



PLEASE BE AWARE!

There are more roles that need to be filled on the committee.
These include the **Chair and Group Liaison Coordinator**.

If you want to continue to enjoy the **groups**, the **outings**, the **speakers**, the **socials**, the **newsletter**, all the things that make Bexley U3A what it is, **please** think about joining the committee, or doing one of the jobs which can be done as a non-committee volunteer, e.g. the website.

Only its members can keep the U3A running

If you are willing to help keep Bexley U3A in existence into 2018,
please contact Carole Hunt

Chair Chat November 2017

I write this as the clocks go back, winter approaches and Bexley U3A begins another year. Those of you who attended the AGM last month at Roberts Hall will have heard that several members of the 2016-17 committee would not be standing for 2017-18. Please see the back page of this newsletter for the revised committee for 2017-18. You will note that there are still several roles including **Chair, Group Liaison, Hall Manager and Web Master** that need to be filled. The new committee cannot cover them all and you need to help even if in a non-committee role. Some roles listed above could be done as job shares or non-committee roles. The lists of tasks are available to anyone who requires them from me. I will remain as Chair until the end of December to allow time for a changeover. Hopefully we will be in a position to send out renewal forms at that point. This is a reprieve but only for the time being because, under our Constitution, committee members must stand down after three years so the same situation will occur again in October 2018. **Group Leaders should not be booking anything that incurs a financial liability to the organisation after January 2018 at this moment in time.** Please start thinking now what you can do to keep our organisation going.

Tickets for the Christmas Social will be on sale at the November meeting, or from Thelma Wilkes at £2 each.

Regards Carole Hunt

TONY MAYES

Sadly we must report the recent death of Tony Mayes, a stalwart and loyal member of Bexley U3A for many years. Not only was he a member of many groups and a familiar figure at Roberts Hall meetings but he served our membership tirelessly as a committee member taking on the roles at various times as Publicity Officer, Vice Chair and as Chair between 2006 and 2008. Thank you, Tony for your hard work and friendship. God bless you and your family

Carole Hunt - Chair

Tony was always an enthusiastic and friendly member of the U3A. He was voted on to the committee and appointed Vice Chair. In this role he was a strong and supportive committee member. In 2005 Bexley U3A together with Sidcup U3A put on a three day programme of lectures at the Maritime Museum, Greenwich to commemorate Trafalgar Day. Tony was responsible for the publicity and much more. The event was a great success due in no small part to Tony's contribution. He went on to become Chair of Bexley U3A and later served as an advisor to the newly formed Welling U3A. His experience was much appreciated. Despite ill health he continued to take a lively interest in the activities of Bexley and Welling U3As whenever he was able.

Joyce Kurowski - A former Chair of Bexley U3A

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### Monthly Meetings and Speakers

Our next meeting in December is of course the Christmas Social. I suggest you get your tickets asap otherwise you could miss out on a great entertainment. Tom Carradine is renowned for his sing along show at Wilton's Music Hall- visited and enjoyed by our U3A choir group last Spring. Make sure you are in good voice. You will want to sing-a -long with Tom!

**The main meeting is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 2 p.m. (be there by 1.45 pm to get a seat!) at Roberts Hall behind Christ Church, Bexleyheath Broadway.**

|             |                  |                                                                           |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November 9  | Joseph Woodcock  | Christmas in the Garden                                                   |
| December 14 | Christmas Social | Singalong With Tom Carradine                                              |
| January 11  | Richard Griffin  | Body Guard to the Queen                                                   |
| February 8  | Roger Stevens    | Return Visit! Audio Visual Show - Guaranteed to lift a winter's afternoon |
| March 8     | Ian Packham      | Encircling Africa. Around Africa by Public Transport                      |
| April 12    | Tony Farnham     | Romance of London's River                                                 |
| May 10      | Dave Pattenden   | My Life in Magic                                                          |
| June 14     | Tony Neild       | Hall Place Gardens                                                        |
| July 12     | Summer Social    | with Sherlock Holmes                                                      |

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Local Lights

Please remember to collect your tickets at the meeting

Organiser Carole Alleway

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### TOWN AND AROUND

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ALL OUTINGS AT YOUR OWN RISK

**THERE APPEARS TO BE A MISCONCEPTION THAT OUR OUTINGS ARE ALWAYS FULL. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME TO THE MEETINGS YOU MAY PHONE OR E MAIL MAIRE CARR ANY TIME**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Backstage at the Royal Opera House.** Meet Charing Cross at **11.45** please note time. Backstage guided tour of this wonderful building, however, we may not be able to visit the auditorium if there is a rehearsal in progress. Tour lasts 75mins. £10.50

NO VISIT PLANNED FOR DECEMBER

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Second visit Backstage at the Royal Opera House.** Meet Charing Cross at 11.45, please note time. As there is already a waiting list for our November visit we have decided to set up a second visit for January. £10.50.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018. National Army Museum.** Meet Victoria Station by Platform 7 10.15/ 10.30ish and then 170 bus. Introductory talk, and then guided tour around the permanent exhibits. Café, Loos. Free of charge, but donation please of £3.00.

**FULL PAYMENT (PREFERABLY BY CHEQUE MADE OUT TO TOWN AND AROUND) MUST BE MADE AT TIME OF BOOKING.** See notices in Roberts Hall for more details. **If you are on the reserve list for a trip please keep day free, or let Maire know as soon as possible if you are unable to come.**

If you have booked a place on an outing and cannot attend please let us know as soon as possible. It is unacceptable to keep other members of the group standing around waiting for you. Please make a note of our Mobile telephone numbers which are printed in the Newsletter so we can be contacted by phone or text even on the day of the visit

|                                    |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Organiser: Margaret Collins</b> |  |  |
| <b>Bookings: Maire Carr</b>        |  |  |
| <b>Money: Sabine Wayt</b>          |  |  |

TOWN AND AROUND  
VISIT TO THE GARDEN MUSEUM

By Margaret Collins

In 1977 St Mary's-At-Lambeth, right next to Lambeth Palace, was already deconsecrated and in very poor condition, and it was threatened with demolition to make way for a car park. Rosemary Nicholson led the group of enthusiastic local people to save this building, and it was decided to use it as a garden museum. Near this site was where John Tradescant (1580-1638), and John Tradescant his son (1608-62), had their curiosities and botanical specimen plant nursery called The Ark during the 1620s and where they are both buried. There had been many churches on this site the earliest mentioned being 1066. Recently Heritage Lottery Fund and over fifty other charitable donations have provided funds for the extensive renovations and additional gallery space required to display over 1000 items.

Our guide told us the history of the church, and its connection to John Tradescant Senior. He had been a gardener at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire to Robert Cecil, and then gardener to Charles I. His passion was plant hunting, and he undertook many long voyages to Europe, Algeria and Russia to extend his collection. He also received gifts from travellers, and sea captains who knew of his passion. His son John (1608-62) became gardener to King Charles II and travelled to Virginia. The collection was housed in his home and nursery called The Ark where in the 1620s it could be visited for 6d. Some of these items are displayed in a special room in this museum which have been returned on loan from the Ashmolean. We were taken into the new garden space, where the tombs of Captain Bligh of the Bounty, and John Tradescant can be seen. The new garden designed by Dan Pearson exhibits some of the exotic plants that the Tradescant family collected on their travels.

The new galleries upstairs were full of interesting gardening artefacts. Old gardening magazines, gardening implements, architects plans for important gardens, children's wooden wheelbarrows and little tools, a collection of gardener's journals, and the Repton Red Book all beautifully written, although I could not read them because of low lighting. However I did enjoy the lovely paintings of gardens, some by John Nash, and Helen Allingham. A display recording the works of Gertrude Jekyll and William Robinson made interesting viewing.

Most of our group are interested in gardening and gardens, so this made a nice visit on an October day when we are putting our gardens to bed ready for the winter.

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A reminder from Sheila Douglas about this project:

There are still places available until December 1st on the "Hearth Tax" SLP starting in January. See the printed version of the newsletter for registration details.

Strollers

On a bright, sunny but breezy October morning, eleven of us met at Danson Park main gate for a walk. We followed the path through the Old English Garden, also known as the Rose Garden. However, there were very few colourful plants to be seen, the green colour predominated. The water in the small fish pond, with no fish, was clean. The pretty water lilies that had covered the surface of the pond only a couple of weeks ago had gone but the nearby old sun dial was still there.

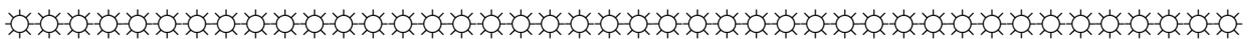
Walking across the bridge we stopped to feed the ducks that were gliding towards us along the small lake. Further on from the bank of the main lake we watched a family of swans with now only four of the five cygnets still in their dark feathers.

Then we slightly deviated from the lake into a corner of the park near Danson Road, known as the Peace Garden. It is a small secluded area with three memorial plaques, placed on the ground. The largest commemorates the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II and was designed by the school children of the borough of Bexley. The next, near a seat, was presented by the children of Normandy Primary School to honour those who fought in the Normandy D-day. The third and the smallest plaque simply states 'United Nations Founded 1945'. It might be of interest to mention that at the Welling end of the park there is also a monument erected by the Far East Prisoners Association.

Finally, after a walk of early three miles we stopped at The Stables for a drink and a chat. What a pleasant way to spend a morning and enjoy the beautiful autumn colours on the trees!

Thank you Barbara for keeping the group active after so many years

Tomira Carson



Executive Committee 2017 - 2018

Chair	<i>Carole Hunt</i>		
Vice Chair	<u>VACANCY</u>		
Secretary	Sandra Goulding		
Treasurer	Ron Clayton		
Membership	Douglas West		
Speakers	Terry Moseley		
Group Liaison	<u>VACANCY</u>		
E-mail & IT	Jo Livingston		
Social Secretary	Thelma Wilkes		
Catering	Vi King		
Hall Manager /Database	Nino Parascandolo		
NON-COMMITTEE ROLES			
Meet & Greet	Edna Sutton		Please let Edna know of personal events e.g. significant birthdays, anniversaries, condolences, etc. so that she can send cards.
Newsletter Editor	Mary Jupp		
Webmaster	<u>VACANCY</u>		

*Please submit all contributions to December newsletter by
Midday - Friday 1st December*

Please ensure you have an email acknowledgment from me that I have received your contribution! Mary Jupp