



u3a

learn, laugh, live

DEREHAM

Email: paulineloweu3a@icloud.com

Phone: 07872-896109

Website: <https://dereham.u3asite.uk>

Remembrance Sunday 9th November – Glenys Watling

On 9th November, Dereham's community came together once again to honour and remember our Fallen. 200 participants joined the parade with over 40 wreath layers on what was a glorious sunny morning. I laid a wreath on behalf of our U3A, in remembrance of those who gave so much.

I often hear remarks about how our younger generation may forget our War Dead in the years to come and such a momentous occasion will be long forgotten, but I differ on this opinion, as I saw so many children marching forward, including a variety of youth groups and Army and Air Cadets. The memory of our Fallen will surely continue whilst we have leaders and teachers to tell the story and keep our nation's history alive.

HG Wells described the First World War as 'the War to end all Wars'; after a war of such immense scale, surely a future conflict was not possible. How naive we were to believe such a claim. Within 2 decades, a major World War was declared again, and we have since been involved in many conflicts. I was a young teenager when our country was required again to defend one of our sovereign territories, the Falklands Islands, and foolishly I felt these lands were too far away to be of any consequence to the UK. I later spent many years of my service life as a nurse in the Royal Air Force serving in the Falkland Islands and the memory of those days,

Cont'd over.....

FROM THE CHAIR – Pauline Lowe

Although I was not present at the last meeting the feedback I received was that Adrian O'Dell delivered a truly compelling and emotive presentation, sharing the remarkable story of a Polish airman's World War II escape route—painstakingly retraced by his son 80 years later. His talk was rich in historical detail, beautifully illustrated, and sensitively told, bringing to life both the dangers of the original journey and the poignancy of retracing it decades on.

Members commented on how engaging and well-paced the presentation was, with Adrian's clear passion for the subject shining through. It was a fascinating insight into courage, resilience, and the lasting legacy of wartime experiences. A memorable and much-appreciated talk.

Our lovely member Glenys Watling represented our U3A at the Remembrance Sunday Parade, a huge thank you from us, please see her report.

NOVEMBER MARKET STREET

On Thursday 13th November Dereham U3A put on their first market street event at Dereham Memorial Hall, taking place just before the speaker.

A large selection of hand-crafted items were on display and available for purchase by our members.

This event was tremendously well supported and enjoyed by all who attended. Sales were made from all the group tables participating, the cake stall completely sold out making £72

A big thankyou to everyone who participated. A special thank you to our U3A Vice Chair Trish Wicks for her hard work in organising everything that made the afternoon run smoothly, and such good fun.





Remembrance Sunday 9th November – Glenys Watling

..... Cont'd

and the consequences of armed conflict still bare a deep and meaningful wound in the patriotic Islanders. Many of the houses and farms bear the scars of battle, capture and detention. 255 Military personnel lost their lives, alongside 3 Falkland Islanders and 649 Argentinians. On one occasion, I laid a wreath at the San Carlos Cemetery on behalf of the Princess Mary's RAF Nursing Service during the austral winter. The wind was bitterly cold, and the bugler could barely raise a note. I stood at the front of the queue of wreath layers only for a tall gentleman in a black coat to step ahead of me. When I asked who he was laying a wreath for, he announced that it was on behalf of Margaret Thatcher, the Islands Saviour. Our Nation has been involved in many countries of unrest, due to political tensions or invasion, in our endeavour to negotiate a peaceful situation whilst ensuring our own security. Even now, we have a war in Europe and unease still exists worldwide. Whatever your political persuasion in our modern times, Remembrance is a short moment in our busy lives where we are united in peace with our partners and allies to honour those who gave their today for our tomorrow. Let us live this life well, remembering the endurance and resilience of our fallen heroes and continue to strive for peace and unity.



DECEMBER MEETING – 11th December

In the season to be jolly, there's no better way to get in the mood than with a funny, toe-tapping celebration of Christmas past and present with Terence Blacker, a songwriter and performer described by Gyles Brandreth as 'witty, wistful, wonderful – a treat'

For his Christmas show, Terence performs some little-known Yuletide classics alongside much-loved favourites, combining irreverent humour with toe-tapping tunes.

With songs ranging from the traditional to the quirky, here is a Christmas show with a difference to bring the best kind of festive cheer.

'We need cheering up right now and this singer-songwriter... is just the ticket.' **Sunday Times**

'Terence Blacker is a true original.' **R'n'R Magazine**

This will be followed by a buffet of sandwiches, nibbles & cakes. (unfortunately, dietary requirements CANNOT be catered for).

A pay bar will be available from 1:30pm - 4:30pm

PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT IS FULLY BOOKED.

JOLLY DAYS OUT



Contact: Trudy Gust/Jan Hayes-Griffin. Email: jollydaysout@gmail.com



On Tuesday 4th November our group made its way to Bletchley Park, once the top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers. Between 1939 and 1945, more than 9,000 people were employed at the Park and would have worked in very cramped conditions. It certainly was a very interesting place to visit and many of our group said how much they had enjoyed the day, which was made even more special by wall-to-wall sunshine!

The final outing for this year is the first for a very long time to be completely sold out! I'm sure everyone will soak up the Christmas atmosphere during a bracing walk around Cromer, perhaps bolstered by a festive lunch (or fish and chips), before enjoying the Cromer End of Pier show on Wednesday 12th December.

Linking with Swaffham and District U3a has increased the uptake for outings, which is excellent news for Jolly Days Out. That might mean that places will be filled more quickly so, when new outings are announced, it will be a good idea to sign up quickly!