

Hello Members,
Your committee is delighted to announce that:

Our U3A Coffee Morning Venue is Moving!

For the last four years plus, our coffee morning venue has been held at the Scout Hall in Lower Vicarage Road, Kennington, and we have all enjoyed the benefits of a modern building with all the facilities of kitchen and toilets that we have sought.

However, we are not unaware of the limitations of the hall for our ever expanding membership. We know that when we get 130 members attending a coffee morning or an AGM, space and seating is extremely limited. Furthermore, on a sunny morning when a speaker is illustrating a talk with projector slides, we cannot shield the sunshine from the screen, and this does create visual problems for some of our members. However, probably one of the greatest problems with the Scout Hall as a venue is the lack of parking, and the occasional unfortunate interaction with local neighbours because of the parking problems. This would appear to be a totally insoluble problem at this venue.

These criticisms being recognised, the Management of the Scout Hall have been excellent and wonderfully supportive and co-operative to our U3A over the years we have been using the hall. For a long while we have been looking for alternative venues which provide for greater space and comfort for our members at a cost that is affordable, and at a location which is in or around central Ashford or Wye, so that we can serve our membership in the geographical location that we cover in our U3A title. We have considered hotels, and even a theatre at Cineworld. We have now found a solution!

From our January 2019 Coffee Morning, we will be meeting at:

**Repton Connect Community Centre, Repton Avenue, Ashford,
Kent TN23 3RX**



Exterior view of the Chestnut Hall from Repton Avenue

This is a brand-new facility that has been constructed to serve the residents and organisations of Ashford, and the facility has only just been completed and opened.

The Centre has three halls of varying sizes and we will be utilising the largest, known as the Chestnut Hall, which has the capacity for up to 300 people. There are currently 100 upholstered chairs in place and by the time that we first use the hall in January, this number will have been increased to match our needs. There is a superb kitchen adjacent to the hall, and we are sure that our catering team will enjoy relative luxury when we move.

All the halls have appropriate heating and air conditioning facilities.

Later in springtime, there will be an integral projector screen and projector so that speakers will have perfect imaging to support their talks.



Interior view of the Chestnut Hall (during construction)

All the windows around the hall have electrically operated blinds to eliminate any reflections on the display screen.

One of the great benefits is that there is a car park for almost 40 cars at the rear of the hall. The plan on the following page shows the location of the hall, car park, and access routes. There are two local bus routes which stop almost outside the hall on the Repton residential estate, namely G, 666 and 10X.

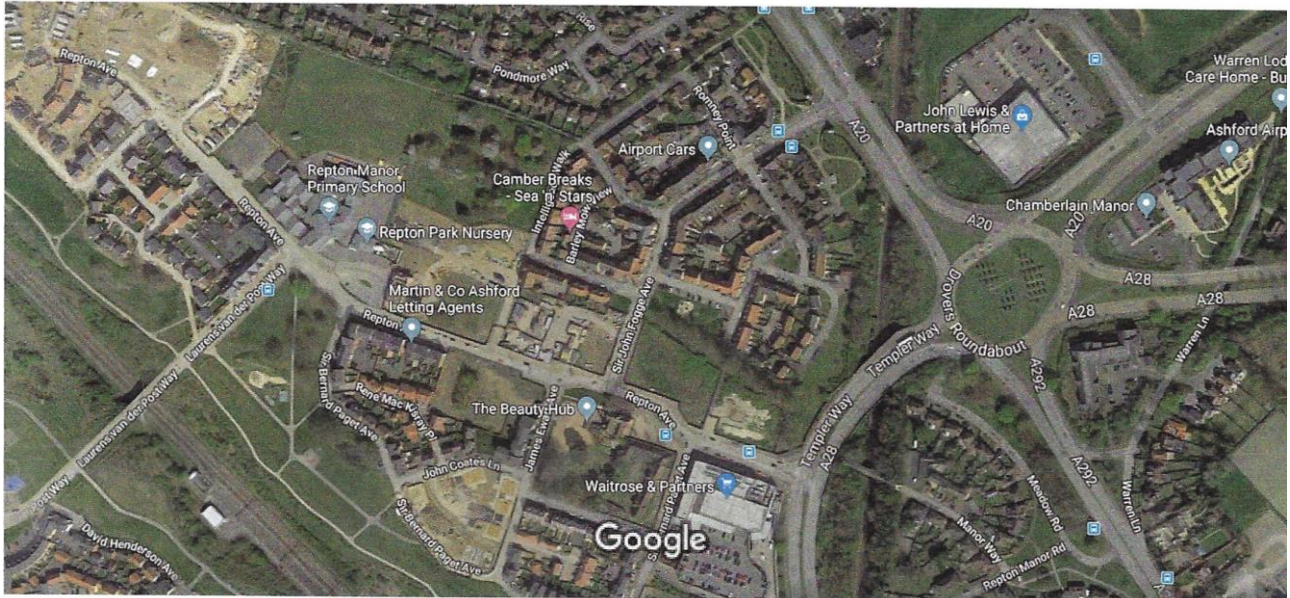
For those travelling by car to the venue, please turn down alongside the Waitrose store, which is between the John Lewis/Drovers roundabout and the Territorial Army roundabout, and keep going for approximately 800 yards. The facility will then be on your right hand side. For car parking, before reaching the hall, turn right and the car park will appear on your left hand side. Your Committee earnestly hopes that this venue will eliminate criticisms which we have heard about the Scout Hall, space, parking, a long way distant, and may mean that more of our members will be able to attend the coffee mornings, support our speakers and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere that the U3A movement so cherishes.

As with a move to any new venue, there may be a few snags, but please be assured that the Repton Community Trust are enthusiastic to iron out any problems, and the Committee will be seeking for any constructive criticism that may make the venue even better for our use.

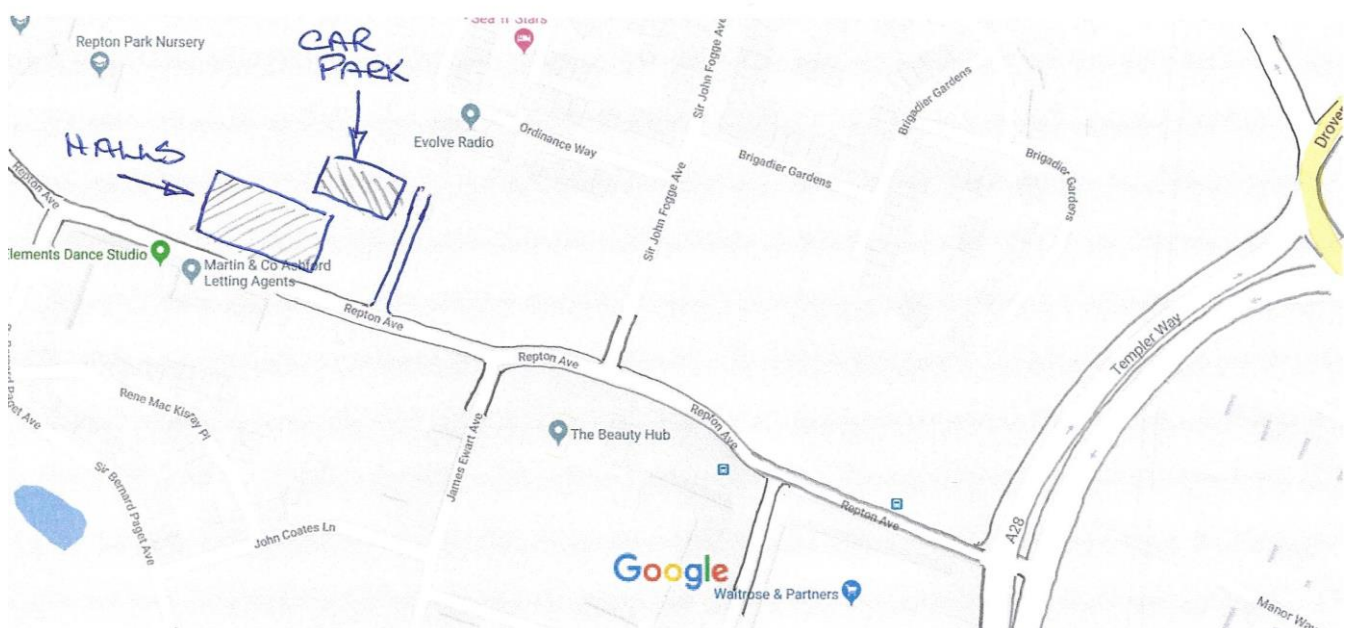
So the date for the first meeting will be **23rd January 2019**. Please mark it in your diaries and do not arrive at the Scout Hall in Kennington on that day!

For those of you who want a “sneak” preview, go to <https://reptonct.uk> and see and learn about the facility!

N.B.: While we are on the subject of Coffee Mornings, please, please, make sure that you sign in with the ladies just inside the door – it is essential for the purposes of fire regulations and health and safety that we have accurate records of who is present.



Aerial view



Street plan



The Repton Community Trust leaflet

Committee Structure after the March AGM

As many of you will realise, at the Ashford, Wye & District U3A Annual General Meeting held during the March Coffee Morning, the Committee for the following 12 months is announced and voted for by the U3A Members present.

In anticipation of this meeting, we have co-opted a couple of new Committee Members to ensure a seamless passage for those who are retiring from office due to the "three year of office" ruling in the U3A mandate.

The only office to be filled from March 2019 is that of the Committee Chairperson. I will have served three years by March 2019, and I will have absolutely no alternative but to leave the Committee at that date. Your Committee comprises of a lovely group of people, and in the last three years, we have worked well, performed our duties, but most importantly, we have laughed a lot as well!

So what of the Chairpersons duties: - Announcements at Coffee Mornings, keeping an overall vision of activities of the Committee, ensuring things happen at the correct time frame, and being a diplomat. We have five or six Committee Meetings each year of about 90 minutes duration, so the time consumption is not great.

It would be wonderful if any potential candidates, ladies or gentlemen, would come forward now and join us at Committee Meetings before March 2019, and see how we work, so we may have a smooth transition from the time of the AGM. Needless to say I will be available for any ongoing wisdom I can impart, but after March 2019 it will be only that, wisdom, but not interference!!

If you think you could "fit the bill" please contact me on 01233 624389 or at chris@moorlandtibs.com

Chris Jewell

Programme Update 2018-19

Every member has a printed copy of the main Programme booklet for the year. Members should continue to refer to this.

There are two courses which are scheduled to commence before, or soon after, the next Newsletter in December. The course leaders need to be able to confirm the numbers wishing to attend. Please contact them directly to register your interest as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.

History

Edward Towne will give a course of lectures on Mussolini: Italy's history since unification in 1870, the March on Rome of 1922 and Mussolini's bid for power - especially the murder of Matteotti and the suppression of opposition. A number of areas in domestic and foreign policy will be covered. The Duce's fall from power in 1943 gives a chance to assess his achievements and to compare and contrast his regime with Nazi Germany and other dictatorships. To register interest please contact Edward Towne.

Course Leader: Edward Towne (01634 402509 or 07792 403436)

Venue: Wye Methodist Church

Dates: Tuesdays on 13th, 20th, 27th November and 4th December

Time: 2.00 to 4.00pm

Course Fee: £15

Memory Maintenance

A new interactive course is soon to commence which will help members to understand and manage everyday memory problems. It will also raise awareness of how to prevent and/or reduce the risk of Dementia. It will be practical and fun. It is a requirement of the course that participants commit to attending all four weeks.

Course Leaders: Barry and Maureen Andrews (01233 632317 or

maureen.grassals@btinternet.com)

Venue: Community (previously called Evangelical) Church Hall, Francis Road, Ashford, TN23 7UR

Dates: Consecutive Monday mornings; 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th January 2019

Times: 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Course Fee: £12 covering costs as relevant: please contact Barry or Maureen regarding payment in advance of the commencement of the course.

NB The optimum number of attendees is 12 people and the first course is now full. There is a growing waiting list for a second course and if you would like to register for this, please send an email/telephone Barry or Maureen quoting name, address and telephone number.

All participants will be notified of full details shortly.

New Courses

Members have requested courses that they would like to have included in the Programme, particularly:

Table Tennis

Line Dancing

Languages- especially French, Spanish and Italian

If anyone would like to become a course leader, or know someone who does, for these topics...or indeed any other topics, please let me know.

Marion Dinwoodie

Programme Manager

01233 712228

mariondinwoodie.u3a@gmail.com

A LITTLE BIT OF RESEARCH!

The trips team are trying to gauge the level of interest within our U3A regarding group holidays. There have been a number of enquiries ranging from short breaks to longer trips, but before we delve into the subject we need to know if there is enough interest to warrant the work involved, so we would be grateful if you could participate in this little bit of research. Assuming you are interested please respond to the questions below by email to ieda.hogarth@sky.com or phone 01233 612821. Simply reply yes or no 1 to 10, no need to repeat the options.

As Trips Coordinator it would fall within my remit to be involved with any future such trips. However, I do feel that those members who would wish to participate should be involved with the planning and organisation.

There are a good number of companies available who work with U3A groups and cater for their individual needs. The world is our oyster so to speak!

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| 1. SHORT BREAKS | 2. LONGER HOLIDAYS |
| 3. UK ONLY | 4. EUROPE |
| 5. SINGLES ONLY | 6. ACTIVITY |
| 7. BEACH | 8. CRUISING |
| 9. VILLA HOLIDAYS | 10. OTHER OPTIONS I HAVEN'T
THOUGHT OF! |

I look forward to hearing from you.

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