a total revelation. Impeccably staffed, with some fabulous collections.



The Combined Military Services Museum

We highly recommend a visit!

Coming up we shall have talks on Vietnam's Cu-Chi tunnels, (hands up if you have been there).

We will also have the development of British Tanks from Bob Spence, having just spent many hours at the Bovington Tank Museum, as well as a detailed presentation about the Spanish Civil War.

We are also planning a trip to the Military Intelligence Museum at



Tea at the Combined Military Services Museum

Chicksands before it moves to a new London home next year. So if you fancy a trip down memory lane, or history the way you were not taught at school, or would like to know in some instances why the world is the way it is, please come and join us. If you fancy making a presentation, just give us a call. We are not very good at boring I am afraid.

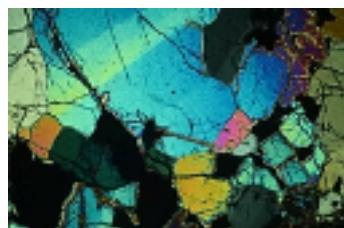
Graham Kendall

Astronomy

We held our usual meeting in June but unfortunately had to cancel July and August, one for the heatwave and one as our summer break. We resume in September, so watch for the notification! We meet on the second Thursday of the month and everyone regardless of knowledge is welcome!

Our guest speaker in June was my friend Louis-Alexandre Lobanov, a PhD student at the Natural History Museum and an expert on iron meteorites. He helped us to understand the story that meteorites tell us even after they burn up.

The colourful composition of meteorites can be seen under a specialised microscope, and the minerals identified by their colour, shape and reaction to polarised light. The make-up can tell us where they originated and help us



to understand more about planetary formation billions of years ago.

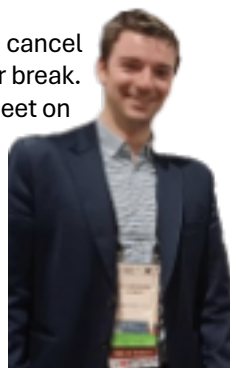
Now, as we have no meetings to tell you about, here is some exciting news about a new space telescope that will be launched into space at the end of August. You may have heard about the Hubble Telescope. This is its successor.

The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope is NASA's next major infrared observatory, designed to transform how we map the universe. It launches on 30 August 2026 aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy from Kennedy Space Centre and will travel to the Sun–Earth L2 point, about a million miles from Earth, an orbit shared with the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) already at work studying the far reaches of our universe. Where JWST zooms in, Roman zooms out, capturing the big picture of the cosmos with unprecedented speed and clarity.

Dr Nancy Grace Roman is known to many as the “Mother of Hubble” for her foundational role in planning the Hubble Space Telescope which brought us previously unsurpassed images, helping in the understanding of our expanding universe. She was also an active public speaker and educator, and an advocate for women in the sciences.

The Roman telescope is expected to return huge amounts of freely accessible data (~11 terabits/day) to be downlinked to stations in the US, Australia, Japan, and via the Deep Space Network. It is a 2.4-meter infrared telescope – a Hubble-class mirror, but with a field of view 100× larger. It is built for wide, deep surveys, not single-object close-ups. That means it can map enormous regions of the sky quickly, revealing billions of cosmic objects and structures.

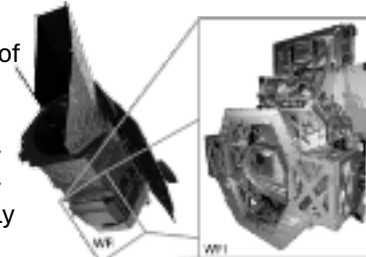
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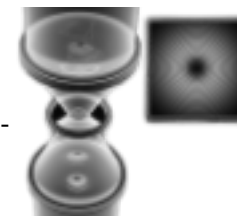
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It will carry two major instruments, each unlocking different science:

1. A Wide Field Instrument for mapping billions of galaxies across cosmic time and measuring dark energy via supernovae, galaxy clustering, and weak lensing. It will also conduct a statistical census of exoplanets via gravitational microlensing. This will cover a field of view roughly 100 times larger than Hubble or JWST.



2. A specialised Coronagraph Instrument which uses starlight suppression to be able to better view exoplanets and protoplanetary disks. Think firefly in front of a street-lamp!



The exciting things are that Roman will map how matter is distributed and how the universe's expansion has changed over billions of years. It will test whether dark energy is evolving—or whether Einstein's general relativity breaks down on cosmic scales. It will also be able to detect thousands of planets, including cold, distant worlds that other missions miss. Its huge field of view allows rapid surveys that would take Hubble hundreds or thousands of years. Roman will observe galaxies when the universe was only 4% of its current age, revealing how cosmic structure formed.

Designed to be complimentary, Roman is the wide-sky mapper; JWST is the deep-universe zoom lens, a “far and wide” partnership. Roman surveys huge areas quickly, JWST zooms in with extreme detail. Together, they form the most powerful one-two punch in space astronomy.

Watch the launch on <https://plus.nasa.gov>, no earlier than August 30, 2026, with testing and set up taking place over the next 3 to 6 months.

Patricia Rowe

*“Looking through the atmosphere is somewhat like looking through a piece of old, stained glass.
The glass has defects in it, so the image is blurred from that” – Nancy Roman*

Exploring Towns and Villages

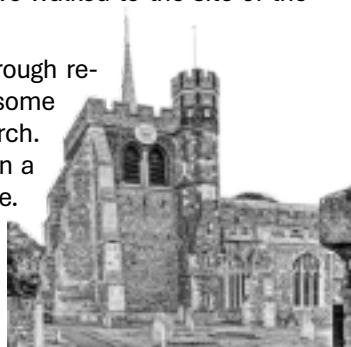
In June, the Exploring Towns and Villages Group visited and learned about Kings Langley. Graham and Margaret prepared for the group exploration through their knowledge of the town in which they live and lots of research. Who knew there was so much history in the town? It was interesting to realise the link to other places, famous people and stories we've encountered in previous visits. We met for coffee at Fred and Gingers. Graham led a walk through the High Street sharing with us interesting facts and stories about some very old houses, shops, lost pubs and post offices. Margaret shared photos and research documents and we heard about Fortunatus and Hortentius Smith. We had lunch in The Rose and Crown – it was very good and we got free parking. After lunch we walked to the site of the former Langley Royal Palace.

In July, Gillian and Heather led a visit to Hitchin. Through research and preparatory visits they planned a tour of some of the oldest parts of the town including St Mary's Church. The planning was made easier by basing the route on a map produced by the "Visit Hitchin" information centre.

We had lunch in the Sun Hotel which dates back to 1770. We shared lifts and managed free parking at the Hotel. The day of our visit was a 70th birthday for one of our members – we raised a toast to him with the Champagne Surprise arranged by his wife. In the afternoon we explored Hitchin Lavender. After a few lovely smelling purchases, we relaxed over a cup of tea or an ice-cream – well it was hot!

Our group is 'full' and we have a waiting list but if you'd like to set up another group please contact Gillian or Heather

Heather Jones



Painting For Pleasure

Members from the Painting for Pleasure group went to the Water Gardens in Hemel Hempstead for their August meeting. (*See Front Cover*)

The weather was good, and there was lots of seating provided by the council, but we hadn't realised that the gardens would be watered during our time there, so there were only a few dry places to sit. We enjoyed sketching the flowers, and some of us also tried to sketch moving geese on the river, not easy.

The Liberty Tea Room was close by, and provided a good place to show each other what we had achieved, and of course chat.

Normally we meet at Northchurch social centre, on the First Thursday of the month, and are very happy to welcome new members.

Sue Bloch

Armchair Traveller

We travelled to the American Heartland with Ullly Jorimann in May, visiting six states; Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa. We started in Chicago and focused on the Pioneer History, Architecture and the Rivers of the region which were full to the brim due to heavy spring rains. There were many town and city visits in the three-and-a-half-week trip; notable stops in Missouri included; Hannibal, the home of Mark Twain, Jefferson City, the State Capitol, and Lamar, the birthplace of Harry S Truman. Travelling across the Prairies there were several opportunities to see buffalo.

In Kansas we visited Topeka, the State Capitol, then on to Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. The Prairie theme continued in Nebraska with a visit to Buffalo Bill's ranch 'Scout Rest' and the sights of Courthouse and Jail Rocks as well as Chimney Rock. The next state, South Dakota included a drive along the Needles Highway in Custer State Park, a visit to Crazy Horse's Memorial and a drive through "Badlands" country. In our final state, Iowa we visited Pella, a town with Dutch heritage and Iowa City.

The above description is just a small snapshot of Ullly's very extensive presentation.

In June we travelled to Tuscany staying in the hamlet of Stigliano outside Sienna. Our first stop was Florence where we visited the Uffizi Gallery and the Vasari Corridor followed by the Ponte Vecchio with its jewellery shops and the Duomo. Other places visited were the Basilica Santa Croce, the burial place of notable Italians and the Accademia, home of Michelangelo's sculpture David. Our next visit was to Volterra, a walled mountaintop town whose history dates from before the 8th century BC. Here we walked the medieval streets and alleyways, with the highlight of the visit being the Roman Theatre uncovered in the 1950's.

We continued our tour of Tuscany with a visit to the towns and villages of Chianti, Greve, Castellina and Radda in Chianti followed by a visit to San Gimignano with its Tower Houses. We walked the medieval streets and visited the Collegiata di Santa Maria Assunta to see the extraordinary frescoes on the church walls. Our final visit was to Sienna where we visited the Piazzas Tolomei and Il Campo and the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption visiting the church with its amazing mosaics, the museum, the crypt and finally the baptistry.

There was no meeting in July, however in August we took two rail trips in Germany with Brian Leary

Future presentations will include; Californian Highlights, a trip to the Far East visiting Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, the Galapagos and Ecuador's Valley of the Volcanoes and finally our Annual Christmas Quiz for Fun.

John Clarke

Why Tea Dance?

Tea Dance is a wonderful way to combine exercise, music and friendship in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Whether you are an experienced dancer or have only taken a few steps before, you'll find plenty to enjoy. Dancing is not only great fun, it also provides many physical and mental benefits to help us stay active and engaged.

Learning and remembering dance routines exercises the memory and keeps the mind alert. Regular dancing improves balance, coordination, agility and posture, helping us to move with greater confidence in everyday life. Graceful movement develops poise, while dancing to music lifts the spirits and provides an enjoyable escape from the pressures of daily life.

Our Tea Dance Group enjoys a wide variety of dance styles. **Ballroom** dances such as the Waltz, Foxtrot and Quickstep offer elegance and smooth movement around the floor. **Latin** favourites, including the Cha-Cha-Cha, Rumba and Jive, bring energy, rhythm and plenty of smiles. **Sequence Dancing** combines familiar steps with repeating patterns, making it both sociable and satisfying to learn. We also include a little **Line Dancing**, where everyone dances together in rows, providing a lively change of pace and an opportunity to enjoy popular music without needing a partner.

Above all, our Tea Dance sessions are friendly and informal. Members encourage one another, share their enjoyment of dancing and, of course, look forward to a welcome cup of tea and a chat during the interval. The combination of music, movement and companionship makes every session something to anticipate.

No previous experience is needed, just comfortable shoes, a love of music and a willingness to join in. Why not come and discover the pleasure of dancing with friends?

Mike Sapsard

Using AI

On a cold but sunny day in January 2023, my window cleaner asked me if I had tried Chatgpt yet. It had been released two months earlier, and he thought it quite useful. What, you may ask, was he using it for? Well, his other part time job was as an IT lecturer at the Herts Uni.

I had no reason to use it until last year, when a friend of mine died and his widow asked me to write a eulogy for him. We spent an afternoon going through his life, and I wrote a couple of increasingly polished drafts.

Finally, I asked Chatgpt to correct any grammatical errors and offer better phraseology where appropriate. Chatgpt offered to make it warmer and more personal. This was a machine talking! The result was astounding, and was used at his funeral.

I have since used Chatgpt and Google Gemini to produce computer code. Gemini produced a JavaScript program in about three days of too-ing and fro-ing. I still can't write a line of JavaScript, but that code is now in use in the u3a SiteWorks system.

If you want to try an AI product safely, whether for knitting patterns, creating a video

Continued on page 25...

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of your dog eating with a knife and fork, or sugar free chocolate cake recipes, I recommend downloading the DuckDuckGo browser and using its AI feature. It will give you a choice of many AI tools, but all are safe and constrained, such that nothing will be taken from your system for tracking or advertising purposes.

Of course, if you can't be bothered with AI, Betty Crocker also has a cracking sugar free chocolate cake mix.

Mike Sapsard

Why Do Magic?

Magic is not only fun, but it also encourages clear thinking, careful observation and problem-solving, while developing manual dexterity, memory and presentation skills. For members of the u3a Magic Group, learning these effects offers far more than entertainment. Performing tricks builds confidence in speaking before an audience and provides an enjoyable way to make new friends. Magic is built upon creating impossible experiences, and most illusions fall into eight classic categories.

Appearance is the art of producing something from nowhere. A magician might make a dove, bouquet of flowers or playing card suddenly appear, leaving the audience wondering where it came from.

Levitation creates the illusion that a person or object is floating without support. Whether a coin rises from a table or an assistant appears to hover in mid-air, levitation has always been one of magic's most dramatic effects.

Penetration involves one solid object apparently passing through another. Linking rings, cups pierced by swords and classic rope effects are examples of this impossible phenomenon.

Prediction convinces the audience that the magician knew the outcome before it happened. A sealed envelope, written note or hidden message reveals a freely chosen card, number or decision.

Restoration reverses damage. A rope cut into pieces becomes whole again, or a torn newspaper is restored to perfect condition, suggesting that time itself has been turned backwards.

Transformation changes one object into another, while **Transposition** causes two objects to exchange places instantly. Finally, a **Vanish** is the apparent disappearance of an object, from a simple coin to an entire person.

Our members meet to exchange ideas, practise and inspire one another with new routines and techniques. Best of all, magic brings smiles and laughter to family and friends, making it a rewarding hobby that keeps both the mind and the imagination active throughout life.

No previous experience is needed—just curiosity, a sense of fun and a willingness to learn. We'd be delighted to welcome you.

Mike Sapsard

Group Listings

If you wish to attend a group for the first time, or if anything is unclear, please contact the person listed to express your interest, to find out how it works, and whether there is space.

085 Armchair Traveller St John's Church Large Hall	John Clarke group085@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Tuesday 14:00 - 16:00
039 Art Club Gadebridge Community Centre	Patricia Angell group039@u3adacorum.org	Alt Fridays 10:00 - 12:00
223 Arts, Crafts, Skills Kings Arms, Berkhamsted	Susan Woodhams group223@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Monday 10:00 - 12:00
190 Astronomy St Francis Church Hall	Patricia Rowe group190@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Thursday 14:00 - 16:00
364 Backgammon Leverstock Green Village Hall	Nick Ray group364@u3adacorum.org	First Thursday 15:30 - 17:30
360 Badminton Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre	John Larkin group360@u3adacorum.org	Thursdays 10:00 - 12:00
363 Book Group Oakwood, Berkhamsted	Margaret Elwick group363@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Thursdays 14:00 - 16:00
029 Book Reading HH St Johns Church Small Hall	Jenny Thirlwell group029@u3adacorum.org	2 nd /4 th Mon 10:00 - 12:00
183 Bus Trippers Various Locations	Jane Campbell group183@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Wed Various Times
007 Calligraphy Leverstock Green Village Hall	Jane Roberts group007@u3adacorum.org	Mon 2 weekly 13:00 - 15:00
048 Card Making A (HH) Sundew Road	Catherine Lindsay group048@u3adacorum.org	1 st Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00
177 Card Making B (BK) BK Social Club Farriers Hall	Lesley Drake group177@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Friday 14:00 - 16:00
011 Circle Dance Carey Baptist Church	James Robertson group011@u3adacorum.org	1 st , 3 rd Tues 11:00 - 12:30
080 Creative Writing B Wrensfield	Kay Reid group080@u3adacorum.org	Thu 3 weekly, 14:00 - 16:00
082 Creative Writing C Gravel Lane, Boxmoor	Janet Goacher group082@u3adacorum.org	1 st Thursday 14:00 - 16:00
046 Cribbage and Scrabble Adeyfield Community Centre	Althea Jones group046@u3adacorum.org	2 nd , 4 th Mon 14:00 - 16:00
064 Cycling Various Locations	Sue Potiuk group064@u3adacorum.org	1 st Thursday 10:00 Start
090 Discussion B BK Sacred Heart Berkhamsted	Tim Thompson group090@u3adacorum.org	4 th Tuesday 14:00 - 16:00
081 Exploring London Various Locations	Sue Miller group081@u3adacorum.org	Last week of Month

213 Exploring Textiles Windmill Road HH	Jane Campbell group213@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Tuesday 14:00 - 16:00
197 Exploring Towns, Villages Visits by Car Share	Heather Jones Gillian Lawton group197@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Thursday Various Times
073 Flower Arranging Highfield Community Centre	Carol Cotton Valerie Norris group073@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Thu, Not August 14:00 - 16:00
159 Folk Singing Adeyfield Free Church	Brian Jackson group159@u3adacorum.org	2 nd , 4 th Wed 10:00 - 12:00
202 French Book Club Highclere Drive	Lyn Parkyns group202@u3adacorum.org	Last Tue 2 - monthly 15:00 - 17:00
214 French Conv - Adv Member's Home	Bernadette Streater group214@u3adacorum.org	1 st & 3 rd Tues 10:15 - 12:00
018 Garden Visiting Various Locations	Linda Duckworth Barry Watson group018@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Wed, Feb to Oct, 14:00 Start
017 Garden Trips and Tours Various Locations	Sue Croucher group017@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Thursday 10:00 Start
019 Genealogy A BK Winter Zoom, Summer Northchurch Social Centre	Kath Jones group019@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Monday 14:00 - 16:00
051 Genealogy B HH St Pauls Highfield & Zoom	Margaret Fairburn group051@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Monday 10:00 - 12:00
059 German Improvers St Johns Church Small Hall	Heather Al-Jawad group059@u3adacorum.org	Mon 2 weekly 14:00 - 16:00
024 Industrial History St Johns Church Full Hall	Alan Olive group024@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00
095 Italian (Lang and Culture) St Johns Church Large Hall	Lorna & Jim Grimes group095@u3adacorum.org	2 nd , 4 th Thur 10:00 - 12:00
092 Italian Conversation (Int) Member's Home	Marie McHale Anette Corbach group092@u3adacorum.org	1 st & 3 rd Thur 14:30 - 16:30
156 Italian (Step 2) Adeyfield Community Centre	Tina Leach group156@u3adacorum.org	Every Friday 13:30 - 15:30
188 Japanese Conversation Various Locations	Christine Watson group188@u3adacorum.org	2 nd , 4 th Thu 10:00 - 11:30
026 Jazz Appreciation St Francis Hall, Boxmoor	Bernard Newton group026@u3adacorum.org	Thu 4 weekly 10:00 - 12:00
175 Knit and Natter Tile Kiln Lane Leverstock Green	Lana Linden Group175@u3adacorum.org	Wed 2 Weekly 14:00 - 16:00

076 Latin Beginners Various Locations BK	Christine Watson group076@u3adacorum.org	2 nd and 4 th Wed 14:15 - 15:45
076 Latin Intermediate Various Locations BK	Christine Watson group076@u3adacorum.org	1 st and 3 rd Wed 14:30 - 16:00
027 Literature A BK Various Locations	Cherry Stainforth group027@u3adacorum.org	Tue 2 - weekly 10:00 - 12:00
028 Literature B Various Locations Berkhamsted	Judy Roythorne group028@u3adacorum.org	Mon 3 - weekly 10:00 - 12:00
157 Lunch Club A Various Locations	Jerri McCann group0157@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Tuesday Ring for Times
203 Lunch Club B Various Locations	Jerri McCann group203@u3adacorum.org	4 th Tuesday Ring for Times
215 Magic Club Leverstock Green Village Hall	Mike Sapsard group215@u3adacorum.org	Fri 2 - Weekly 14:00 - 16:00
060 MahJong St Pauls Church Parish Room	Sarah Watson group060@u3adacorum.org	1 st , 3 rd Wed 10:00 - 12:00
361 Maths and Puzzles St Francis Church Hall	Roger Witts group361@u3adacorum.org	Third Monday 14:00 - 16:00
065 Military History St Johns Church Large Hall	Graham Kendall group065@u3adacorum.org	1 st Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00
025 Money Matters St Johns Church Large Hall	Tom Bloch Janet Wheeler group025@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Monday 10:00 - 12:00
035 Music Apprec (Classical) St Francis Hall, Boxmoor	Sue Frost Jack Scrutton group035@u3adacorum.org	Thu 2 weekly 10:00 - 12:00
089 Musical Miscellany St Francis Hall, Boxmoor	Robert Day group089@u3adacorum.org	Thu 4 weekly 10:00 - 12:00
037 Nature Study Various Locations outdoors	Keith Taylor group037@u3adacorum.org	Every Tuesday 10:30 - 12:30
038 Needlework Ivy House Lane BK	Lesley Drake group038@u3adacorum.org	Tue 2 weekly 10:00 - 12:00
067 Opera - Introduction Rider Close Bovingdon	Maggie Moore group067@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Friday 14:00 - 16:00
075 Out with Friends St Johns Church Full Hall	Deborah Sargeant group075@u3adacorum.org	1 st Friday 10:00 - 12:00
036 Painting for Pleasure Northchurch Social Centre, Outside in Summer	Sue Bloch Linda Tomkinson group036@u3adacorum.org	1 st Thursday 10:00 - 12:00
040 Patchwork Adeyfield Community Centre	Jenny Burton group040@u3adacorum.org	2 nd , 4 th Wed 13:00 - 15:00

045 Pencil Drawing Adeyfield Community Centre	Jean Houston group045@u3adacorum.org	1 st Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00
061 Philosophy Quaker Meeting House, HH	Denis Maclure group061@u3adacorum.org	Tue 2 weekly 14:30 - 16:30
151 Photography Club St Johns Church Large Hall	John Larkin Terry Thirlwell group151@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Wednesday 14:00 - 16:00
041 Play Reading A Warners End Comm Centre	Catherine Ayling group041@u3adacorum.org	1 st Tuesday 09:30 - 12:00
042 Play Reading B Bk Heron Place Apartments, Bank Mill, Berkhamsted	Ruth Treves Brown Gillian Southgate group042@u3adacorum.org	1 st Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00
071 Poetry Appreciation Chalfont Close, HH	Margaret Ainsworth group071@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Wednesday 14:00 - 16:00
088 Poetry Writing Gravel Lane, Boxmoor	Audrey Naylor group088@u3adacorum.org	Mon 3 weekly 14:00 - 16:00
167 Railways Summer Rail Visits, otherwise Adeyfield Community Centre	Jane Campbell Victor Campbell group167@u3adacorum.org	Last Thursday, (not Dec) 10:00 - 12:00
182 Reading BK Cedar Road Berkhamsted	Denis Maclure group182@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Friday 10:00 - 12:30
084 Russian Beechwood Park	Chris Hayward group084@u3adacorum.org	Thursday 10:00 - 11:30
165 Science and Technology St Johns Church Full Hall	Norman Parkyns David Eastham Group165@u3adacorum.org	Last Wed 14:15 - 16:00
185 Sewing Bee Adeyfield Community Centre	Jenny Barnfield group185@u3adacorum.org	2 nd , 4 th Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00
050 Shorter Walks Various Locations outdoors	Liz Penney group050@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Thursdays 10:00 - 12:00
187 Spanish Lang and Cult Potten End	Shirley King group187@u3adacorum.org	2 nd and 4 th Wed 14:30 - 16:30
221 Swimming (Berkhamsted) Berkhamsted Leisure centre	Moir Brook group221@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Friday 12:00 - 14:30
217 Table tennis A Adeyfield Community Centre	Sarah Glennie Group217@u3adacorum.org	1 st , 3 rd Wed 14:00 - 16:00
224 Table tennis B Adeyfield Community Centre	Mark Chapman group224@u3adacorum.org	2 nd , 4 th Wed 13:00 - 16:00
005 Tea Dance Apsley Community Centre	Mike Sapsard group005@u3adacorum.org	Tues 2 weekly 14:00 - 16:00

181 Ukulele Grove Hill Community Centre	Sue Parsons group181@u3adacorum.org	1 st and 3 rd Weds, 09:30 - 12:00
220 Urban Sketchers Various Locations	Althea Jones group220@u3adacorum.org	2 nd and 4 th Tue, Oct - Apr 4 th Tue 10:00 - 12:00
099 Walking Various Locations	Peter Hamson group099@u3adacorum.org	Usually 4 th Tue 09:30 start
204 Wild Flower Study Various Locations	Jennifer Dickson group204@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Wed or Thu 10:00 - 12:00
078 Wine appreciation St Johns Large Hall	Kay Hobday group078@u3adacorum.org	First Friday 14:30 - 16:30

u3a Dacorum Committee Members

Members of u3a Dacorum may contact any committee member with suggestions, ideas, and complaints or for advice on matters relating to u3a activities.

Trustees:

Chair: Carolyn Wallis	chair@u3adacorum.org
Vice Chair: Jane Campbell	vicechair@u3adacorum.org
Treasurer: Henry Wallis	treasurer@u3adacorum.org
Secretary: Ellen Duffy	secretary@u3adacorum.org
Groups: Louise (Lee) Pace	groups@u3adacorum.org
Digest Editor: John Dodkins	editor@u3adacorum.org
Speakers: Louise (Lee) Pace	speakers@u3adacorum.org
Hall Bookings: Lesley Drake	halls@u3adacorum.org
Beacon: John Dodkins	beaconadmin@u3adacorum.org
Trustee: Mary Wyon	trustee2@u3adacorum.org

Committee Associates:

Membership: Jean Sniders	members@u3adacorum.org
Web Admin: Mike Sapsard	mike.sapsard@gmail.com
Beacon & web: Anne Menzies	admina@u3adacorum.org
Equipment: Terry Thirlwell	equipment@u3adacorum.org
Group News: Alan Osborn	news@u3adacorum.org
Minutes: Deborah Porter	minutes@u3adacorum.org
Minutes: Lesley Drake	minutes@u3adacorum.org
Publicity: Liz Penney	publicity@u3adacorum.org

Important Notice

As you can see, there is plenty of room here to list more committee members so please consider joining to help fill up this empty space.

Autumn

The reaping and storage of crops such as wheat, barley, corn, and hay almost over. Leaving the fields looking barren and brown and in some cases the stubble from the cutting of crops is all that remains. Summer is now all but over.

Autumn is almost here with the leaves on the deciduous trees gradually turning from green to gold or green to crimson, red, yellow; presently these will all be the same brown colour. Finally these become brittle and fall to the ground by the soft cool autumn breeze, driving rain.

Wet leaves landing on walkways, pavements and on grasses become mush under our feet and cause us to slip and slide. Now finding this wet soggy brown mush a right devil to brush away.

How we'd wished... we'd swept them away when they were dry.

The last of the migrating birds have flown our shores to sunnier climes

Soon the clocks change as winter creeps ever nearer and nearer.

Chris Wallis



Card Making Berkhamsted: "Weaving"



"Close Encounters" Seen on a Shorter Walks group outing