

Edenbridge u3a

April 2024 Newsletter from the Chairman.



I hope this newsletter finds you all well. I gather from local intelligence that it has continued to rail while I have been away!

I hope the March guest speaker, Bobbie Darbyshire, gave all you budding authors some ways forward for a future career in writing. This month our guest speaker will take you back over 60 years. I can remember the publication of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and how the book became the most sought after item in my secondary school at the time for all us inquisitive 15 year olds. For the first time in print there was language and sexual details that we previously thought was only the

spoken tongue.

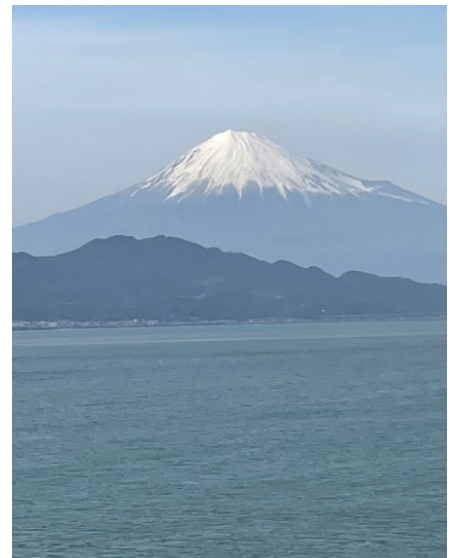
Andrew Baker is sure to enthrall us all with his talk on the Trial of Lady Chatterley – a major obscenity trial held at the old Bailey in 1960. The outcome of which shaped the way the swinging sixties developed.

Monthly Newsletters - I asked at the February Meeting if you were all receiving the monthly newsletter. It has now come to light that there are quite a few of you not receiving these by email. There will be a note coming round at the April Meeting and an opportunity for you to indicate if you are one of these people. We hope to remedy this situation for the May newsletter and beyond.

Group News – the Bridge Group are still looking for new members and Book Group 3 has space for one new member.

Japan trip – eight of us from u3a embarked on a 17 day trip to South Korea and the Japanese islands recently. We took with us the rainfall that has been such a feature of our Winter and Spring in Edenbridge and had many days exploring in the rain under umbrellas and plastic ponchos. Winter has been quite harsh in Japan this year and although our tour was called 'the Blossom Tour' we were too early this year to see the cherry blossom at its best!

However, we were lucky as we sailed towards Tokyo – a clear evening and mount Fuji came into view. Quite some volcano that stands 3,776.24 metres above sea level (some 12,389 feet 3 inches in old money!) and, being the tallest mountain in Japan, towers over all the other hills around. It is found on the island of Honshu and is considered a sacred mountain in



Japan – it last erupted some 320 years ago!



One thing we didn't see were any potholes on the roads in Japan – the transport network, both road and rail, puts us to shame.

The rail network is extensive with the option of local trains or the bullet. The bullet train for us was a trip to remember – accelerating to around 300 kilometres per hour (188 mph in our terms) and journeys timed to the second in Japan. (At that Speed Edenbridge to London

Bridge would take just 10 minutes but unfortunately Southern's rail network is too bendy!)

Room service in our Tokyo hotel was very much 21st Century. After a call to reception the required items arrived to the room by robot who had negotiated the lifts and corridors to bring your necessities to your room! Now that's what you call service and after the delivery of the items *he/she/it* didn't expect a tip!



There was so much to see and do – Tokyo is a wonderful city and it feels

so safe. The Japanese people are so helpful and friendly – it was a great trip and certainly one to cherish and remember!

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 24th at Crockham Hill for Andrew Baker's talk on all the details of the Lady Chatterley Trial.

Best wishes *Mike Collins*

Contact 'chairman@edenbridgeu3a.co.uk'