




FARNHAM

Architecture Group Programme Compendium

The Group hold monthly meetings between September and May. The Meetings rely primarily on Member contributions and cover a diverse range of subjects. Below is a digest covering the last few years. It shows the subjects covered, to serve as a reminder and inspiration for future contributions.

2019-20: U3A Theme: The Way We Were: The 1970's

September 17	John Townsend	The Unsung heroes of Modern Architecture	Architects such as Foster, Rogers, Piano, Wilkinson Eye etc have international acclaim. But what about those who work behind the scenes to transform vision into reality. An attempt is made to unmask and give greater prominence to a few of these pioneers including some accidental inventions.
	Val Atkinson	University Buildings of the 1970's	Linking in with this year's U3A Theme. The 1960s onwards saw a large expansion in the number of universities in the UK. With it a divergence in the architectural style previously associated with such educational institutions.
September 24	June Chilton	Visit to St Cross Hosp. Winchester 	Guided visit. With the water meadows as the backdrop the Hospital of St Cross and Almshouse of Noble Order was founded by Henry de Blois in C12. It is a secular foundation and is the home to two orders of brothers. Set around a quadrangle with the C13 Church as the centrepiece. There is a charge for this visit. Advance booking with June required. Payment to be collected at meeting on 17 September.
October 15	Pam Martin	Asmara/Eritrea	A traveller's Insight. A look at the Art Deco buildings of Asmara. And ... Discovering a country (Eritrea) which seemed trapped in time; landscape and architecture; encountered during an accidental visit to a little-known country.
	John Townsend	Quiz	A light hearted quiz with an architectural theme. Maybe a small prize!
November 19	Rob Lowthian	The view from the street:	A focus on street furniture & fire hydrants. You'll be amazed!

	Alan Little	Flushed with Success – The great toilets of the world.	One of the great architectural challenges is how to put lipstick on a pig – the public loo. Here are some designs that are far from ‘bog-standard’! Some will yank your chain whilst others may drive you round the U-bend. Some will cause you to overflow with emotion whilst you may think others are a load of ballcocks.
December 10	Tim Cox	Stirling Architectural Prize 2019	Did the judges get it right? A popular review of the contenders for this year’s prize. Followed by Christmas Lunch
January 21	Mike Stanley	British Castles	Mike’s had an abiding interest in castles since boyhood, inspired by a visit to the magical castle of Bodiam, Sussex. More recently he studied the Edward 1 castles of north Wales: Conway, Harlech, Caernarfon etc. These will all feature predominantly in the talk charting their rise and fall, and changing use.
	Pam Taylor	Glasgow	Built for a Purpose. A look at the industrial and public architecture of a burgeoning city
February 18	Various	Short Presentations	A Reflection on the Summerland disaster in the Isle of Mann. Do we learn lessons from such events? A personal reflection on a scheme involving industrially manufactured units for housing nr Hammersmith by the GLC. What is that you may ask? All will be revealed.
	Andrew Morgan	Fire: What Happens When Things Go Wrong.	
	Michael Clements	Pre-Fabs of the 1970’s	
	Rob Lowthian	The Meat Tornado - A Manhattan Monster"	
March, April & May Meetings cancelled due to COVID			
2020-21: U3A Theme: National Treasures - People, Places & Works of Art			
September 22	John Townsend	Arts & Crafts Buildings.	Building on this month’s Newsletter, a brief look at Arts & Crafts buildings including some notable local examples. (A brief session to get us used to using Zoom)
October 20	Andrew Morgan	Fire Detection in historic buildings.	A look at some of the challenges presented. Includes reference to the fires at Windsor Castle and Hampton Court. (On Zoom)
November 17	Pam Taylor	Glasgow Pt 2	A follow on to the talk given in January of this year. Exploring further the industrial and public architecture of this burgeoning city

December 8	Tim Cox	RIBA Sterling Prize Best of the Best	With the 2020 Sterling Prize postponed, we will look at a selection of past winners to decide which one stands out above all others. (On Zoom)
January 19	Val Atkinson	Houses Architects Designed & Lived In	A look at what architects around the world did when they designed with only themselves to please. Houses include conversions and new-build, using materials ranging from bits of scrap to huge infrastructure units. Are their ideas brilliant or just plain eccentric? (On Zoom)
February 16	John Townsend	Smithfield Market	A brief look at the development of the market, it's decline, threats and planned renaissance into the new home for the Museum of London. (On Zoom)
March 16	Pam Taylor	Glasgow (Part 3)	Completing our tour of Glasgow exploring further the industrial and public architecture of city, including some more recent developments. (On Zoom)
April 20	Mike Grundy (Outside Speaker)	The Architecture of Vienna	Vienna rebuilt itself in the late 1800's, with the removal of the enormous city walls to create a fabulous boulevard, the "Ringstrasse". This created a gallery of historical architectural styles. It also stimulated young architects at the turn of the C20th to join the "Vienna Succession" and produce beautiful Art Nouveau and then functional Modernist buildings. (On Zoom)
2021-22: U3A Theme: National Treasures - People, Places & Works of Art			
September 21	John Townsend	Short Introduction	A short introduction to the start of the new programme. (10mins)
	David Wylde	Women Architects	Completing the discussion element of this talk from last year. A brief resume will be provided as a prompt (20mins)
	John Townsend	Hampton Court Palace	Picking up on the theme "National Treasures". A look at how the Palace developed, it's role in the nation state and its context.
October 19	Jane Turner (Guest speaker) from the Watts Gallery Organised by Ann Watson	Watts Gallery etc	A look at the various buildings that make up the "Artist Village" in Compton and what led to their construction. These include the recently transformed Gallery, Limnerslease (home and workshop of the Watts), Chapel etc. The complex is of outstanding artistic and architectural interest. There is a possibility of a follow up Group visit depending on interest.
November 16	Alan Little	Herzog & de Meuron	Perhaps best known in the UK for the conversion of Bankside Power station to Tate Modern. The practice was founded in 1978. The Swiss architectural firm won the prestigious <i>Pritzker Prize</i> in 2001. A look at their work and how it has evolved.

December 14	Tim Cox	RIBA Sterling Prize	A popular look at the nominations for the Sterling Prize in which we pick our wits against the judges, Will we agree or disagree with their verdict? Followed by Christmas Lunch
January 18	Series of 3 Short Talks.	Alan Little	Charles Jencks and his Cosmic House. An insight into this fascinating man and his work.
		Rob Lowthian	Is there a place for humour in Architecture?
		Jenny (& Gerald)	Horace Walpole and John Chute and the "Committee of Taste". With reference to Strawberry Hill & The Vyne.
February 15	Adrian Martin	London Street Signs	An illustrated talk telling the fascinating story behind some of London's Street signs.
March 15	Ulla Rattray	Stockholm	Three iconic 20th Century buildings and a cemetery in Stockholm!
	Various	What Makes Good or Bad Architecture?	Requires input from Group. Individuals provide image(s) of a building(s) or place(s) of their choice which in their opinion make a positive or negative contribution. Provide brief summary of why this is the case so as to promote a wider discussion on what distinguishes "good architecture" from the mediocre.
April 19	John Townsend	Old Buildings, New Architecture	The work of the architect Richard Griffiths.
	Group	Architectural Quiz	
May 17	Anrew Morgan	Prince Consort's Library in Aldershot	Learn more about the building, built at the behest of Prince Albert to which he donated 1000 books. Designed by Captain Francis Fowke who also designed the Royal Albert Hall.
	Mike Stanley	Two Irish Country Houses	A look at two country houses in County Wicklow by the German Architect Richard Cassels (Richard Castle). Russborough House (1742) and Powerscourt House (1741).

2022-23: U3A Theme: "CITIES" [Can be anywhere in the world if there is a story to tell, and an architectural theme].

Date	Presenter or Organiser	Title	Notes
September 20	Jenny Colquhoun	Top Ten Cathedrals	A look at Simon Jenkins top 10 cathedrals and a chance to choose your favourite. Which one will it be?
	John Townsend	Architecture of the 2 nd Elizabethan Era	The Queen attended opening ceremonies at 122 buildings in London alone. In the light of recent events this is a review of the architectural changes that have occurred over the last 70 years. It includes many of the buildings the Queen opened, but not exclusively so, and I think it is quite revealing in how trends and tastes have changed.
October 18	Rob Golding	Experiences of a Self-Build Andrew Morgan	Andrew's account of undertaking a self-build project, encounters with the tree officer and some lessons learnt.
	Gill Picken	Robert Smythson and English Prodigy Houses	Robert Smythson was a C16th architect. Prodigy houses were built from Tudor to Jacobean times by courtiers and other wealthy families. Notable for their awesome scale. We look at some of his more notable work.
November 15	Alan Little	Dark Satanic Mills or Magnificent Woolly Mammoths? The Mills of Yorkshire's West Riding	The textile mills of Yorkshire (and Lancashire) formed the first wave of our Industrial Revolution and brought huge prosperity (for some) in the C19th and early C20th. They literally shaped the urban landscape as large scale industry became concentrated in towns clustered around the mills and the need for workforces close at hand created the need for worker housing. The mills themselves were sometimes 'Woolly Mammoths' - vast in scale - but are arguably the grandest buildings that the Industrial Revolution produced. And, across the great social divide, the mill-owning dynasties built themselves extraordinary mansions that reflected their wealth.
December 13	John Townsend	RIBA Sterling Prize	A popular look at the nominations for the Sterling Prize in which we pick our wits against the judges, Will we agree or disagree with their verdict? Followed by Christmas Lunch at The Lost Boy.
January 17	Alan Freeland (Outside Speaker- Leads Medieval History Group)	London Statues	An exploration of some of the lesser-known statues and the surprising insights they reveal into what is important to Londoners. [Alan is an active member of Farnham U3A. He leads the Medieval History Group as well giving a wide range of talks at the monthly meetings and externally].
February 21	Val Atkinson	Spanish Towns	A look at Gijon. Leon & Burgos

	Rob Golding	Experiences of a Self-Build Rescheduled from Oct 18	Rob's account of being part of a self-build project to construct 14 houses. How did this "Grand Design" turnout & what happened along the way?
March 21 Short Talks	Margaret Denyer	Research Into the Life of a Victorian Building in Guildford	My Interest started with an Autograph Book
	Val Atkinson	Modern Chichester	A look at some recent developments.
	John Townsend	Architectural Curiosities	A look at some odd, sometimes peculiar, occasionally weird and certainly memorable architectural structures.
April 18	Andrew Morgan	Aldershot. Then & Now	The changing face of Aldershot
	Group Session Various	A Building to which I have a Fond Attachment	Member contributions involving "A building to which I have a fond attachment" Can be any building with which the person feels a close connection, holds fond memories, has provided inspiration etc – with some form of architectural link.
May 16	Pamala Taylor	The Timber Frame Buildings of Farnham	Learn more about what is on your doorstep! Drawing on research undertaken by the Surrey Buildings Domestic Research Group (of which Pam is a member); we learn more about the often-hidden timber framed buildings in the town