



## Discover London Street Art walk

The February visit by the Discover London group was something new as we were taken on an interesting tour of the street art around Shoreditch. Street art today is far removed from the scrawled graffiti of the past and is in many cases really amazing art. We saw gorgeous portraits, fabulous murals covering complete walls, painted shutters, political statements and thought-provoking works and much more as well as learning about the history of one of the poorest areas of London which sits adjacent to the City, the richest.

London is the Mecca for street artists and we saw works by people from all over the world, many of whom have made London their base, which adds even more to the variety of styles and subjects.

Street art can take days to complete, but has an average life expectancy of just



four weeks with some there for years, but others painted over almost before the paint is dry. How disappointing for the artist! We saw artists at work – different from the days when they sneaked in, scrawled their "tag" on the wall and disappeared before the police caught them!

We finished a fascinating day with a lovely lunch in a Greek restaurant at Spitalfields Market.

*Tricia Francis and Penny Cook*

## The Franklin Expedition Disaster - Lost & Found

Hybrid meeting: 2pm, 22 March 2022 at Ryarsh Village Hall or on Zoom

The Franklin expedition, which was sent to the Arctic in 1845 to find the fabled North West Passage, was the biggest disaster in the history of Polar exploration. Two well-stocked ships, 129 men, and the hopes of the Empire disappeared in the Arctic ice and were never seen again. The mystery has intrigued people for 170 years and there

is now hope of solving the mystery following the discovery of the two lost ships high above the Arctic Circle. Michael Smith charts the background to the disaster, pieces together the tragic events, and discusses what the shipwrecks may reveal.

Michael Smith is an authority on Polar exploration whose books have sold over

250,000 copies worldwide. He has appeared on TV and radio and spoken at many prestigious venues, including: The Queen's Gallery Buckingham Palace, Royal Geographical Society, National Library of Ireland, National Maritime Museum, National Museum of Ireland, Princess Grace Memorial Library Monaco, the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and Scott Polar Research Institute Cambridge. Michael is a former award-winning journalist with The Guardian and The Observer.

*Derek Carpenter, Speaker Secretary*



# The Short view



**A**s I write this the sun is shining, the birds singing and there are so many flowers bringing colour to our gardens, and I hope I am not premature in hoping that spring is on its way. However, I am sure we are all watching with horror what is happening in Ukraine and in other parts of the world. In many ways covid seems to have slipped out of the news and many peoples consciousness – but just to remind everyone that we ask you to continue to wear masks when you are in the hall.

We will be holding our AGM in June and if any members would be interested in joining the committee or helping out in general please contact me. This year is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the u3a movement and I would welcome members' views about how we should celebrate this.

**Chryst Short, Chair Malling u3a**

## Malling Social Committee full throttle again



### Batemans & Merriments Gardens/Nursery: Weds 6 July 2022

**T**he Social Committee is fully functioning again with a day visit to Batemans & Merriments in July followed by a five-day short break in September. There is plenty to keep you entertained on both visits so shake that booty and book today!

Our first day trip for 2 years! On our way to Batemans we will pay a visit to Merriments Gardens and Nursery, Hurst Green. The 4-acre garden is situated on a gentle south facing slope. There are lawns, richly planted borders, a pergola, a bog garden and a water garden with a bridge. We will have morning coffee/tea and cake here.

Then we will travel to the Jacobean home of Rudyard Kipling. Built in 1634, tradition has it that Bateman's was first owned by a Wealden ironmaster. It was much loved by Kipling and he incorporated it into his Puck of Pook's Hill stories. It is believed that there has been a mill on this site since the late 1200s, which is once again working. Following the death of his wife Carrie, the house and 330 acres of land were given to the National Trust. The Mulberry tea room has lunches and snacks available. Book early to avoid disappointment! Please find full details of the visit including a booking form attached.

**Pat Bell, Malling u3a Social Committee**



### Kynren & The North East short break

**T**he departure date for this 5 days/4 nights short break is 1 September and there has been a very good response so there is only limited availability. However we still need two people for this holiday to be viable so please consider booking. Full details and booking form are attached.

**Dianne White, Chair Malling u3a Social Committee**





## Under the arches with Walk London

Philippa Hayden organised this month's walk. We started from Waterloo East. Some of the interesting things we saw were rows of beautiful small terraced houses that are often used in television programmes such as *Call the Midwife*. Small two up two down houses demanding prices from one and a quarter million pounds! We passed the Young Vic & Old Vic theatres. We went into the back of a small bookshop to see a 32 seat theatre that was used for rehearsals, we went into Waterloo Millennium Green where there was an exhibition of lions in aid of the Born Free Foundation, we walked down Lower Marsh Street with its stalls of Street Food and we ended up under Leake Street Arches which is under Waterloo Station and is completely decorated in legal street art graffiti, absolutely amazing!

**Anne Sargent**



### CROQUET

Croquet will be reconvening again this year from 3 May to 27 Sept. We meet each Tuesday from 10.00 to midday. All equipment is provided (mallets, hoops, balls, etc) plus tuition and a friendly welcome. Fees remain at £5 per session.

For those registered there is no need to prebook each day. Just turn up and enjoy .... Any further information or to register please contact me at:

### POETRY GROUP 2

We are now meeting in members' homes again. Our topics alternate between a poet and a theme and so far, this year we have covered: Simon Armitage, war poets, winter/Christmas, Christina Rossetti, towns/cities/villages. We have now begun to add a social lunch following our

meetings, in a pub or cafe, for those of us who might like to come along.

### U3A SCRABBLE GROUP

We meet first and third Tuesday afternoon from 1.30 onwards with a tea/coffee break in the middle. I am looking for 2 more people to join our Group (maximum 9). If enough interest, we could start a second group.

**Mrs Gerry Hunt, Convenor**

### ADVANCED COMPUTER GROUP

Our group is of interest to those who wish to learn more of the technical issues and uses of computers. Some of the recent talks have been: Evolution of USB and HDMI/The history of audio integrated circuits/Control of an Astronomi-

cal Telescope/The 5G telephone system/A practical demonstration of process control theory/Programming in Processing/A history of computer memory/Is your phone smarter than you?

We are a friendly group always happy to welcome new members. At present we meet by zoom on the third Monday of the month at 10am.

**John Stow, Convenor**

Please contact me through the Malling U3A website

### Tea Rota

**March:** Brenda Smith, Ian Smith, Lilia Frietman

**April:** Christine Garrett, Pat Lander, Jan Holdsworth.

**Christine Barrett**



# As Forgetfulness creeps in ...

For seven years – far too long – my role at Malling u3a has been to find and invite speakers to our monthly meetings, a role which I took over from the late Canon Richard Lea and which I hope to hand on to someone else in the not-too-distant future. If anyone can help in that way, please let me know. My correspondence with those speakers has often given me a personal insight into the lives of those who entertain us on our 4th Tuesdays, and one such is Frances Hughes who has spoken twice to our group. Ten years ago she spoke on British theatrical personalities and 5 years ago on Noel Coward as actor, writer and painter. As Tour Guide at the Garrick Club she was well qualified to do so. For ten years Frances lectured in Theatre History at the London Centre for Theatre Studies. At the age of 86 she is now liv-



ing in a care home but sadly her memory of all the things she used to speak about has now gone. How lovely, though, that we and countless others down the years have benefited from that memory and

the fund of stories which it held. So many of our older friends – indeed we ourselves – have stories which we ought to share, not least with the very young, before they are lost in the mists of forgetfulness. Memory is important for all of us; it reminds us of our personal story. Some things perhaps are best forgotten – but where our forgetfulness seems to diminish us as individuals, it can be hard for us and for others to bear. If and when we are called upon to live in a misty world, a world of our own existence, a world with unrecognised family and friends around us, how good it will have been to have shared those parts of our lives which have made us the personalities that we are and to be remembered in that way.

**Derek Carpenter, Speakers Secretary**

## Between the covers

### The Gift of a Radio by Justin Webb

Longest-serving presenter on Radio 4's Today programme, Justin Webb has written a perceptive, moving and funny memoir about his lonely and dysfunctional childhood in the Britain of the 1970s, a decade of strikes, the three day week, financial crisis, Bloody Sunday and the 'winter of discontent' but also of increasing affluence and foreign holidays.

### Green Darkness by Anya Seton

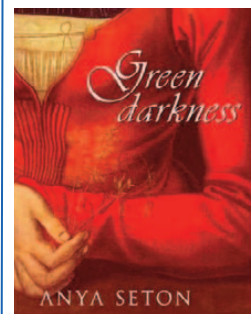
Published exactly 50 years ago, this historical novel begins in the 1960s when American heiress Celia marries an English baronet but the root of her troubles in the present day lies in the 1550s when the young Celia de Bohun was growing up in turbulent religious times. The action takes place partly at Ightham Mote and partly at Cowdray House which some members may remember visiting on a u3a trip several years ago.

### Small Things like These by Claire Keegan

This short novel (which was a BBC Radio 4 Book at Bedtime) is set in Ireland in the winter of 1985 when coal merchant Bill Furlong stumbles across the horrors being perpetrated at a local convent and Magdalen Laundry. This forces him to rethink his life as the son of a 16-year-old unmarried mother.

*We would like to hear about the books you have particularly enjoyed over the winter months. Have you read a book in recent weeks – fiction or non-fiction – that you would recommend? Please tell us about it and we will publish a summary of your responses next month.*

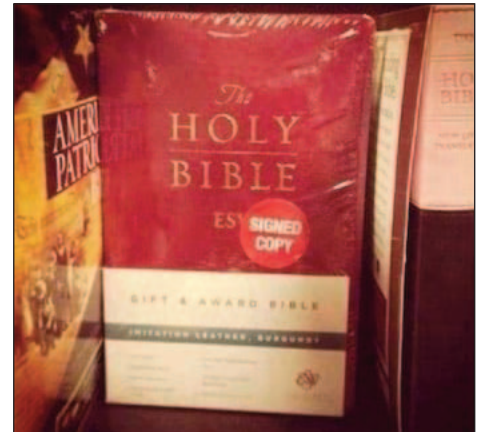
**Valerie Willsher**







# Anne's knee slappers

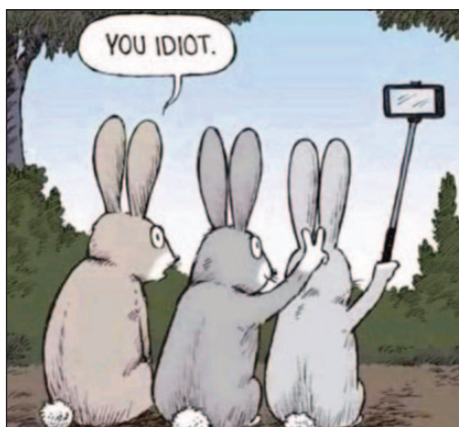


The cashier told me "Strip Down Facing Me".

By the time I realized they meant the debit card, it was too late.



Funnies supplied  
by Anne Sargent



Operator: 911, what's your emergency?

Man: A guy just got hit by a car, I need an ambulance.

Operator: What's your location?

Man: I'm on Eucalyptus street.

Operator: Can you spell that for me?

Man: (long awkward pause)

Operator: Sir? Are you there?

Man: I'm gonna drag him over to Pine street and call right back.

I suffer from ADCD:  
Attention Deficit Cleaning Disorder.

It's where you start to clean one thing, but get distracted by another thing that needs cleaning. That causes you to bounce from one job to another only to end up doing a lot of work with nothing to show for it!

It turns out the answer to my problems wasn't at the bottom of this pint of ice cream, but the important thing is that I tried.