



FARNHAM

Architecture Group 2024 -2025

Meetings held monthly at The Maltings
starting promptly at 10am

PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE

U3A Theme: Extraordinary People

AUTUMN TERM			
Date	Presenter or Organiser	Title	Notes
September 17th	John Townsend	Welcome	Brief Introduction to the Upcoming programme and activities
	Rob Lowthian	Riga, Tallinn & Helsinki	An illustrated talk with personal impressions of the architectural attractions of these three cities in the Baltic states of Latvia, Estonia and Helsinki.'
October 15th	Phil & Jane Kirby	Frank Lloyd Wright – Impossible Man, Fabulous Architect	A joint presentation reflecting on our recent American trip encompassing 20 or more Frank Lloyd Wright buildings (as well as earlier encounters). We will cover his homes and studios (Chicago's Oak Park and Taliesin East and West), the Johnson Wax buildings in Wisconsin, New York's Guggenheim Museum, Falling Water in Pennsylvania, and many others - including one house in which we were lucky enough to be able to stay.
November 19	Gill Picken	James Wyatt, William Beckford and Fonthill Abbey	James Wyatt [1746-1813] was a fashionable and popular architect, rival of Robert Adam in the neo-classical and neo-Gothic style. His most [in]famous Gothic creation was Fonthill Abbey, built 1795-1807 for William Beckford, eccentric gothic novelist, art collector and politician "England's richest commoner

Dec 10th	John Townsend	RIBA Sterling Prize or similar	A popular look at the nominations for the Sterling Prize or similar architectural award in which we pick our wits against the judges, Will we agree or disagree with their verdict?
WINTER TERM			
January 21st	Philip Oliver	Building a sustainable house in C21st	Starting with a house built 15 years ago in Guildford, the story of how we came to Farnham and built an almost Passiv low energy house. Will cover everything from choosing an architect via building during Covid to the experience of living in the house. Followed by Post Christmas Lunch if there is interest.
February 18th	Alan Little	It's Grim Up North: Brutalism in the Land of My Youth	Brutalism emerged in the 1950's as a typical style in many of the bold reconstruction projects of the post WW2 era and fell out of fashion in the 1970's. Now regarded as a marmite genre, it reshaped many of our city centres, public buildings and residential areas. It seemed perfect for the gritty, 'blue collar' North. In Alan's tongue in cheek words "This will be a crude, unmannered presentation so as not to disturb any stereotypes. I shall wear a soot-stained tracksuit and a flat hat, and it will feature performing whippets and racing pigeons. I shall train for the session by drinking only Newcastle Brown Ale and eating the Middlesbrough delicacy, Chicken Parmo (you may need to look this up!)"
March 18th	Jenny Colquhoun	The Vyne, Hampshire	Deterioration of a Palace in 150 Years - The Vyne between 1494 and 1649, From Tudor Palace to an Old Fashioned poorly repaired building. To be followed with a visit if sufficient interest. Details to follow.
	Esther van Rooyen	Early Christian and Moslem Architecture and a few Early Domestic Houses	With the legacy of Greece and Rome what did the Churches, Mosques and Palaces look like that were built from the 5th Century onwards? Followed by a brief look at the buildings at the Weald and Downland Living Museum, and the brilliant method devised to keep the people living in the Gulf island called Bahrein cool and comfortable in their houses.
SPRING TERM			
April 15th	Adrian Martin	Alec Clifton-Taylor	Based on a book by Alec Clifton-Taylor which shows how the necessity of using locally accessible materials influenced the design and construction of buildings.
	Peter Tomlinson	Beehive Building. Gatwick Airport	The history, design and life of the world's first circular airport terminal building".

May 20th	GROUP SESSION (possible)	A place that Inspires me.	Following on from our discussion about BRIGHTWELLS last year. This time we look with a positive note at “where they have got it right”. So suggested topic will be “a place that inspires me”. What makes it attractive, why do you think it works so well, are there lessons to be learnt that could be incorporated when considering new development elsewhere? Alternative suggestions to be explored following feedback session. POSSIBLE AVAILABLE SLOT DEPENDING ON GROUP DISCUSSION SESSION
Possible Outings/Visits (tbc)		These fall outside the general u3a programme and may be subject to an additional charge.	The Vyne, nr Basingstoke TBC



SEE ALSO IMPORTANT INFORMATION OVERLEAF

IMPORTANT INFORMATION -SOME USEFUL TIPS

1. We generally meet in The **Barley Room** (occasionally the Long Kiln Room). Both are located on the first floor, accessible by the stairs/lift in the main foyer. If you do not require the lift and can manage the slightly steeper stairs, the Long Kiln room is best accessed independently via the stair in the right-hand corner of the main reception area. **PLEASE ALWAYS CHECK** the notice board opposite the Box Office as on rare occasions The Maltings may need to alter the room allocation late on for operational reasons.
2. We aim to start **promptly at 10am**, as there is a lot to pack in the 2 hours available. We take a short refreshment break and finish at 12 noon.
3. Our meeting quite often coincides with events in the Great Hall. If coming by car, please leave extra time to ensure you get a space at The Maltings. Alternative parking is available in Waggon Yard, a short walk away (slightly more expensive). **Why not splash out for 3hrs parking enjoy what The Maltings has to offer and avoid the stress!!**
4. If you have kindly offered to make a presentation, please use Powerpoint and save it onto a memory stick which then works smoothly with the U3A equipment. Help is at hand if you do not have access to Powerpoint or need guidance. Do not let this put you off. For those wanting to learn more or share knowledge Farnham U3A has a **Speakers and Presenters Workshop Group**. See main programme and/or contact Alan Freeland for more details. arfreeland@gmail.com.

ABOVE ALL, IT'S A FUN GROUP. ENJOY.