

Chairman's Message

Hello Everyone,

This week winter is upon us and the temperature has certainly dropped. In spite of that, I have recently spent a delightful afternoon at Wakehurst Place. The trees were magnificent, especially the beautiful red Acer trees. This was Autumn at its best. Who needs to go all the way to America to see the fall, when we have such beauty on our doorsteps.



It gives me great sorrow to have to announce that such a nice man like Brian Swift has passed away. Brian was a Founder Member of the u3a and dedicated Group Leader of the London Studies group as well as being the Compliance Officer on the present committee - he will be sadly missed. I would like to send on behalf of myself and the committee our sincere condolences to his wife Lynn and family.

I hope you all enjoyed last month's speaker, Steve Lester, who talked about his life as an Auctioneer. He certainly gave us excellent advice and secrets of his trade.

At next month's meeting on the 27th November our Speaker is Martyn Harrison, who should be equally as entertaining. He is a professional Singer with many credits to his name and will entertain you with singing songs from the shows.

The following month we will be holding a Christmas Party on the 18th December from 2 pm until about 4.30 pm. We will be entertained by the Songsters Choir who will sing Carols and hope you all will join in.

TICKETS - Entry to the Party is by ticket only if you would like to come and join in the Christmas spirit.

Please email me on maureenjyoung@live.co.uk There is no charge for the ticket, it is our way of saying thank you for being a member and supporting the Edenbridge branch.

Details of the party are as follows:

- Mulled Wine, or Apple/Orange Juice on arrival at 2 pm.
- Members to be seated on tables of 8 to 10 laden with sandwiches and snacks.
- Entertainment by the Songsters Choir for approximately 40 minutes creating a jolly Christmas atmosphere.
- A Raffle will be held - cost of Ticket £1.00

- Finally Irish Coffee or Tea/Coffee with a Mince Pie will be served.

Our next meeting will be in the new year on the 29th January 2025. At many members' requests Tony Harris will be returning to talk to you about the Titanic disaster. I am sure this will not only be interesting and very informative it will be fun to start the new year off.



DICKENS FESTIVAL IN ROCHESTER

There are still some places available on the trip to the Rochester Dickens Festival on 7th December, and you are welcome to bring friends and family, including grandchildren. The pick up is now 10 am from Edenbridge.

(Image: Simonkelsey@PraxisDesign)

Click [here](#) for more information about the festival.

If you are interested, please email me on maureenjyoung@live.co.uk

Finally I understand that some of you are having difficulties in coming to the monthly meetings now that winter is upon us because of transport problems. Is it possible that perhaps another member could offer a lift to those members? If you need a lift or are prepared to offer a fellow member a lift please email me maureenjyoung@live.co.uk so that I can arrange it.

Best Wishes

Maureen

GROUPS UPDATE

Molly Ward has taken over running London Studies Group 1.

Pam Gascoyne has taken over running London Studies Group 2.

Book Group 3 has a vacancy for one new member, if interested contact bookthree@edenbridgeu3a.co.uk

Cribbage Group is looking for new members if interested contact cribbage@edenbridgeu3a.co.uk

Snooker group looking for new members. 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoon in each month. If interested contact snooker@edenbridgeu3a.co.uk

Chris Prickett - Groups Coordinator

MOTO

The members on their own group, MOTO, has been very busy. The last six months have seen members visiting fabulous gardens, NGS and NT and more unusual ones further afield, going to a wide variety of shows, plays and music events from Chichester, to Oxted and East Grinstead, dancing, Sunday lunches, afternoon teas and board and card games. Most events are held at weekends, and in small groups.

Anyone can create a poll for an event. Tuition for novices given.

If you would like to spend time with like minded people, I look forward to chatting and putting you on our WhatsApp group. We car share and contribute to the driver and some are ok driving at night! Looking forward to a busy winter season.

Christine 07741460500.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Current Affairs is a lively group. Over the nine years it has been running hundreds of topics have been discussed and many members have come and gone. We have recently sadly lost three excellent contributors to our discussions, therefore I hope to hear from new members, particularly men, to join our only remaining male Philip.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday at 2pm in our homes. For more details call Christine 07741460500.

LONDON STUDIES GROUP 2:

A visit to The Guildhall Art Gallery and Roman Amphitheatre remains.

On Friday 1st November, a group of 12 of us enjoyed an amazing visit to this beautiful Art Gallery.

The Guildhall Art Gallery is located in the heart of the City of London and is home to the City of



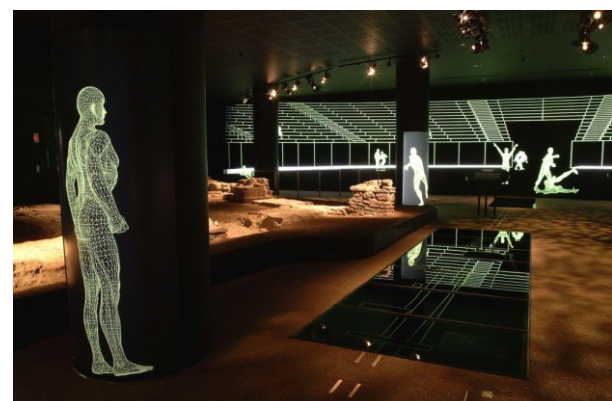
London Corporation's Art Collection. Since 1886, the Gallery has been home to an outstanding art collection, and visitors have also been able to explore the only Roman Amphitheatre remains in London. This free interactive attraction allows visitors to step into the well-preserved ruins of an ancient Roman Amphitheatre. The original circular walls were discovered in 1988 by archaeologists working on the Gallery building.

The Gallery is built on the site of the Amphitheatre, and visitors can explore the remains in the basement.

The gallery features a variety of art, including world famous works, Victorian paintings, and contemporary pieces.

Admission to the Gallery, and the Amphitheatre, is free. We were very lucky to be 'educated' in the more famous paintings in the gallery by an amazing volunteer guide, whose knowledge and enthusiasm was inspiring.

We were also able to visit a temporary exhibition which runs until 12th January 2025:



"Anne Desmet:Kaleidoscope/London". Highlights of the exhibition sees the artist "slicing into prints focused on London from her earlier wood engravings, linocut and hand- drawn lithograph to make a new series of digital collages, inspired by looking at a fragmented view of the world through a toy Kaleidoscope."

Perhaps the most exciting, very unexpected, part of our visit was on the way into the Gallery via a covered archway at the side of the Guildhall itself. Behind a sheet of glass approximately eight men were busy cleaning and polishing the Lord Mayor of London's Gold State Coach! It's quite impressive when you're only three feet away from it!

Carol Moore, u3a London Studies Group 2

FLORA AND FAUNA GROUP

On Tuesday 22nd October, twelve of our group ventured to Emmetts.

Who could have imagined that a self guided fungi search could be such fun!

We were armed with various identification apps on our phones, some seemingly more successful than others! Fortunately the day we chose was warm with glorious sunshine and blue skies, showing the stunning Autumn colours to perfection.



After the usual coffee and chat, we headed to the woods. We started slowly, but once we all got our "eyes in" it was surprising how easy it was to spot the fungi and there were excited shouts whenever a new one was discovered.

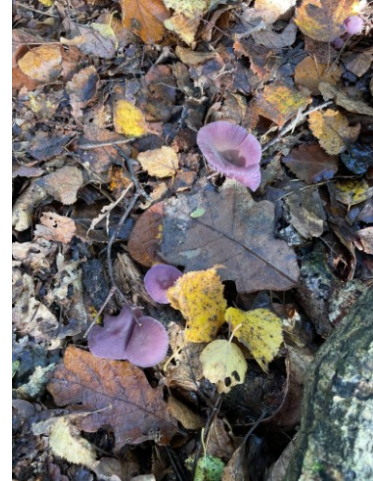
Some were tiny such as Candlesnuff and Some were brightly coloured like Yellow Sstaghorn and



Golden Chantarelle, which looked like splatted egg!

There were some strange ones such as Faringdon Folly, the rather gruesome looking *Sticta Sylvatica* and Wrinkled Crust.

The Amethyst Deceiver looked a



subtle mauve until it lit up
brightly in the sun.

Altogether we counted at least thirty five different types of fungi.

There was an extra reward for those of us who stayed for lunch, as on our way back to the car park we saw Fly Agaric, the fairy toadstool, red with white spots.

All in all a rewarding visit!

There will be no November meeting as the Christmas lunch will be fairly early in December, on Thursday 10th, at the Kentish Horse, Markbeech.

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for all your contributions, if you would like anything to be included in next month's newsletter please email newsletter@edenbridgeu3a.co.uk. Please note that the deadline for the December newsletter will be earlier than usual - 9th December.

Sandra Gentry