

# u3a Horsham Newsletter

WINTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2023/4



<https://u3asites.org.uk/horsham/home>

Registered Charity No. 1054606

## GENERAL MEETING Of u3a Horsham

WILL BE HELD 2.15PM TUESDAY

16 JANUARY 2024

AT THE HOLBROOK CLUB NORTH HEATH LANE HORSHAM RH12 5PJ

### ‘THE VIEW FROM THE WINGS’ BY BRIAN FREELAND



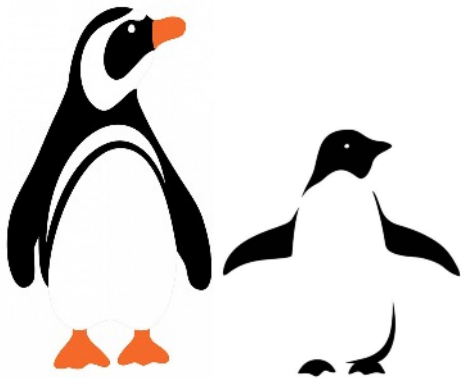
Brian's theatre career started in 1959, taking him to 44 countries. He worked at many different theatres including National Theatre, Nottingham Playhouse, Sadler's Wells.

On retirement he started writing scripts and giving talks.

This entertaining talk is of a stage manager's view of theatre productions as seen from the prompt corner, especially when "everything is not alright on the night".

The Holbrook Club is situated on bus routes 51, 61 and 200  
Ample free parking is available

L e a r n L a u g h L i v e



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**'One kind word can warm three winter months'**

Japanese Proverb

# VICE CHAIR'S LETTER



Dear Member,

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Horsham U3a newsletter.

It is my great pleasure to introduce myself. My name is Simon Hill and I am vice chair of Horsham U3a. I am writing this because our chair Shirley Carpenter is recuperating at home following a recent operation. I am very pleased to report that she is recovering quickly and hopes to resume her duties in the near future.

All of the committee are grateful to those who have stepped up to fill vacancies on the committee.

As always there will be changes in circumstances for people which means that they can no longer be committee members. As a result of this we are now seeking someone to be our treasurer.

This is a brilliant opportunity to be part of the team responsible for making Horsham U3a what it is and of course improving it over the coming years; **to Learn, Laugh and Live**. Please get in touch with Mike (details on the back cover of this newsletter or on our web site) or come and talk to any of us at a general meeting.

2023 has been a year of change, both on the committee and of course in the country as a whole as we gradually get back to normal following the pandemic. We are looking forward to 2024, not only to being back to normal but celebrating our 30th anniversary and more details of what we are planning will be revealed next year.

As this is the last newsletter this year, I would like to wish all of you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

With very best wishes

*Simon Hill* Vice Chair, Horsham u3a



## SECRETARY'S NOTES

Next year, 2024, will be Horsham u3a's 30th birthday and plans are already afoot to have a celebration of this special event. Look out, also, for our 30th anniversary logo which you will see on your new Membership Cards and elsewhere. The logo was chosen by the committee from designs by Anne David, our Newsletter Co-ordinator.

However, before this happy event can take place, we are desperately in need of a Treasurer and we cannot operate without one. Mike is due to step down this December, and would be more than happy to hear from you if you are interested in the position (his contact numbers are on the back page) and see also his article on page 8.

In previous years, our Day Trips organised by the Social Committee were very much in demand, but of course these had to be stopped during the pandemic and for some time afterwards due to people's reluctance to go on coach trips at all. Please read the article about Coach Outings for 2024 on page 10 and send in those cheques for the February outing, now!

Our AGM is due to take place in March 2024. Because the next Newsletter will not be issued until the end of February, I am asking now for anyone who wishes a Committee Nomination Form to get in touch with me within the next couple of months, as the next newsletter will be too late.

The AGM will see me stepping down from the position of Secretary, which I will have then held for three years. I am sure there must be someone out there who would be interested and if there is, please contact me, my numbers are on the back page. Thank you.

The compliments of the season to you all!

**Kind regards**

*Shiela Campbell*

Secretary



**The committee wish to WELCOME all these first-time members who have joined us recently:**

**Chris & Joan Applebee  
David Belford  
Caroline Burton  
Mary Du Vergier  
Bridget Edwards  
Jan Francis  
Sally Garland**



**Wendy Hasluck  
Marion Jones  
Eileen Little  
Chris McLennan-Murray  
John Oliver  
Robin Richardson**



**FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024:**

**MARCH 2024** - Return Completed Renewal Form & Pay Membership Sub

**Tuesday 26 March AGM** - **Sarah Slater**  
Secrets, Scandal & Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court

**Tuesday 21 MAY** - **OPEN EVENT**

**Tuesday 16 July 2024** - **Rupert Toovey**  
Investing in Art & Antiques

**Tuesday 17 September** - **Tony Turner**  
JUMP

**Tuesday 19 November** - **Jackie Marsh Hobbs**  
Secrets of the Royal Pavilion

**Please continue to send in your articles.**

**I would be pleased to hear any suggestions for changes you would like to see to improve your newsletter. Thank you, Anne.**

**[spideranne@live.co.uk](mailto:spideranne@live.co.uk)**

**Individual views, opinions and statements expressed in correspondence, letters, articles and other published material appearing in the Horsham u3a newsletter, are not necessarily those held by Horsham u3a or its committee.**



## HEADS-UP ON PAYMENT OF HORSHAM U3A RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTIONS



Renewal forms for 2024/25 will be sent out towards the end of next February and we hope that you will be renewing your subscription for the year commencing 1st March 2024, ideally by bank transfer to be paid in March 2024.

If you have paid online in the past, and have set up a standing order to pay the sub **PLEASE CANCEL IT NOW** because it causes problems when either the amount changes, the date due changes or you decide to leave Horsham u3a and forget to tell your bank to cancel the instruction to pay the sub.

Every year our Treasurer has to go through the process of refunding money paid in error either by people whose memberships have lapsed or by members who send a cheque forgetting that they have set up a standing order, often for a different amount than is now due, or by members who just pay the sub more than once.

This is time-consuming, so please think about the unnecessary work that it causes and cancel any standing orders **NOW**, that you may have set up in the past.

Thank you,  
Jenny Faulkner  
Membership Secretary

## Your Contribution to this Newsletter is Welcome



If you would like to share stories and updates or have any contributions for your newsletter, please send them to Anne:  
*[spideranne@live.co.uk](mailto:spideranne@live.co.uk)*

# New Treasurer Sought Urgently



I'm sure many of you are familiar with:

**"For want of a nail the shoe was lost. .... For want of a battle the kingdom was lost. And all for the want of a nail."**

**Well, for want of a treasurer, the Horsham u3a may be lost.**

We are required by charity law to have a treasurer, or we are unable to operate.

The current treasurer had intended relinquishing his term of office at the end of October. Although we found a replacement treasurer, due to work commitments he was unable to take on the role.

Our current treasurer has agreed to remain in post until 31/12/23, so we desperately need to find a replacement. It would be sad to wind up the charity instead of celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024.

## **The treasurer needs to be:**

Numerate

Organised

PC literate and able to use the internet, email and spreadsheets

## **The work consists of:**

Recording income, outgoings, groups' contributions and rentals

Recording social events' income and outgoings

Attending u3a trustees' monthly committee meetings to report financial status

Managing the bank accounts (online)

Receiving payments from members for groups' activities and subscriptions (cheques and online)

Liasing with the membership secretary re subs received

Paying invoices, group and committee expenses (online)

Submitting Gift Aid to HMRC (online, yearly)

Preparing Year End accounts and submitting to our scrutineer and the Charity Commission (online)

Preparing forecast for coming year (yearly)

**Full training will be given**

The commitment would be about two days a month overall. Some months may require a little more time when annual accounts need to be prepared.

If you can use a spreadsheet and are reasonably organised, you are an ideal candidate for treasurer - you don't need to be a chartered accountant or have a background in finance.

Please consider stepping forward to help the committee, or the charity will have to close. This would mean no more group activities, social events, general meetings and speakers. It would also mean that all the money in the Horsham u3a bank accounts; money you have contributed to the running of this charity, would be handed over to the u3a head office.

**For more information, please contact the current treasurer, Mike Harrod by email at: [treasurer@horshamu3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@horshamu3a.org.uk)**

Kind regards, Horsham u3a Trustees



## HOW MANY OSTRICHES ARE THERE IN HORSHAM U3A?



There are a vast number and they all have their heads in the sand because the response to the plea for members to join our REALLY USEFUL GROUP (RUG) which was featured in the Autumn newsletter was very, very disappointing.

Out of a membership of more than 700 I can count on ONE HAND the number of volunteers who got in touch. Compare that to Crawley u3a who have a membership of around 650 and active RUG members totalling around 35!

Just to remind you what RUG is..... It's a group of people who don't want a regular commitment or responsibility for any specific jobs, but who would be prepared to pitch in and lend a hand as and when required. The more volunteers we have, the more we can spread the jobs around so it may be that you're only asked to help for an hour or so once in a blue moon. There was an article in the Spring edition of the Third Age Matters magazine entitled "Every Member Should Be Doing Something" so this is your chance to acknowledge that and stop being an ostrich. Your committee needs your support and this is a great way of getting to know fellow members, especially if you're new to Horsham u3a or haven't joined any groups.



Many hands, make light work!

Contact me if you want to join **RUG** and be **REALLY USEFUL**.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

**Jenny Faulkner** Membership Secretary Email: [membership@horshamu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@horshamu3a.org.uk)

## 'IT COSTS TO WASTE'

IT'S ESTIMATED THAT 600 BILLION DISPOSABLE CUPS ARE USED AND SENT TO LANDFILL GLOBALLY, EVERY YEAR!

Do your bit to reduce this.

Stop single use cups and bring your own mug to the General Meetings.

Your drink will taste so good from your own mug too.

Thank you, you're tea-riffic.





## COACH OUTINGS FOR U3A MEMBERS 2024

The Social Section is reinstating outings for 2024 starting with a visit to Salisbury.  
All coach outings will commence from Hop Oast at 9 a.m.

### Tuesday, 20 February - SALISBURY

Coach fare £27.00

Entrance to the Cathedral is £11.00 payable at the Cathedral. (**NOT** included in the coach fare).  
There will also be a Charter Market on the day.

Applications will be on a first come first served.



Please send your Cheque made payable to:

**HORSHAM U3A SOCIAL**

(one cheque per person/couple) and send to:

**David Bowyer, 30 Millfield, Southwater, RH13 9HS**

**David's email address is: [dave.bowyer@talktalk.net](mailto:dave.bowyer@talktalk.net)**

**Telephone enquiries to: Esme Cloherty 01403 266934**

Please include a stamped addressed envelope for your receipt and your telephone number so that you can be contacted in case of any change.

**As Newsletters are distributed quarterly it is important that you book the outings as soon as you see them advertised i.e. book the February outing now on receipt of this Winter Newsletter and the April one when you receive the Spring Newsletter.**

### Other outings planned by your Social Committee for 2024 are:-

**Tuesday 16 April                      HEVER CASTLE                      Coach fare £21.00 pp**

**Tuesday 18 June                      KENT AND EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY                      Coach fare £27.00 pp**

Details will be in subsequent Newsletters.

The u3a Holiday in September will be advertised in the Spring Newsletter.

# GOOD NEWS GROUPS WITH VACANCIES



## HELLO FROM PAM, YOUR GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR MESSAGE FROM GROUP LEADERS TO ALL MEMBERS

If you have decided to leave a group of which you have been a member, please would you, out of courtesy, tell the group leader of your decision. This means that he/she will be able to fill the vacancy as soon as possible either from the waiting list or when a new member enquires about joining the group.

### THESE GROUPS HAVE VACANCIES:

If you would like to join any of them please contact the group leader listed below and quote your membership number when enquiring. There may be vacancies in other groups: see the Groups Directory for contacts.

<b>Bridge for Fun</b>	Suzie Kidd		01403 259998
<b>Bridge Intermediate</b>	Gillian Rantell	rant281@live.co.uk	
<b>Coffee &amp; Chat</b>	Jill/Adrian Lovett	lovetjtill@icloud.com lovettheadrian@icloud.com	07557 413078
<b>Computers 2</b>	Ray Hambling	ray@hamblingonline.co.uk	
<b>Cycling</b>	Tim Hossack	timothyhossack@aol.com	07921 253782
<b>Golf</b>	Malcolm Smith	malcflee17@gmail.com	07550 002115
<b>Jazz &amp; Big Band</b>	Frank Chard	chardfrank@gmail.com	
<b>Local History</b>	Jill Lovett	lovetjtill@icloud.com	07557 413078
<b>Mahjong 1</b>	Norah Campbell		01403 230879
<b>Mahjong 2</b>	Brenda King	kingsmail047@gmail.com	07768 503335
<b>Painting</b>	Heather Glenny	heathereglenny@gmail.com	01403 260833
<b>People &amp; Their Times</b>	Bob Dommett	bobdommett@btconnect.com	01403 256593
<b>Photography for Fun</b>	Jill Lovett	lovetjtill@icloud.com	07557 413078
<b>Science &amp; Technology</b>	Derek Reynolds	reynoldsderek48@gmail.com	
<b>Scrabble</b>	Gillian Rantell	rant281@live.co.uk	
<b>Short-Mat Bowls 1</b>	Paul Davies	pauldavies_22@yahoo.co.uk	07484 835439
<b>Short-Mat Bowls 2</b>	Chris Mason	cm.tsg17@gmail.com	01403 267415
<b>Short Walks 1</b>	Mary Breeze	mary.breeze44@gmail.com	01403 242449
<b>Spanish Conversation</b>	Sarah Kane	sarhannekane@btinternet.com	07484 636169
<b>Stroll in the Reserve</b>	Heather Glenny	heathereglenny@gmail.com	01403 260833
<b>Theatregoers</b>	Celia Keiller	rorty@tuggles.plus.com	
<b>T &amp; V 4</b>	Lynne Standing	lynne@brunnbrindle.aquiss.com	
<b>T &amp; V 1</b>	Margaret Bailey	m.holmesdale@btinternet.com	
<b>Travellers' Tales</b>	Jill Lovett	lovetjtill@icloud.com	07557 413078
<b>Ukulele</b>	Rita Norris	rnderbydoh@hotmail.com	
	<b>(N.B. first 2 characters are r n with no space: it's not an m)</b>		
<b>Writing for Pleasure 2</b>	Krystyna Hollis	krystynahollis@hotmail.co.uk	

### MESSAGE TO GROUP LEADERS

When members join or leave your groups please will you tell me: [groups@horshamu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@horshamu3a.org.uk). Vacancies will be featured in the next newsletter as long as you tell me about them. Please make a diary note to tell me if you have vacancies in your groups by Thursday 8th February. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

**Pam Johnson Groups' Co-ordinator Contact: [groups@horshamu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@horshamu3a.org.uk)**

# GROUP NEWS

## MUSICALS ON DVD

After a break during the summer months, I propose restarting the group in the new year, if there is sufficient interest. We will meet at my address in Southwater on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2pm. I have a collection of around 50 musicals on DVD.

If interested please contact:  
**dave.bowyer@talktalk.net** and I will send you further details.  
I am sorry I cannot communicate by telephone.

Thank you **David Bowyer**

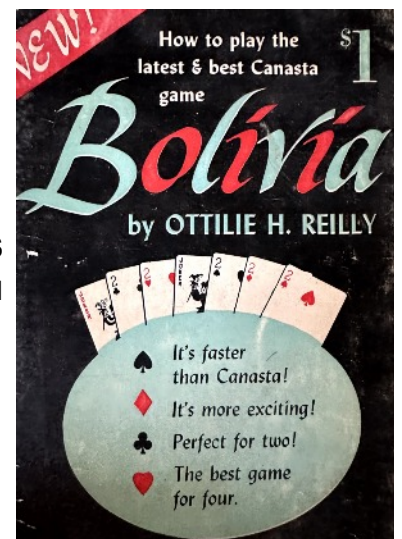


## BOLIVIA GROUP

Bolivia is a card game based on Canasta.  
It is a partnered game with two or three people playing as a team

We are a small group at the moment, meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in the month and would be very pleased to welcome you and teach you the game, if you would like to join us.

Please ring me if you are interested on:  
**01403 257926. Margaret**



## CANASTA GROUP

If you can play Canasta, or would like to learn, we would love to welcome you to the Canasta Group.

We are a small, friendly group and we meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in the month, 2-4pm in the indoor Bowls Club at Broadbridge Heath. It is in the Tesco car park so you can do your shopping on the same day (how convenient)!

Come along and meet us.  
**Margaret Skipper. Group Leader**  
**Tel: 01403 257926**

# GROUP NEWS

## JAZZ & BIG BAND

Leader Frank Chard - 01403 891489

1st Friday of the month at 10.30 am The Tythe Barn, Pondtail Road.

As in most years, we were able to hold a meeting in August in the middle of the holiday season, and a real treat it was too. Leader Frank entertained us with tales of his adventures in going to gigs and sessions in his younger days, an era when it was possible to see and hear live jazz greats.

September's programme, presented by David Spurr, offered many favourite numbers from across the jazz and big band eras. There was Black and White Rag from our own local Christ's Hospital Band, Humphrey Littleton's Bad Penny Blues, and Alligator Crawl from Fats Waller. Louis Armstrong, Glenn Miller and Duke Ellington were well featured as were the Three B's - Kenny Ball, Chris Barber and Acker Bilk! In good contrast came numbers from Jools Holland, Judy Garland, Stephan Grappelli and the memorable WI Calendar from Richard Stilgoe and Peter Skellern.

October's programme offered something different again. One of our members, David Bowyer owns an original late 1920s "HMV 157" oak wind-up gramophone that played 78s with steel needles! From a good selection of early plastic 78s still wrapped in their original brown paper sleeves, we were entertained by David, aided and abetted by Frank plus John and Sheila Griffiths, with early recorded performances from the likes of Hoagy Carmichael and piano in My Resistance is Low, Bill Hailey (Rock Around the Clock) and Fats Waller (My Very Good Friend the Milkman Said). We were also reminded that the quality of sound we were hearing was just what it was like when the records first came out. Variety also came from Fred Astaire in Cheek to Cheek, Glenn Miller's Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree, and, with a nod to member Tom Irons and his favourite Begin the Beguine, came Artie Shaw and Orchestra. The

1940s finale, resounded with Grandad's Nightshirt from the immortal George Formby.

With three months of great Jazz, Big Band and occasional forays into other period popular music, we enjoyed the memories and passions of presenters plus some members, for which many thanks.



# HORSHAM U3A HOLIDAY

## Horsham u3a Holiday

### “ A Slice of Middle England”

Sunday 3rd to Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

By Marlene Chase

On what turned out to be a very hot early September day, 26 u3a members joined the coach at Horsham Station and met our tour guide Lisa and driver Graham.

Leaving Horsham behind us, we headed north to our first destination, stopping off for a very welcome coffee break at a motorway services station.

Late morning, we arrived at Waddesdon Manor, our first grand house of the tour. This was built 1874-89 by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild and is now a National Trust property. Before viewing the impressive building, we made our way to the main entrance via lively rows of colourful stalls, clouds of giant bubbles and the exuberant beat of music coming from the Chilli Fest taking place on the lawn. It was surprising to see the range of products which can be made using chillies, although there were some other local products on sale, particularly cheeses.

The manor's rooms provided a quiet haven after that, and we wandered past extensive collections of artwork and French furniture. I was particularly impressed by the Dutch old masters, but there was so much else to see. Outside, the parterre, aviary, statues and fountains with splendid views as a backdrop continued to provide a restful break. Additional attractions included the chance to taste some of the Rothschild vineyards' own wines.

Late afternoon, we arrived at the Eastwood Hall Hotel near Nottingham, our base for the holiday, settled in to recover from the journey and heat, then went down to enjoy our welcome drink and start to get to know each other.

On the Monday, we drove to Southwell where we visited the Minster briefly, before having the guided tour of the Archbishop's Palace. There were two

guides sharing the talk, and then we were split into two groups to visit the surrounding gardens and ruins. Some of us stayed to have lunch in the Refectory, others visited the town.

In the afternoon, we drove to Wollaton Hall, which was built in the 1580's. It houses, among other exhibitions, the Nottingham City Museum & Galleries natural history collections. The clever vitrines and “children-friendly” displays were good, but my favourite was the exhibition upstairs of Dr. Willard Wigan's “Disappearing World” works of art, using the eye of a needle, and requiring microscopes to view them. Unfortunately, this exhibition was not accessible for all our group.

As a contrast, it was very pleasant to relax and walk around the gardens and even down to the lake, although a quick retreat from there became necessary because of the pushy geese and the heat, and then it was time to return to Eastwood Hall Hotel.

Tuesday's excursion started in the lovely small town of Bakewell in the Derbyshire Dales. Again, we all scattered to do our own thing (e.g. buying Bakewell puddings) but ended up pretty well together by the bridge with its amazing array of padlocks.

From there, the afternoon destination for our coach was the Crich Tramway Village. We all queued patiently to get on one of the trams for the short ride to the end halt and back. Because of the heat, most were happy to stay using the trams, but at least one person made for the tower at the top of the hill, from where you can see five counties. Best was the doubledecker tram, as this gave maximum shelter from the sun. Further trams were kept in sheds and in the exhibition hall. The latter was well-worth viewing, particularly for the horse-drawn tram, which was especially popular with the children and some of our group. The Bucks Fizz welcome back at the coach was a very refreshing treat before we returned through the lovely Derbyshire countryside to our hotel.

.....cont. over

.....from previous page

On Wednesday, we experienced a somewhat different atmosphere, in the grounds of the National Memorial Arboretum, and particularly in the Chapel.

The moving Act of Remembrance there, with the rendition of the Last Post, a two-minute silence and Reveille to finish off, was followed by a trip on the land train with commentary on the plaques and statues alongside. All the volunteer guides in the Arboretum were very helpful and informative, and one even gave a member of our group a special buggy tour to a memorial which had a personal meaning for her.

Back at the hotel later that afternoon, our group had plenty of time to rest, walk around the grounds or swim in the pool, before getting ready for our last dinner. We seemed to be the only leisure guests there, because there was a rapid change of hotel guests every day, ranging from the medical profession on the first day, people manning Health & Safety equipment stands on the next (very interesting!), to a bunch of young motor industry trainees attending a seminar.

Thursday morning was our “going-home” day, but not before visiting one last grand structure, Benjamin Disraeli’s Hughenden Manor. Among items of interest on display in the house were presents given to Disraeli by Queen Victoria. In contrast, the “Hillside” intelligence base rooms showing the role of the building and its inhabitants during the 2nd World War were also fascinating. Some of our group attended talks given by the manor staff, while others had a quiet walk through the grounds.

After this restful break, our coach then made its way south, dropping our wonderful and very knowledgeable guide Lisa off partway, to return to Horsham at about 5pm (as promised), despite a frustrating crawl on the motorway around 4pm.

Looking back, we had travelled through ever-changing lovely scenery, visited magnificent stately homes, had fun with the trams and experienced moving moments in the Arboretum.

Our minds were stimulated by historical facts, glimpses of life in former times, varied architectural styles and by the sheer volume of art works and craftsmanship displayed.

I am sure that our group felt this was a very interesting and worthwhile holiday, made hassle-free and even more pleasurable by the sterling efforts of Lisa and Graham and, of course, by the hard work of our organiser David.

Make a note in your 2024 diary for next year’s holiday. Don’t know where or the exact date yet, but there will be one. If it is as good as our last two holidays, not to be missed.

Also look out for outings next year. There will be coach outings bi-monthly starting in February. Take the stress out of driving and come with us.



## **'45 Years Flying and Frightened of Heights' Review by Marlene Chase**

### **Talk by Peter Griffiths, at General Meeting on 19 September 2023**

You may remember the first talk given by Peter Griffiths in September 2021. This second talk was an equally humorous and enjoyable follow-on, depicting some of the varied and different paths within the aviation industry which he went on to tread.

A little background first. Peter started flying in 1967 for BOAC, then joined Cathay Pacific in 1975. Cathay Pacific was based in Hong Kong, where he stayed for 29 years, and where the earlier flights had to land at the old Kai Tak airport, up until a new airport with an easier approach was constructed away from urban areas.

He commenced his talk with an obligatory safety briefing, starting with "Fasten your seatbelts", and then we were launched into a series of scary videos and photos of attempts to land planes, many less than successful, especially when pilots struggled to aim their planes at chequerboards placed on the hillside.

Peter also described living in Hong Kong in the 1970s, when there was a strong military presence, including 4 regiments, a destroyer, Gurkhas, and even US troops on R and R from the Vietnam War. As land on Hong Kong island was expensive, the rent allowance for Cathay Pacific pilots was very generous, but there were indirect ways to buy houses in the New Territories area. Furnishing such houses led to an amusing anecdote about his embarrassment when, on behalf of a friend, he carried a new toilet in his suitcase through the airport, which was of course immediately checked out by an amazed Customs official.

In addition to flying passenger planes, Peter's job also included flying freighters. Examples of cargo mentioned by Peter were killer whales, pigs, horses in specially-built stalls (with grooms at the horses' heads during turbulence), and even turtles. The latter were once responsible for triggering the fire alarms with their condensed breath.

In 1990, planes faced different hazards due to the Persian Gulf War and, to avoid flying over the war zone, were given permission to fly over China and Russian territory instead.

Peter described one occasion when he was asked to carry 130 tonnes of medical equipment to Saudi Arabia. First there was a danger of being shot down by a British warship until the correct identification was given, then there were unloading issues (possible see-saw effect if not done correctly), and finally, trim issues with the now very empty plane. Even more worrying later was being issued with hazard suits, which luckily were never used.

Freighters require extra refuelling stops compared to passenger planes, and Anchorage provided one such facility, affording Peter the opportunity to indulge in his hobby of fishing, but adding to local hazards such as avoiding the myriads of small planes used for leisure or supplying remote areas and the area's wildlife (bears!).

In complete contrast, Peter's final stories recounted his role as pilot (including as a freelancer) in executive jets carrying, among others, film stars, Russian oligarchs and one ex-US President. Snippets of incidents encountered included paranoid practices such as having five meals prepared from which to choose one, having two planes fuelled and ready to go, cancelling flights at the last moment, and consulting an astrologer before the flight!

Peter had shared his insights and the highlights of his varied flying career, ranging from piloting large passenger planes and freighters to sleek executive jets, in a most amusing and colourful manner. We were left with a wealth of impressions, and yes, I think we would all agree with his reference to F. Scott Fitzgerald's famous comment about the very rich, that they are indeed "different from you and me".



## A Special Message to All of Us Born: 1930s, onwards.

Contributed by Esme Cloherty

Reminisce about your childhood; the simple pleasures of playing outside with friends, before technology takeover. Read on for a dose of nostalgia:

First, we survived being born to mothers who may have smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant. They took aspirin, ate soft/blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then, after that trauma, we were put outside in the fresh air in our pram, we slept on our tummies in cots, covered with bright coloured lead-based paints. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, locks on doors or cabinets.

And, when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets. As infants and children, we would ride in cars with no child/booster seats, no seat belts, no air bags, bald tires and sometimes no brakes.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle, and no one actually died from this. We ate cupcakes, white bread, real butter, and bacon and we drank real white sugary drinks for energy. And we weren't overweight. **WHY?**

Because we were always outside playing... We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day...And, we were OKAY.

We would spend hours building go-carts out of scraps and then ride them down hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes or nettles a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We did not have: Play Stations, Nintendo, X-boxes. There were no: video games, 150 channels on cable, no online films, surround-sound, mobile phones, personal computers, Internet, chat rooms, **WE HAD FRIENDS** and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth, and nobody was sued for those accidents.

We ate worms, and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

We rode horses, made up games with sticks and tennis balls, and -although we were told it would happen- we did not put out very many eyes.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them.

School sports day came and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!

The idea of a parent siding with us if we broke the law was unheard of... They actually sided with the law!

These generations, over the past 85 years, have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers, and inventors ever.

We had freedom, defeat, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all. If YOU are one of those **CONGRATULATIONS!**

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids before the lawyers and the government regulated so much of our lives for our own good. And while we are at it, tell our children and grandchildren what our lives were like.



## FUN CHRISTMAS QUIZ.....ANSWERS INSIDE BACK COVER

Below is a short fun quiz based on 'Missing Vowels' where the vowels are taken out and spaces are added in random places. Your task is to identify the Christmas song titles, or famous lines from Christmas songs. So, as an example:

**SM PLYH VNGW NDR FLC HR STMS TM**

**SIMPLY HAVING A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS TIME** By Paul McCartney (not essential)



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1. **LS TC HRS T MS**
2. **FR Y TL FN WYR K**
3. **MD RMN GFW HTC HR STM S**
4. **C HST NT SRS TN G NNP NFR**
5. **LT TS NW, LT TS NW, LT TS NW**
6. **R DLP HT HR DN SD RND R**
7. **SWM MM YK SSN GS NTC LS**
8. **F DTH WR LD**
9. **LL WN TF RCH RS TMSS Y**
10. **PR MPM P MPM**
11. **LL WN TF RCH RS TMSS M YTW FR N TTT H**
12. **WS HTC LDBC HR STM SVR YDY**
13. **M RRYX MSV RYB DY**
14. **FR STYT HS NWM N**
15. **TSTH MST W ND RFL TMFT HY R**
16. **SN TBB Y**



## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR U3A NEWSLETTER READERS

From **Shiela Campbell**

Age UK Advice Line	01403 260560
Citizens Advice Horsham	0808 278 7969
Community Link Personal Alarms	01403 215230
Horsham Area Community Car Scheme	01403 250202
Horsham & Crawley Counselling Group	01403 217900
Horsham District Council (General)	01403 215100
Horsham Hospital	01403 227000
Horsham Library	01403 224353
Silver Line Helpline	0800 470 8090



### ARE YOU GETTING MORE SCAM CALLS AGAIN?

This is a good site to check/report the numbers.

<https://who-called.co.uk>

Contributed by **Isobel**



### I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN...

**Gary Cooper** holds the list of local contractors and workers who have been recommended by other u3a members.

If you are in need of having anything done, give **Gary a ring on:**

**01403 241620.**

He would also be interested in hearing from you with any recommendations.



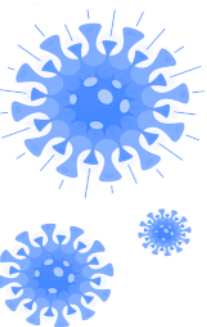
### MESSAGE FROM THE HORSHAM U3A COMMITTEE

**COVID 19, flu** and other **viruses** are with us and although some may display mild symptoms, it may be more severe for others.

Therefore, the Horsham u3a committee asks you to please not attend meetings and events if you feel unwell or have cold/flu symptoms.

We trust you will use your judgement to keep each other safe.

Thank you, Your Committee.



# Meet Your Committee for 2023/2024

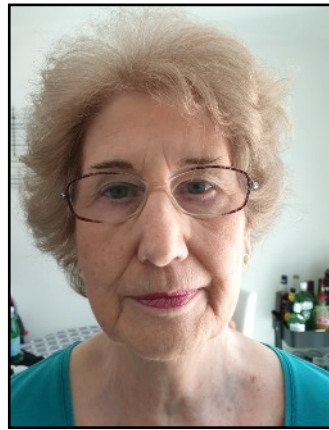
## Officers/Trustees



**Chair**  
Shirley Carpenter  
01403 269741



**Vice-Chair**  
Simon Hill  
01403 262660



**Secretary**  
Shiela Campbell  
01403 240358



**Treasurer and  
Website Manager**  
Mike Harrod  
07768 363209

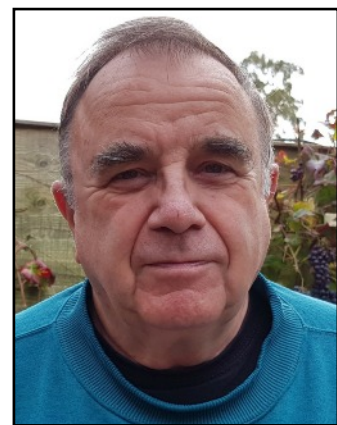
## Members/Trustees



**Membership Secretary  
& Data Controller**  
Jenny Faulkner  
01403 617344



**Minutes Secretary**  
Esme Cloherty  
01403 266934



**Social Secretary**  
David Bowyer  
social@horshamu3a.org.uk



**Speakers' Secretary**  
Ann Valentine  
01403 260702



**Events' Co-ordinator**  
Brenda Large  
07855 790985



**Groups' Co-ordinator**  
Pam Johnson  
groups@horshamu3a.org.uk

# FUN CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS : - FROM PAGE 18



- 16 **Santa Baby** first sung by Eartha Kitt
- 15 **It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year** by Andy Williams
- 14 **Frosty the Snowman**
- 13 **Merry Christmas Every Body** by Slade
- 12 **I Wish it Could be Christmas Every Day** by Wizard
- 11 **All I want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth**
- 10 **Pa Rum Pum Pum Pum** from The Little Drummer Boy. This was first recorded by the Trapp Family Singers who were the inspiration for The Sound of Music
- 9 **All I Want for Christmas is You**
- 8 **Feed the World** from Band Aid's Do They Know It's Christmas?
- 7 **I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus**
- 6 **Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer**
- 5 **Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it snow**
- 4 **Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire** the opening line of The Christmas Song
- 3 **I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas** by Bing Crosby
- 2 **Fairytale of New York** by The Pogues and Kirsty MacColl
- 1 **Last Christmas** by Wham! There was a campaign to make this a UK Christmas no.1 when George Michael died – making up for the fact that it was kept off the no.1 spot by song no 8 below when it first came out

## Answers : Missing Vowels

# The Committee for 2023/2024

## Officers

Shirley Carpenter	Chair	01403 269741	chair@horshamu3a.org.uk
Simon Hill	Vice Chair	01403 262660	vicechair@horshamu3a.org.uk
Mike Harrod	Treasurer	01403 262478 07768 363209	treasurer@horshamu3a.org.uk
Shiela Campbell	Secretary	01403 240358 07899 703934	secretary@horshamu3a.org.uk

## General Committee

Brenda Large	Events Co-ordinator/ Publicity	01403 265492 07855 790985	events@horshamu3a.org.uk
Pam Johnson	Groups' Co-ordinator	01403 243143	groups@horshamu3a.org.uk
Jenny Faulkner	Membership Sec & Data Controller	01403 617344	membership@horshamu3a.org.uk
Esme Cloherty	Minutes Secretary	01403 266934	minutes@horshamu3a.org.uk
Dave Bowyer	Social Secretary		social@horshamu3a.org.uk
Ann Valentine	Speakers' Secretary	01403 260702 07775 340306	speakers@horshamu3a.org.uk
Mike Harrod	Website Manager	01403 262478 07768 363209	web@horshamu3a.org.uk

**All of the above can be reached with one single email [committee@horshamu3a.org.uk](mailto:committee@horshamu3a.org.uk)**

## Non-Committee

Anne David (attends meetings)	Newsletter Co-ordinator	01403 891126	newsletter@horshamu3a.org.uk
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**We are looking for a replacement Treasurer - interested? Call Mike Harrod as above**

## Obituary

It is with deep regret we have to announce the death of the following  
Horsham U3A member:

**Dot Tabb**

**Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this sad time.**

If you have any news, views, comments or contributions,  
**THE FINAL DATE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS:**  
**Tuesday 13 February 2024**

Please send articles for the newsletter to Anne: [spideranne@live.co.uk](mailto:spideranne@live.co.uk)