

Editorial

Welcome everyone to our 7th Issue. Firstly, you will have all noticed that we are now calling ourselves a MAGAZINE, instead of Newsletter. The reason for this name change is to obviate confusion between ourselves and the monthly Newsletter that our Secretary Judith sends out, containing current updates and snippets of information.

We have now had our second AGM and our group continues to go from strength to strength. Our Chair, Howard Goldstein's report is below.

This bumper issue of our Magazine once again contains interesting articles and contributions from you our Members and a big Thank You goes to all our contributors. We hope that you will enjoy reading this issue. Please continue to send in your articles, poems, reports, comments, photos etc. Regards,

Marlene Knepler - Editor

Chairman's Report 2015/16

2015/16 has seen Kenton and District U3A move from strength to strength. A number of new classes were introduced: *Creative writing; Water Colour Painting; An introduction to English Literature; The History of the two party system in British Politics and most recently A History of Democracy and Spanish Conversation*. In addition attendance at some established classes e.g. Current Affairs and Music Appreciation continued to increase, sometimes significantly.. There have been numerous successful visits to exhibitions and galleries, an array of excellent speakers and 4 very professional issues of our Newsletter (now renamed Magazine) None of this would have been possible without the sustained hard work and dedication from your Management Committee and group facilitators, all of whom have generously given their time and skills to providing you with what I believe to be an extremely stimulating, educational and entertaining programme. In this context it is also pertinent to thank John Maund for his IT technical assistance and Aime Levy who has put his publishing skills to excellent use, as well as acknowledging the warm reception we have received throughout the year from the Century Bowls Club. I certainly could not have survived as Chair without this support.

It doesn't stop there, though we have several exciting new projects currently under active consideration e.g. forming a Technology Assistance Group to help with your technical problems in a digital world and more.

However as always there is a downside; with all this additional activity we are and will be incurring higher than expected costs in room rental charges. and although we are looking at ways to minimise these it is inevitable that annual subs cannot be sustained at their present level. You could say we are paying the price for our success.

In conclusion I would again emphasise that our events and classes do not just happen by chance. They are usually the product of many hours of preparation, organisation and commitment. We need to be able to count on you the members to follow the U3A ethos of getting involved and giving rather than just taking. Help your group facilitator wherever possible and show your appreciation, or if you want to pursue a particular interest then why not consider starting your own group. If it is at all feasible, you will have our full support. Remember the future of Kenton and District U3A, as with all other U3A groups, is exclusively in the hands of yourselves the membership.

Howard Goldstein-Chair

2nd AGM - May 2016

The 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Kenton & District U3A Group took place at the Century Bowling & Sports Club on Wednesday, 25th May, 2016. This was very well attended and the following members were re-elected, unopposed.

Management Committee 2016-17

Honorary Officers:

Chair: Howard Goldstein

Vice-Chair: Vivien Spiteri

Treasurer: Anita Maund

Secretary: Judith Littman

Committee:

Speaker Secretary: John Bishop

Membership: Diana O'Reardon

Groups Secretary: Peter Rummer

Magazine Editor: Marlene Knepler

Gerald Knepler; Adele Setton;

John Graveling was voted on to the Committee as a new member and we are pleased to confirm that Louise Bennett has also joined the Committee since the AGM. We welcome them both.

GUEST SPEAKER

The Guest Speaker at the AGM was LESTER HILLMAN, who gave an extremely interesting talk to the group on the subject of "The Assassination of British Prime Minister, Spencer Perceval".

Spencer Perceval became the only British Prime Minister to be assassinated, when he was shot by John Bellingham on 11th May 1812. Was this England's Kennedy moment? Similarities can be drawn with the shock of the event and the suspicions about a conspiracy. There was the natural sympathy for a widow with a young family and there were parallels in the identification of a lone gunman. Both assassins had previous experience in the uniformed services and, strikingly, both had spent considerable time in Russia. Immediately after the shooting, troops were stationed in and around Islington and also at the time of Bellingham's execution. Bellingham had had grievances against the Government over compensation for unjust imprisonment in Russia. Was he perhaps insane?

These were unstable times. News of the assassination had been greeted with scenes of wild jubilation. On a wider stage a global war was about to break out a month after the deed. America declared war on Britain and four days later, Napoleon invaded Russia.

Perceval was MP for Northampton and also a lawyer. He left a large family. He and his wife Jane had 12 children and two of his sons appear to have had links with Islington. One of his sons, also called Spencer, continued the parliamentary tradition. The Perceval links with Islington continue to this day with the street name reminders; Islington Museum is framed by Spencer and Percival Streets. Compton (Perceval's mother's family name), River, Ashby and Penton Streets, Northampton and Charterhouse Squares, the Regents Canal, Liverpool Road, Angel and Claremont Squares, - all these names played parts in the tragic drama.

The assassin John Bellingham's family lived for a time in Liverpool, coincidentally in Islington Street! Today, a distant relative, Henry Bellingham, is the Conservative MP for North West Norfolk.

Lester Hillman's illustrated talk was a fascinating insight into an extraordinary event in British Parliamentary History and also to the history of the Islington area of London.

Marlene Knepler

Monthlys Speakers Reports

Since the last newsletter, we have had 4 monthly meetings and 4 very different speakers speaking on a variety of subjects.

In March, we had a gentleman from Sheffield, called Chris Dingley, talk to us on “Tax, Care and Toyboys”. The title masked the fact that he talked to us about the importance and necessity of being very careful in writing up your will in order to ensure that you leave your money and bequests to the person or persons that you intend. The original will that you made may become out of date, or irrelevant should your family circumstances being unexpectedly changed, due to either remarrying or divorce.



Chris Dingley



Peter Cox

April was more light-hearted and this talk was given by Peter Cox on “Working in and for the John Lewis Partnership.” As the title suggests, it concerned the history of John Lewis, and the unique place it occupies on our high street .

May was also “historical” in its theme; this was about Spencer Percival who (so far!) is the only British Prime Minister to have been assassinated. Our speaker on this occasion was Lester Hillman.



Lester Hillman



David Burnell

Finally in June, we were “entertained” by David Burnell on the subject of the “Myths of Metroland”. This was all about the building of the Metropolitan railway in the late 19th century and the development of the suburbs that took place around it.

We have speakers lined up for **July** (the light and dark side of Shakespeare), **August** (KU3A in Action - showcasing Group Activities), **September** (The history of Bandstands) and **October** (the RNLI).

John Bishop

Cookery Corner with Viv Spiteri

Tapas

Stuffed Eggs

6 Eggs hardboiled
105 g tin of salmon
Mayo

Cut the eggs in half lengthways and carefully remove the yolks. Mash together the yolks and fish and bind with the mayo

Salt and pepper to taste.

Pile back into the egg white and garnish with a small spring of parsley.

Stuffed Tomatoes

12 small tomatoes
Cooked rice
Spices or Vegetables

Carefully cut the stalk end off the tomatoes and remove the seeds leaving a hollow. Mix the cold cooked rice with cheese, spices or vegetables of your choice and season. to fill tomatoes

grated cheese

Refill the tomatoes with this mixture

Seasoning to taste.

Mini Lamb Meatballs

500g minced lamb
1 Onion finely chopped
2 cloves of garlic crushed
1 tsp of beef stock powder
110 g breadcrumbs
1 egg
2 tbs oil.

Process mince, onion, garlic, stock powder, breadcrumbs and egg until fine. Roll 2 level tsps of mixture in balls. Heat oil in pan and add meatballs, cook until browned and tender: drain on absorbent paper and serve warm on a cocktail stick.

Makes about 60.

Stuffed Mushrooms

8 Medium mushrooms
Paxo stuffing mix
Boiling Water
Small amount of butter

Take the stalks out of the cap and chop finely.

Make up the stuffing as per instructions and add the chopped mushroom. Stuff into the mushroom caps

Dot with butter and bake in the oven at 180c for 15/20 mins
Serve warm.

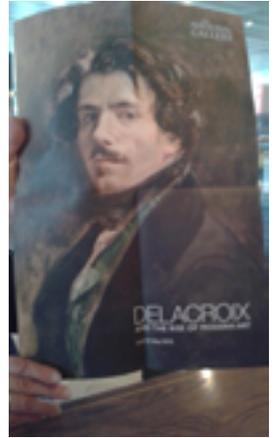
Delacroix and the Rise of Modern Art.

On Thursday, 19th May, 2016, members of the Museums & Gallery Group visited the National Gallery to see the “Delacroix & the Rise of Modern Art” exhibition.

Few artists have had the same impact and lasting influence on the rise of modern art as Eugène Delacroix. He was the most famous and controversial French painter of his time and one of the first modern masters.

He had a profound impact on generations of artists including Cézanne, Gauguin, Van Gogh, Matisse and Kandinsky.

Ferdinand Victor Eugène Delacroix was born on 26th April, 1798 in Charenton-Saint-Maurice, Île-de-France, France and died on 13th August, 1863 (aged 65) in Paris. He was a French Romantic artist, regarded from the outset of his career as the leader of the French Romantic School.



Delacroix had three much older siblings and there was doubt about whether his true father was not Charles-François Delacroix, but a family friend called Talleyrand, whom he greatly resembled in appearance and character. Delacroix was orphaned at 16 and Talleyrand protected him throughout his career as a painter.

Delacroix took for his inspiration the art of Rubens and painters of the Venetian Renaissance, with an attendant emphasis on colour and movement rather than clarity of outline. His paintings were characterised by dramatic and romantic content and in search of the exotic he was led to travel extensively in North Africa. He was a fine lithographer and illustrated various works of William Shakespeare, Walter Scott and Goethe. In later life, he was commissioned to decorate public buildings in Paris, which offered him the opportunity to compose on a large scale in an architectural setting, such as the Salon du Roi, Palais Bourbon, Palais du Luxembourg and the ceiling in the Galerie d'Apollon of the Louvre.

In 1862 he participated in the creation of the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts. After his death, at the sale of his work in 1864, 9140 works were attributed to Delacroix, including 853 paintings, 1525 pastels and water colours, 6629 drawings, 109 lithographs and over 60 sketch books. He also produced several fine portraits of Paganini, Chopin and George Sand and fine self-portraits. A generation of impressionists was inspired by Delacroix's work, Manet and Renoir made copies of his paintings. Delacroix is buried in the cemetery of Père Lachaise, Paris and there is a monument to him in the Jardin du Luxembourg.

After visiting this beautiful exhibition of his works, we were booked in to a free concert given by Mae Heydorn – mezzo-soprano, Sholto Kynoch on Piano and Gavin Plumley – speaker in the National Gallery Sainsbury Wing Theatre. The programme included music by Bizet, Saint-Saëns, Fauré, Berlioz and Duparc. A wonderful end to a wonderful exhibition.

Marlene Knepler

Creative Writing Group

The creative writing group will continue next term. Before then, we will be publishing an e-book with stories from most of the people who have attended. *Shades of Creativity* will be made available as a free download in pdf. Epub and mobi formats on the Kenton & District U3A website. It will also be on sale at Amazon for Kindle readers. In the meantime, here is a piece that stemmed from a writing exercise.

Paul Burns

The Beggar of Bangkok

How I long for a prince to come and kiss my eyes so that I may see the sweet face of Mama. She, who unfailingly leads me gently yet firmly each day up and down Sukhumwit Road, Bangkok. The city that never sleeps in the land of smiles that I never see. The smell of petrol and exhaust fumes intermingles with the aroma of cooking steaming from blackened pots filled with noodles or rice. I can almost taste the fresh coconuts and pineapples, the grapefruit and sweet squishy melons. My thin high-pitched voice, amplified by the microphone system attached to my back, struggles to be heard over the incessant din and flow of traffic; buses, cars, taxis and motor bikes vie for space on the crowded street.

“Mind your footing” cries Mama. My white stick prods a soft mound. The sleeping dog barks in annoyance and, being aroused, slinks off. There are many stray dogs, some lame from road accidents or beatings. Abandoned. They scavenge from the roadside food stalls. I walk carefully for the pavements are broken and uneven. Mama guides me slowly. In the oppressive heat there is no reason to hurry. I sing folk songs, songs of the lush green countryside, of flowing rivers, of pink blossoms and of love. Motorcycles weave in and out the traffic and often mount the pavements. Mama pushes me out of the way. Four times I have been knocked down; once I broke an arm. It never healed because we had no money to pay for a doctor. It’s a bit bent, but I can still use it.



Mama cannot work any more. She used to sew but her right hand became infected and gangrene set in. Now she has a stump. She cooks and looks after me and sometimes her sister helps out. “Thank you”.

I heard a baht drop in my box. Each value coin has a different sound and I know when a person is generous. I give a warm smile. There are many rich tourists. From Australia, England, and America they come. Sometimes I take home

100 baht in just one day. I bought a pair of shoes for myself and a broach for Mama last month. We eat noodles or rice each day, but on a good day we can afford chicken, a welcome treat. “Thank you kindly for your generosity”. In the land of smiles, I do not see their responses, but I know they too are smiling. **Esther Lipton**

Photo by: arburtoni “Soi Aree, Bangkok 2014”

Creative writing Group

How can I tell you?

Language is an all important part of life. It's the way we express our likes and dislikes to other people. How they express themselves to us. Even animals can communicate with us if we allow them to.

Most of us speak English and some are clever enough to be able to speak or at least understand another language and in some cases make languages their speciality. We can usually understand our toddlers when they start to talk. Mums in particular soon get the message of what is required. We've all had to translate to other family members what a little person is getting into a strop about, when a piece of the cake YOU are eating solves the problem.

People who have suffered a stroke are often difficult to understand in the early stages of their recovery and their Carer is a vital part of their life to ensure that their needs are met.

People with speech impediments also need to be listened to carefully so that their needs can also be met.

We've all had the cat or dog that appears to be able to tell the time and is able to indicate that their food bowl needs to be filled. How often have we had a dog go to an empty water bowl and look up at us as if to say,

“ I don't need a beer but some clean water would be good”

We had a rabbit that if his water bottle was empty would rattle the cage until the offending bottle was refilled. It's all communicating.

But what happens when your loved one loses capacity and has to rely on you and /or his Carers to meet their every need?

Can we all step up to the plate and fulfil their wishes? Can we anticipate their requirements and ensure their basic comforts?

Does someone know their food likes and dislikes? Why is food spat out when it seems perfectly palatable to you? Did you realise that they didn't like sprouts and celery from childhood so why would they relish them now.

Do you know what they used to like to watch on the television? Why do they get so distressed when the football is on? If they never spent their Saturday afternoons watching the match, why the hell would they want to do it now? On the other hand if they enjoyed the beautiful nature programmes and someone switches it over without consultation, is that why they get so agitated?

How do they tell you they are too hot or too cold? That they have got a numb bum from sitting in the same position too long .That the noise in the room is getting too much for them and they would just like the peace and quiet of their own room.

Unless we have experienced these problems we are sometimes totally unaware of their inner needs. A good Carer is worth his/her weight in gold and yet they are poorly paid and underestimated in many ways.

Many people sign off their old folk to a Care Home, pay the ever increasing bills, and try to forget that Mum or Dad or Aunty Ethel has a real problem. They still need to be considered and cherished, visited and taken their favourite treats. To watch the joyous look on an old lady's face as she is given a piece of chocolate or a strawberry is priceless.

We all need to communicate. And however we do this; it is a joy very little can match.

Vivien Spiteri

GROUPS ROUND UP

(Please see separate Activities Diary for dates and times)

ART GROUP

Due to the sad loss of Sultan Siddiqui (see Obituary on P. 10), this class is unable to meet at the moment and has been suspended. A search for a new Art Teacher is under way.

HISTORY – “Tales from the 18th Century” with Dr. Ruth Herman

Ruth will commence a series of fascinating topics on Thursday, 15th September 2016, concentrating on the 18th Century.

1. Queen Anne & The Marlboroughs. *They were a power couple of the first decade of the 18th Century. Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough, the Queen's best friend and the Duke, the all-conquering hero against the French. Volatile, beautiful and outrageously outspoken, the Duchess can be seen in sharp contrast to the quiet but stubborn Queen.*

They were both tragic mothers; Sarah because her four daughters all grew up hating her and the Queen who famously failed to produce a live heir, despite innumerable pregnancies.

2. The Theatre. *From the accession of Charles II and the re-opening of the theatres to plays full of gentility of Sheridan and Goldsmith the English theatre developed over the 18th Century. It went from a bawdy unfettered declaration of love, lust and trickery, with women newly introduced as actors and playwrights, to the refined age of sensibility.*

Harangued by Church-men for blasphemy and crudity, the theatre presented everything from the new Italian opera to thinly disguised political satire. This is as much a literary journey as a history talk, showing how taste changed with the formation of a nation which had the confidence to chage the end of Shakespeare's plays because they did not appeal to the current fashion.

3. More entertaining characters. *The 17th & 18th Centuries had more than their fair share of remarkable eccentrics, heroes and heroines. There was Lady Harley, who defended her castle which her husband was at war; William Beckford, the richest man in England who had to flee the country because of scandal; and Barbara Castlemaine, Charles II outrageous mistress, whose amorous career included living with an actor and suing her last husband for bigamy.*

SPANISH CONVERSATION – Elaine Smith - “Getting by in Spanish”

This new group has started and would welcome new members who have some Spanish and are anxious to improve. The meetings are held fortnightly on Wednesdays (except August) and the format is as follows:

1. We each prepare a paper and speak briefly about our activities in the previous week.
2. This is followed by a Spanish language video on the week's theme.
3. A text on this theme is circulated and turns taken to translate into English.
4. The last activity is a vocabulary test based on the last session's theme.

COMPUTING & IT GROUP *NEW*

A course, to be led by John Maund, is to re-start from the 12th September, 2016 (6.00 – 8.00 p.m.) at Claremont High School. John is preparing a detailed Intermediate Level programme at the moment. Members can pre-register their interest in joining

the group by contacting: John Maund – ku3acompit@gmail.com Peter Rummer at ku3agroups@outlook.com

FILM CLUB – Ruth Levere – 8909 1557 or Brian Hunte – 8907 1432

The film club will be meeting on the following dates:

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Mon. 5th September | ‘Oh, What a Lovely War’ | at Ruth |
| Thur. 22nd September | ‘Shakespeare in Love’ | at Brian |
| Thurs. 8th October | ‘Master & Commander’ | at Ruth |
| Thurs. 20th October | ‘The Band Wagon’ | at Brian |
| Mon. 7th November | ‘Mr. Smith goes to Washington’ | at Ruth |
| Thurs. 24th November | ‘A Funny Thing happened...’ | at Brian |
| Mon. 5th December | ‘Gallipoli’ | at Ruth |
| Thurs. 22nd December | ‘White Christmas’ | at Brian |

GERMAN/ENGLISH FILM CLUB (Film Club DE) – M.Ka

This film club, run by M.Ka, is held on the 3rd Friday of the month at 2.30 p.m. The films are shown in German with English subtitles. Multilingual DVD’s are loaned from other members and may be repeated titles of what was presented before in the original (English) Film Club sessions. Please see the Diary of Group Meetings for the actual dates. If interested in attending (or offering to host a session) sign up at the Monthly Speaker meeting, Film titles will be e-mailed to those interested.

Confirmation of attendance is essential, as spaces in the host’s home are limited.

GERMAN READING & WRITING/CONVERSATION

Please see the Diary of Group Meetings for the dates of these meetings which take place on Thursdays in the Preston Pub.

THEATRE OUTINGS

Diana is organising two Theatre outings to the Hampstead Theatre.

Wed. 21st September 2016 to see LABYRINTH by Beth Steel - a thriller exploring the fallout of one of the catastrophic economic crises of modern history, which brought Latin America to its knees for decades.

Wed. 28th December 2016 to see WILD HONEY by Michael Frayn, from the play by Anton Chekhov – a comedy of errors set in the blazing summer of provincial Russia.
Tickets: £20/£18/£15 - Matinee

Please contact Diana on 3645 7348 or loru3a@outlook.com if you wish to buy tickets.

MUSEUM & GALLERY VISITS – Eva Groszman 8907 5691

The following Museum & Gallery outings have been planned:

Wed. 10th August 2016 – visit to the Summer Exhibition in the Royal Academy

Wed. 14th September 2016 – National Gallery

Wed. 16th November 2016 - National Portrait Gallery

Wed. 7th December 2016 – V & A or Leighton House

RAMBLING GROUP – Kevin O’Doherty

Sunday August 21st – Uxbridge to Widewater along the Grand Union Canal

OBITUARY - Sultan Siddiqui 16.01.1924 - 17.06.2016

The sad news that Sultan had passed away on Friday, 17th June 2016 came as a shock to the U3A ART GROUP. Only the day before on Thursday, 16th June, Sultan was facilitating the group with our drawings and paintings. That very day, he asked us to excuse him since he was not feeling very well. He said he had some very good news to tell us, as just 3 days ago he was told by his doctors that he was now clear and cured of his bladder cancer, after 5 years of treatment.

Sultan came from Pakistan to England in the late 1960's. He was a qualified physicist and electronics engineer. In his working career, Sultan worked for the Pakistan Embassy in London, lectured at Willesden Technical College and owned and ran an electronic shop in Preston Road.

From his childhood, Sultan loved drawing and painting with watercolours. From an early age he showed talent for art and was a self-taught artist - well not entirely because his father and other members in his family were also self-taught artists. He has always been painting and drawing as a hobby throughout his life right up to his sudden death. The U3A Art Group appreciated very much all the help, advice, encouragement and dedication he showed in running the group and he will be greatly missed by us all. It was I who persuaded him to run the art group for our U3A, since he was already a facilitator for the Wembley U3A.

I myself have known Sultan and his family for over 45 years, as a good friend and neighbour, living in the same little cul-de-sac Ennerdale Gardens, South Kenton. Being a road steward myself of the South Kenton & Preston Park Residents Association, I have met with many residents who have received help from Sultan with their computers, televisions or electronic equipment. Apart from being so helpful, he was always cheerful, chatting to neighbours and he had a great sense of humour, cracking jokes all the time. Sultan and his family were the first friends I had when I came to live in Ennerdale Gardens. Both our families were immigrants; I being of Polish origin, my ex-husband Indian and Sultan's wife, Françoise from France. Sultan's son, Ovais continued the tradition, marrying a Polish girl in the ancient Cathedral of Kraków in Poland, thus showing that international, religious and peaceful co-existence is possible and I hope it long continues thus into the future.

I am sure we all will miss Sultan, but will remember him with fondest memories and send our condolences to his wife, children, grandchildren, family and friends.

Anna Ray

U3A Art Class in action



Sultan's Art Class - Harold Levy, Helen Goldblatt, Shirley Ariel, Electra Christou



Electra Christou

Rambling Group

The Kenton U3A Rambling Group went on a walk from Amersham to Chesham on Sunday, 15th May. We were straight into the woods after a few short steps from the station. On the way we passed the Amersham Martyrs memorial, which commemorates the persecution of the 7 Lollards who were burnt at the stake between 1511 and 1521, for advocating the reading of the Bible in English.

Also nearby, there were many white crosses set into the hill commemorating World War I servicemen killed in action. At the bottom of the hill we walked along the River Misbourne which is really a large chalk stream which flows from Great Missenden to Denham. This took us to St. Mary's Church which dates from the 12th Century and has links with the Trywhitt-Drake family whose descendants still live today in nearby Shardeloes Manor.

We were given an impromptu tour of the church and the Drake family Chapel by a very welcoming vergier. Later when I mentioned the visit to my wife Susan, she said the name rang a bell and telephoned her sister, who confirmed that the Trywhitt-Drake family were their adjacent neighbour near Cobham, Maidstone, who had a small zoo which bordered their garden. The Zoo kept hyenas, which kept them awake on occasion.

The walk took us through Amersham Old Town for a short while and then up across farmland amid stunning scenery, walking through fields with sprouting barley (we think). This is truly spectacular countryside with rolling hills and woodland. Thankfully most of the walk was downhill! Going down the hill we had great views of Chesham where we piled into the first café we found, for a refreshing coffee and tea. A great morning out!

Kevin O'Doherty

Next walk: 21st August, 2016 – Uxbridge to Widewater along Grand Union Canal.

"I'll Remember" by Connie Levene

Her body was beautiful
 Her contour divine
 I could scarcely believe
 That she was mine.
 I gazed at her front,
 Was amazed by her rear,
 I could hardly conceive
 That she was here.
 We went everywhere
 together
 The country, the sea,
 Whatever the weather.

But as time passed, she began to fade
 She could no longer made the grade,
 She began to rattle
 Wheeze and cough
 And found the going very tough.
 The time had come for us to part
 But still she stays within my heart,
 No longer now my shining star,
 But I'll always remember
 My very first CAR.

Submitted by: Pat Kiel

The History of Democracy

MIKE ALLEN started his course on the History of Democracy in the UK last May and Rochelle Shapiro has been following the course:

Our lecturer, Mike Allen, has taken us so far from the origin of democracy in Greece to the English Reform Act of 1832. We looked at the events leading to Magna Carta (1216), its provisions, its incorporation into the statute rolls in 1297, and, despite only four clauses now remaining, its influence later in England and, e.g., in the U.S.A. (where the first seal of Massachusetts shows a man holding it); and it has been referred to more than 100 times in their Supreme Court. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and our own Human Rights Act of 1998 demonstrate its continued effect.

We then looked at the origins of the word 'democracy' in the city states of Greece and glanced at the systems in Rome and in the later Italian towns, and at those in Scandinavia, Spain and France.

Returning to England, we saw how Simon de Montfort called two knights from every shire and two burgesses from every borough to a parliament, and how Edward I's 'Model Parliament' of 1295 added two clergymen from every shire and two citizens from each town. (By 1341 the clergy had joined the nobles in what became the 'Lords'.) Between the 14th and 16th centuries it was gradually established that parliament's consent was necessary to approve taxation. As the Tudors were a dominant dynasty, parliament became subservient to them until the Stuarts asserted the 'Divine Right of Kings' and tried to rule without it. William of Orange and his wife Mary, however, felt obliged to accept the 1689 Bill of Rights. The first prime minister, William Walpole, was appointed by their successor, the German-speaking George I.

The franchise was then considered. Until 1832 only 4% of the population had the vote, which was based on the holding of property. There were still only 558 MP's, and, although there had been a huge increase in the population in the towns, the new ones of Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds and Sheffield were not represented. Voting was open, and this gave the opportunity for easy bribery and the provision of plenty of alcohol to encourage participation. We enjoyed studying two paintings by Hogarth based on a 1754 election, detailing some nefarious dealings.

The political system was then described. The king was still an important figure, but by 1831 he was obliged to choose the prime minister from the prominent political party. There was, however, no party organisation outside parliament itself until after 1832. The reasons for the major change in 1832 were described: the influence of 'The Age of Reason,' the American and French revolutions, the French 'Declaration of the Rights of Man,' and the population growth in the new towns. Population in the country had increased from 7.1 million in 1721 to 14.2 million by the end of the century.

Struggles between the reluctant Tories and the progressive Whigs finally resulted in Lord Grey's promotion of a Bill of Reform. This was accepted by the Commons, but was rejected by the Lords until the king agreed to threaten to create enough peers to pass it. The effect of this – the Reform Act of 1832 – was that the requirements for franchise were considerably extended, and at last the large towns were represented. Now 7% of the population could vote, and a proper registration process was initiated, although it was not secret until 1872. The monarch's influence declined further, and political leaders realised that they had to appeal to a new electorate rather than just rely on corruption.

The absorption of this massive amount of information was made much easier by Mike's use of visual aids, the provision of a genealogical tree of the earlier kings, and his surprising encouragement of interruptions to ask questions. These added considerable interest to the lectures, and this listener in particular eagerly awaits the next batch of information.

Report by Rochelle Shapiro

Mike's course will be continuing from Friday, 16th September, 2016 with further key developments.

English Literature Group

David Harris, former English teacher and Deputy Head of JFS, leads this group, which meets at the Century Bowling Club at 10 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, except October – see KU3A Diary for details.

SEPTEMBER 2016

Well, it's time to bid farewell to Geoffrey Chaucer and the Middle Ages, as David continues his chronological survey of the greatest hits of English Literature. For the next leg of the journey, David is going to programme the satnav in his time machine to drop us off in TUDOR ENGLAND, during the reign of good Queen Bess, where the first port of exploration will be the work of the dramatist, poet and secret agent, CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE. As well as looking at the life of this enigmatic man, we shall be studying DR. FAUSTUS, probably Marlowe's best and most famous play and his take on the Faust legend of the man who sells his soul to the Devil.

David then hopes to go on to look at some of the love poetry of the period, including poems by BEN JONSON and ROBERT HERRICK, but then to concentrate on a selection of the poetry written by the most surprisingly modern JOHN DONNE. This part of the journey will end - whenever that might be for there is no hurry - in the Midlands as we look at the life, times and work of the Swan of Avon, the peerless WILL SHAKESPEARE.

The first session of the new term will be on Tuesday, 6th September 2016 at 10.00 a.m. New and current participants are most welcome, but please come equipped with a copy of Dr. Faustus. And this being a play, David hopes you won't mind being asked to volunteer to read a part!



Following the recent Referendum and the win for the Leave Campaign

A tongue-in-cheek Poem about the E.U.

“Won't you join our Common Market?” said the spider to the fly,
 “It really is a winner and the cost is not too high”
 I know De Gaulle said “Non”, but he hadn't got a clue.
 We want you in, my friends, and we have plans for you.
 You'll have to pay a little more than we do, just for now,
 As Herr Kohl said, and I agree, “we need a new milch cow.”
 It's just a continental term, believe me, mon ami,
 like “Vive la France” or “Mad Anglais” or even “E.E.C.”
 As to the rules, don't worry friend, there's really but a few
 You'll find that we ignore them – but they all apply to you.
 Give and share between us, that's what it's all about,
 You do all the giving, and we all share it out.
 It's very British, is it not, to help a friend in need?
 You've done it twice in two World Wars, a fact we must concede,
 so climb aboard the Market Train, don't sit there on the side,
 your continental cousins want to take you for a ride.

Author unknown.

SHARING FAMILY MEMORIES

This group comes together to bring up their memories of their past on a subject that is arranged for each meeting.

We started the year with talking about our teenage years, how we coped in the postwar years with our secondary schooling. The members lived in different places in the UK and India. How we socialised in a variety of youth groups as well as those who played sports or loved to go to dances.

The next month we went further back in our personal histories by talking about our childhoods, this for most of us was war time, including those memories of being evacuated from cities to the country.

The subject of religion was so very interesting because of the various backgrounds of the group. One member changed allegiance to a different Christian sect every time she moved home and church. Another joined a group so he could learn to play a bugle. The Indian member though Hindu went to a Catholic school in India. The Jewish members joined youth clubs in their communities, which connected to their synagogues.

In May we had some hairy tales of driving experiences and especially learning to drive, but one person learnt on a motor scooter before advancing onto full sized motorbike. Our male member learnt his driving while in the army driving a tank.

We certainly are a well-travelled group of people. We shall be following up in July talking about our pets or if not ours other peoples.

Meetings are held on first Wednesday each month at Century Bowling Club, Logan Rd. Wembley HA9 8PY, We would love to have new members, you can call Audrey Arnold 020 8357 1530

FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP

The French Conversation class meets on the first Thursday afternoon of the month under the expert tutelage of Joan Schlackman. There are regularly 8 – 10 attendees with varying levels of knowledge but Joan's expertise means she manages to keep us all interested and stimulated. The format of the class is that Joan usually provides a text in French which we take turns in reading and translating (Joan provides a vocabulary to help us). We may then discuss the passage as a group, or break up into smaller groups graded according to each person's ability. The afternoon concludes with a cup of tea/coffee and cake/ biscuits.

This year we have talked about such diverse subjects as football, the TV series Downton Abbey, the Charlie Hebdo attack and the London Mayoral elections. Joan always keeps the passages topical. A couple of months ago we watched a most enjoyable French film, "La Gloire de mon Père", set in Provence it tells the story of a young boy and his family. It is beautifully shot and has some touching scenes. We talked about the film afterwards, in French of course.

We are eagerly looking forward to continuing to practice our French in the coming academic year.

Nous serions très heureux d'accueillir d'autres personnes qui voudraient nous joindre pour parler Français.

Judith Littman

500 Year Old Pure German Beer

When we travelled to Germany in May of this year, it was only 10 days after the 500th anniversary of the introduction of the German beer purity laws.

The German name for these laws is the Reinheitsgebot. It is the collective name for a series of regulations limiting the ingredients in beer in Germany and its predecessor states.

The regulations were introduced in 1516 and the best-known version of the law was adopted in Bavaria in that year. Similar regulations pre-date the Bavarian order, and modern regulations also differ significantly from the 1516 Bavarian version.

The regulations seem to work very well. I enjoyed all the German beer that I drank. In Munich, I tried the beer from three of the local breweries. These were from Paulaner, Löwenbräu and Hofbräu. I had drunk both Löwenbräu and Paulaner previously so I knew that I would enjoy them. But the Hofbräu beer was just as good, if not better.

I drank the light beer, which is called 'Helles'. I did not drink the dark beer. I soon learnt to ask for "eine halbe Helles bitte". Although when I went to the Hofbräuhaus, I did feel obliged to order a litre.

I am writing about this topic because Sandra (our friend from Germany) made me aware of the anniversary. When we arrived at the hotel at Bodensee, Sandra gave me what looked like a colour newspaper. It was in fact an advertising brochure from the Distelhäuser brewery which is near Bad Mergentheim. Sandra and Rainer (her husband) live in Bad Mergentheim. The brochure highlighted the anniversary and announced an open day at the brewery on the following Sunday.

The German Beer Laws which were celebrated were really only the Bavarian regulations introduced in 1516. There were other regulations within Germany. They couldn't have been 'German' beer laws in 1516 because German unification was not until 1871. Since 1871 there have been adaptations of the laws. Imported beers which do not meet the regulations cannot be banned as this would break European Union laws. Beer with contents other than just hops, water and barley can be produced and sold but it cannot be labelled as beer.

Even though I was unaware of the German beer laws, I was aware that I liked German beer. In particular, I like the beer from Munich. But today I am drinking Spanish Beer, which is just as good.

Germany also produces very good wine. In England we are aware of German white wines, but one never sees German red wines on the shelves at Sainsbury's. However, Germany produces red wines which are better than the whites. Those from Baden-Württemberg are certainly very good. We particularly like the Spätburgunder, which is a German Pinot Noir.



Hofbrauhaus – Rainer & Ralph

Photo Gallery

CURRENT AFFAIRS GROUP

The Current Affairs Group, which meets on Monday mornings at 10a.m. – 12p.m. held a very jolly Post Referendum Party at the home of Jackie Rubin. We all managed to sit in the garden. It was a bit of a squash as there were a lot of us.

We all have very conflicting political views, but we are great friends and get on very well with each other.

Jackie Rubin



Post Referendum Photo of Current Affairs Group



Rambling Group - Amersham to Chesham Walk - 18/5/2016



Delacroix Exhibition National Gallery 19/5/2016



Cookery -Viv Spiteri
Paella and Tapas



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