



Crawley u3a

Ruby Celebration 30th July 2025: Special Edition Newsletter



(Photo credit: Jane Broomer, Horsham u3a)

Note from the editor

Welcome to this special edition of your Crawley u3a newsletter which will focus exclusively on our Ruby Celebration held on 30th July. Sadly, it will have to be an email only newsletter as it is not possible to send out postal copies.

The idea to hold a Ruby Celebration came about a few days before Christmas last year when the Committee held an informal gathering. During our conversation, **Margaret Lloyd**, our Secretary, revealed that Crawley u3a would turn 40 in 2025. We all agreed that this was something worth celebrating and in January **Graham Friday**, our Treasurer, and I got together to discuss how best to celebrate this milestone.

We agreed that spending 90 minutes crammed into the Friary Hall for such a special occasion would not work. Having discovered the Charis Centre last year, thanks to our Chair, **Jim McGough**, we knew that it would be the perfect venue. Rather than fitting everything and everyone into one room, we decided that we would hire the Charis Centre for the day, earmarking rooms for different activities, such as a Games Room, indoor and outdoor activity rooms, and a performance and display area in the Main Hall.

Once the initial plans were in place, we assembled a Ruby Celebration Working Group comprising **Isabel Baker, Gloria Dallas-Devere, Marion Graham, Jackie Mackenzie, Jan Morris, Helen Strangeway** and **John Williams**. Special thanks go to them for their contributions as without them the Celebration would not have been the success that it was. Thanks must also go to our RUGs, whose assistance was invaluable on the day. As for our Groups, you did us proud! The photos which follow will show how much hard work and thought went into all of the brilliant displays and performances.

This special edition newsletter is not the same as being there but, especially for members who were unable to come, this will hopefully give you a flavour of the displays and performances we enjoyed on the day.

I will start by sharing with you some photos of the excellent displays put on by our groups. I will then move on to photos of some of our groups' performances, finishing off with photos of our special guests.

I must apologise in advance to the groups whose photos I have been unable to fit in for reasons of space. I will endeavour to put some of them on our Facebook page over the coming weeks.

Ashurst Hall



Bamboo Pipes Group's display



Ukulele Group's display



*Part of Painting & Drawing Group's display
(Photo credit: Monique Tovey-Mansfield)*



*Part of Urban Sketching Group's display
(Photo credit: Monique Tovey-Mansfield)*



Part of Smartphone Photographic's display

Photos of the performances in the Ashurst Hall can be found on page 16.

The corridor



*Joelle Dumetz in front of the French Experience's display
(Photo credit: Monique Tovey-Mansfield)*



*Kitty Jenkinson (Italian for Beginners)
David Devere (Italian Colloquial)
(Photo credit: Monique Tovey-Mansfield)*

Barnham Room (Games Room)

In the Games Room it was possible to try your hand at Bridge, Chess, Mah Jong and Rummikub and Canasta.



Mah Jong Group in the Games Room



Rummikub & Canasta Group back left

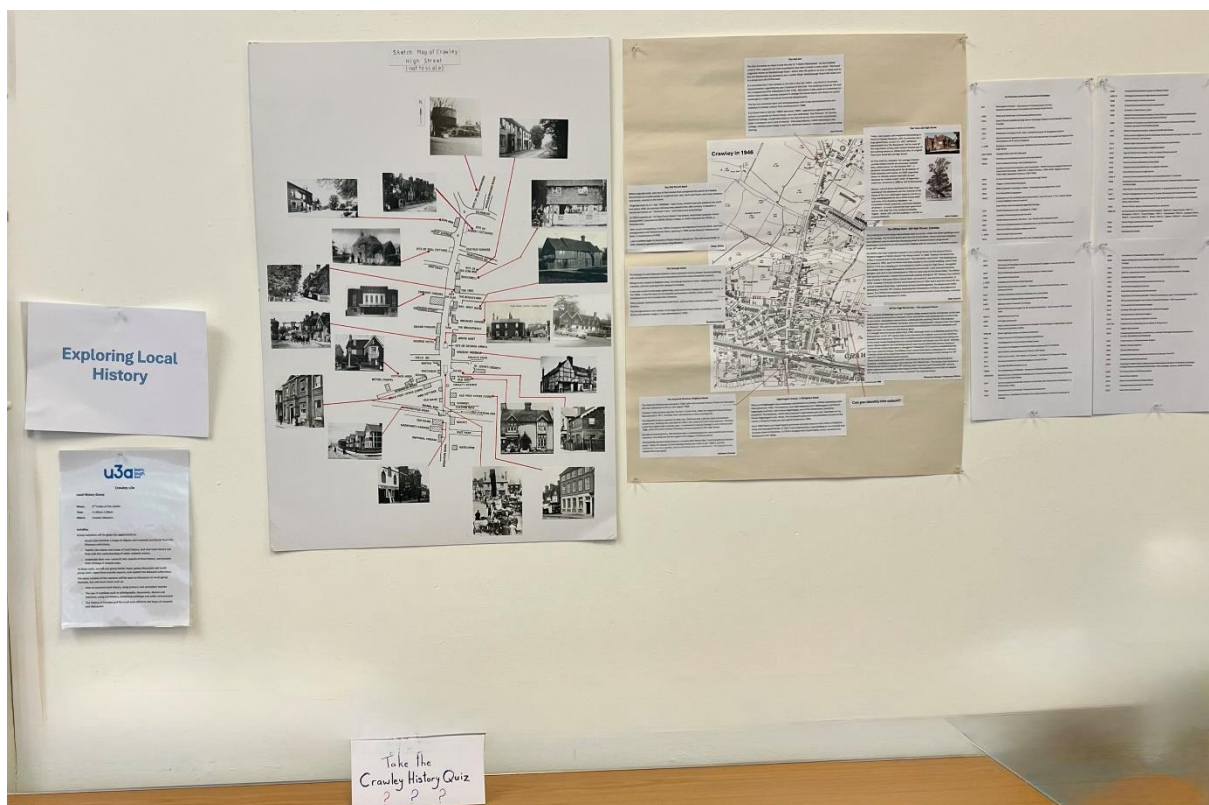
Mah Jong Group back right

Alan Rew, Vice Chair (foreground) at the Bridge for Fun Group's table

Compton Room (indoor based activity room)



*Art Appreciation Groups' display
(Photo credit: Monique Tovey-Mansfield)*



*Exploring Local History Group's display –
the map on the right shows Crawley in 1946
(Photo credit: Monique Tovey-Mansfield)*

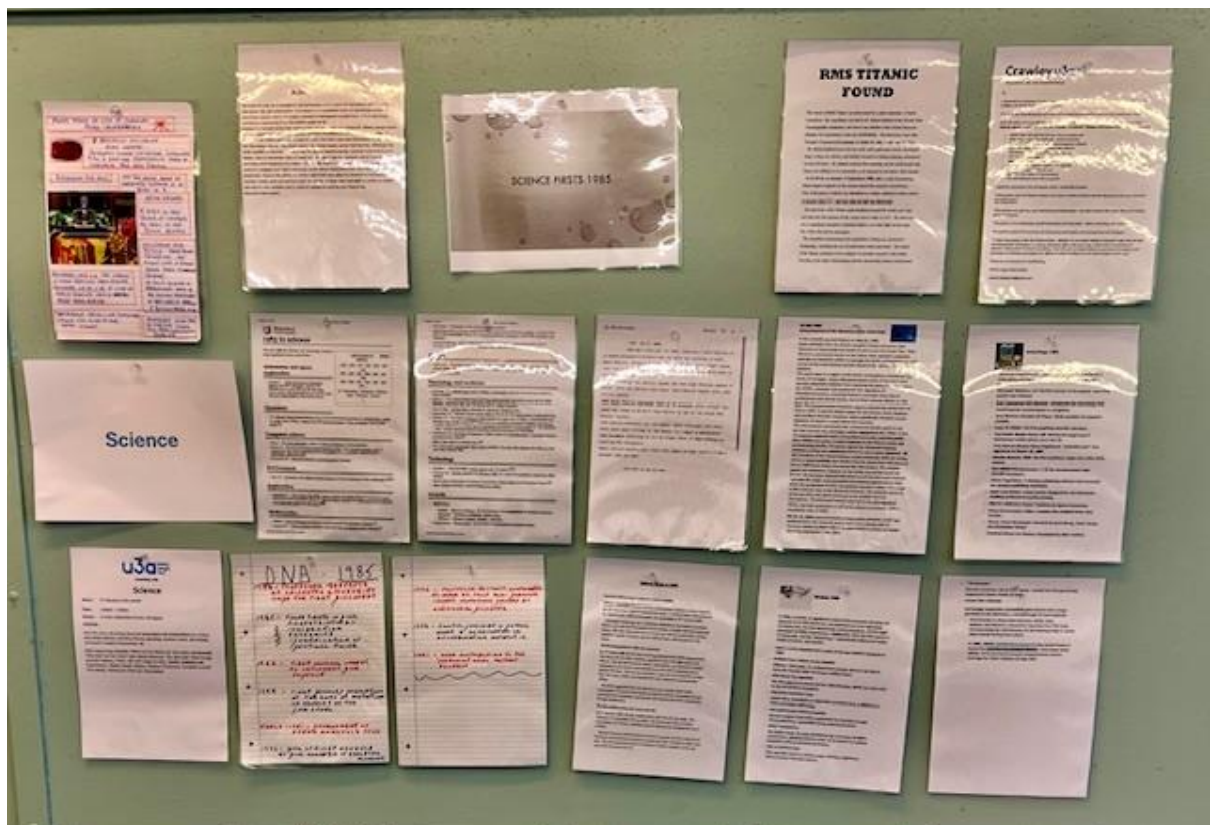


Quiz groups' display

(Photo credit: Monique Tovey-Mansfield)

Quiz questions and answers

For members who did not take the quiz and would like to do so, and for those who did and would like the answers, please follow this link to the website where you will find them: <https://crawley.u3asite.uk/ruby-celebration/>



Science Group's display

(Photo credit: Monique Tovey-Mansfield)



Topical Discussion Group's display

*(if you dipped your hand into the box below the red poster,
you could pull out a piece of paper with a topic for discussion written on it)*

(Photo credit: Monique Tovey-Mansfield)



Theatre Group's display

(Photo credit: Monique Tovey-Mansfield)

Findon Room (indoor based activity room)



Edith Javed in front of the Craft Group's display

(Photo credit: Monique Tovey-Mansfield)



Family History Group's display



History Group's display

(Photo credit: Monique Tovey-Mansfield)

A nice touch by the History Group was to ask people to write down their memories of 1985. Below are some people's recollections from 40 years ago:

- I moved house so I missed the Derby
- I got married at The Friary in Crawley
- I divorced in October 1985
- My daughter was born
- End of the miners' strike (it fizzled out)
- Moved house
- My daughter was born
- My daughter was born. Very proud mum
- Moved into our present home!!
- I remember driving from London home to Scotland and it was Live Aid Day. A beautiful sunny day until I got to Scotland. Say no more!
- My daughter Katherine was 5 years old – a busy child indeed
- One son. One on the way. Celebrated our 30th birthdays!!!
- Moved house
- I was pregnant with my third child



Needles Group's display

(Photo credit: Monique Tovey-Mansfield)



A close up of part of the Needles Group's display

Lindfield Room (outdoor & indoor activities room)



Top: Map showing locations of Out & About Groups' visits

Bottom: Map showing locations of Walking Groups' walks (Photos credit: Jan Morris)



Gardening Groups' display

(Photo credit: Monique Tovey-Mansfield)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who kindly allowed me to use their photographs. I took as many as I could on the day but others' photos were often better than mine and I am grateful to be able to use them in this special edition newsletter.

Performances in the Ashurst Hall



Folk Music Group



Poetry Group

(George Redgrave on the left wearing red in recognition of our 40 years)



Ukulele Group

Special Guests

We were delighted to welcome Peter Lamb MP, Councillor Marion Ayling (Deputy Mayor), Councillor Michael Jones (Leader of Crawley Borough Council), and Councillor Bob Noyce, as well as visitors from Horsham and Reigate u3as.



Margaret Lloyd in discussion with Peter Lamb MP



*Deputy Mayor Councillor Marion Ayling,
Councillor Michael Jones (Leader of Crawley Borough Council)
and Councillor Bob Noyce*

And finally, Ana Achucarro's photo below sums up what a friendly, happy day we all enjoyed.



*From left to right, Robert Achucarro, Graham Friday, Sue Parker & Margaret Lloyd
(Photo Credit: Ana Achucarro)*

For those members who were able to make it on the day, and for those who were unable to attend, I hope that this newsletter will give you a taster of what was a memorable celebration of 40 years of Crawley u3a.

Sue Parker
Newsletter Editor
Crawley u3a
August 2025