



**Chair Chat November 2018**

For the Fallen

They went with songs to the battle, they were young.  
 Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow.  
 They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,  
 They fell with their faces to the foe.  
 They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:  
 Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
 At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
 We will remember them.  
 They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
 They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
 They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
 They sleep beyond England's foam.

*Laurence Binyon 1869-1943*

These men and women were not heroes when they set off for the battleground, they were ordinary people from all walks of life, they all became heroes when they were there.

**Sandra Goulding**



From Terry: This is my last article for the Bexley U3A newsletter as I have stood down as Speaker Secretary at the AGM. I think most of you know the reason why, I am looking to migrate to Devon early in the New Year that is providing I can get a good price for my house in Erith, I am assured I can. This was not an easy decision to make.

I will certainly miss everyone at Bexley. I have made many new friends here. I have really enjoyed being Speaker Secretary and I sincerely hope I have given Bexley U3A members the speakers they have enjoyed. As the old saying goes you cannot please everyone all the time!

I will still be around for a while, to come to meetings and run the Choir and the Heritage Railway group. Through the experience I have gained at Bexley U3A, I'm hoping to start a new U3A Group in the town I hope to find a house as there is not a U3A group there at the moment.

I was really sorry I was not able to get the Ukulele Group up and running, time was against me, hopefully someone will take up the reins and start one.

I have already been offered three Jobs on The South Devon Railway plus a very exciting new Challenge taking on the job as Front of Manager at a new Theatre /Cinema being built in the town, I very much doubt if I will get bored!

I will however be back at times to see some of the special speakers booked for next year and also meet up again with my friends at Bexley U3A. I will certainly be back for the Sing a Long with Tom Carradine Christmas 2019 Social.

Thank you all for your support and I am sure you will support the future new Speaker Secretary.

Terry Moseley

Ex. Speaker Secretary

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### Monthly Meetings and Speakers:

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 8	London Transport Museum	TBA
December 13	Christmas Social	With Ukulele Group Tuning Fluid

### Trip to The Orchard (without LSD!)

To see *'Hair'* the musical you may have missed in the swinging sixties.  
Some nudity. Be there or be square!

Wednesday 15th May '19 2.30pm

Groupie rate £31

Remember - the bigger our group, the greater the discount.

Organiser Carole Alleway

Book and pay at this meeting please.

**Cheques payable to U3A Bexley.**

## THEMED WALKS

The official weather forecast for the first Saturday in October was accurate - torrential rain and wind. In spite of this, we met at Victoria Station, all equipped with rain jackets, umbrellas, boots and some with walking sticks. Our walk for the day was the Leatherhead Riverside Walk, along the river Mole. When we reached our destination, we called at Blue Cafe, Church St, for refreshment before venturing to face the elements. It was raining. The narrow, flat footpath along through woodlands, the trees and bushes were all wet, wet, wet. Big drops of rain were noisily hitting the river and our umbrellas. Occasionally we had to struggle against the wind in order to keep our umbrellas open. At a narrow spot, we met a solitary walker and her dog. In passing, I made a comment: "What a day for a walk! We must be mad." and she agreed with me. Someone did enjoy the day - a few ducks were splashing around and chasing each other.

After a short circular walk and going over the Leatherhead Bridge, we reached the 16th C building housing "The Running Horse" pub. It was a delightful place - warm, with smiling staff and very good food. After an enjoyable lunch, rest and a chat we made our way to the station. One half of our group decided to walk and the other to wait for a bus. Surprisingly we all arrived at Leatherhead station at the same time. Once in the train back to Victoria we placed our wet jackets over the backs of our seats to dry, only to get wet again on the last stretch of our walk back home. However, it was good to feel dry and warm, and able to laugh about our experiences of the day.

The area has a number of interesting, old houses, e.g. The Mansion from 1770, The Thorncroft Manor from 1770, The Priory, several old cottages, etc. but it was not a day to wander around to view these'. We all agreed to return to Leatherhead in the Spring and enjoy this lovely green area on a nice, sunny day.

Tomira Carson

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**London Theatre Group – We have two amazing musicals for you!**

***'Caroline, or Change'***

**Moving into London with great reviews (check out on line) 17<sup>th</sup> January matinée at the Playhouse Theatre**

**Price £27.50 booking at next meeting but payable in December**

***'9 to 5' at the Savoy Theatre. 26th June 2019 matinée***

**Price £32.50 booking and paying at next meeting**

**Phone Doreen Trudgill    Cheques payable to U3A Bexley**

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**GROUP NEWS AND VACANCIES**

New Group – **Backgammon**

If anyone is interested in playing Backgammon, please contact me with preferred day(s) for a morning get together. Beginners welcome. 1 meeting per month, 2 hours. 6 places available.

**SCRABBLE GROUP** Unfortunately Joan Jenkinson has had to relinquish her role as Group Leader.

Rosemary Richards has kindly agreed to step in and the Group will carry on, fortnightly, at her house in Bexleyheath. She has room for three more players of the game. If interested please phone her.

We have room for two more members in **Life Story 1** which meets on the third Friday afternoon - contact Jo Livingston for more information.

There is also one place in **Armchair Travellers** - afternoon of the third Thursday - contact Carole Hunt. Both these groups meet in Bexleyheath, walking distance from the bus station

**Greek Beginners** : The group meets regularly every two weeks and has five active members with room for two more. We started off using the BBC's *Get By In Greek* audio course of listening and speaking and have now progressed to making up simple sentences. There are various Greek courses for members to borrow.

We started our own Bexley U3A group on Duolingo Greek and 3 of us are chasing each other and some complete strangers up the weekly leaderboard and learning lots of vocabulary on the way. In the summer, we contacted the author of an article in TAM about the plan for a U3A group in Zakynthos. She has also put us in touch with the Sandton U3A Greek group and we've exchanged photos and good wishes. We lapse into English during the tea break to catch up on everyone's news. We have a tradition of dominoes, both plain and animal, which help with numbers and plurals. If anyone wants to join this very relaxed language group with optional homework, please get in touch with me if interested.

Lynne Brown

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## **TOWN AND AROUND**

*All outings at 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**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Tallow Chandlers Hall.** Meet Cannon Street by first Freedom Pass free train 10.15/10.30 for a guided tour of this interesting Hall, the original was burnt down in the Great Fire and the present building dates from 1672. £6.00

NO OUTING IN DECEMBER

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The Palace of Westminster.** Meet Charing Cross at approx. 10.15 using first Freedom Pass train available. Walk down Whitehall (or bus), to meet our guides for tours of the House of Commons and House of Lords. Free entry courtesy of the Rt. Hon Sir David Evennett MP for Bexley and Crayford. However a £3.00 donation please which we will pass on to Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice.

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Westminster Abbey and the Queens Diamond Jubilee Galleries.** Meet Charing Cross approx. 10.15 using first Freedom Pass train available. Walk down or catch bus to Abbey. Audio guided tour of the historic Abbey, resting place of many Kings and Queens, and then up (lift available) to the recently opened Queens Diamond Jubilee Galleries to view ancient artefacts, books, and paintings. £15.00.

**PAYMENT, PREFERABLY BY CHEQUE MADE OUT TO U3A BEXLEY, 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.**

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 Museum of the Grand Order of Water Rats**

**By Máire Carr**

Our October visit was to the Museum of Entertainment in the headquarters of The Grand Order of Water Rats attached to a pub aptly named The Water Rats situated in Gray's Inn Road. Luckily, all of our 43 members managed to get on the same bus from Cannon St Station where we met.

An all-male brotherhood, a fraternity of show business people who raise money for deserving causes, their motto is "Philosophy, Conviviality and Social Intercourse. In the Lodge Room, members meet to conduct their rituals, discuss politics and generally have a good time. Every year a new King Rat is elected. Obtaining membership is very selective; a candidate must be professionally involved in the entertainment business. Individuals not in the entertainment business whose generosity to the order or esteemed position has earned them a place in the Order are known as Companion Rats. Prince Philip and Prince Charles are both Companion Rats plus other big names too numerous to mention. There are also Lady Rattlings. All sorts of shows and functions are organised to raise money to buy items such as ambulifts, chair mobiles, intensive care units and medical equipment of every description. There is a home for elderly performers; help is given to entertainers who have fallen upon hard times and to families of those who have passed away.

Seated comfortably our tour commenced with a talk on the formation and history of the Grand Order of Water Rats, which dates back to 1889. It all began when Comedian Joe Elvin bought a trotting racing pony named "The Magpie". Driving the rain soaked pony home he was told that it looked like a blooming water rat. The Magpie was very successful in trotting races and soon quite a bit of money was being accumulated. Some Music Hall stalwarts formed a syndicate with Joe, donating their winnings to charity. The syndicate became an official society meeting in a pub in Sunbury named "The Magpie" to honour the little pony that started it all. Membership grew quickly and they took on the illustrious title of The Grand Order of Water Rats", Rats backwards spells Star. Rules and rituals were formulated.

The Library of Entertainment contains books on every aspect of live entertainment. Their extensive theatrical database can be accessed here and also the background of early performers.

Afterwards we visited the Museum Rooms. Old posters and many black and white photographs of stars lined the walls. A wealth of theatrical memorabilia was on display, costumes-and artefacts worn and used by Music Hall, Film and TV stars over the decades. So many items were on display – Dan Leno's huge boots, Max Wall's coat, Charlie Chaplin's cane, Ted Ray's famous violin, Tommy Cooper's fez and a costume worn by Danny La Rue. Comments could be heard from our members as we wandered around looking at the exhibits. "I remember him", "What was his name?", and "What show was he in?"

One of our members was lucky enough to attend the GOWR Annual Ball for 25 years. One year King Rat Bert Weedon gave all the ladies a gift of a lovely little blue pillbox, which she showed to us.

We finished with a raffle for bags of GOWR memorabilia and a welcome cup of tea and biscuits whilst we watched a film "A slice of Water Rat History". A lovely nostalgic trip down Memory Lane for us all.

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### Executive Committee 2018 - 2019

|                            |                       |  |                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chair                      | Sandra Goulding       |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Vice Chair                 | <b><u>VACANCY</u></b> |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Secretary                  | Maureen Wright        |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Treasurer                  | Ron Clayton           |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Membership                 | Douglas West          |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Speakers                   | <b><u>VACANCY</u></b> |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Group Liaison              | Pat Fearnside         |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| E-mail & IT                | Nino<br>Parascandolo  |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Social Secretary           | Thelma Wilkes         |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Catering                   | Vi King               |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Hall Manager /Database     | Nino<br>Parascandolo  |  |                                                                                                                                  |
|                            | Cynthia Allen         |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>NON-COMMITTEE ROLES</b> |                       |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| 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             |  |                                                                                                                                  |

***Please submit all contributions to December newsletter by***

***Midday - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November***

***Please ensure you contribute before the cut-off***

***and have an email acknowledgment from me that I have received your contribution! Thank you - Mary Jupp***