



## *Newsletter - November 2023*

### **Christmas Lunch**

We are now pleased to provide details of the Christmas Lunch which will be held on Monday 4 December at Highwoods Golf Club, 47 Ellerslie Lane, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 4LJ. Arrival from 12.00 for sitting at 12.30. On a strictly first come basis we will take members' bookings from Friday 27 October by email addressed to [battleu3axmaslunch@outlook.com](mailto:battleu3axmaslunch@outlook.com). Telephone booking will be available for members, who are not on-line, from the same date; we have put arrangements in place for this. You will need to provide details of the member(s) name and choices for each of the three courses when booking (see menu below). Please do not try to book before 27 October as we have set up a system that is fair to all members. Once we have reached the limit of 80 places we will set up a short waiting list and we will send an email response to each of the 80 members requesting payment. Payment should be made, if possible, by bank transfer by Monday 06 November to our bank account: Battle & District u3a, Sort Code 20-27-91, Account number 93356736 stating your name as the reference. Those unable to make payment this way will be able to pay in person at our November monthly meeting by cheque made payable to Battle & District u3a. Cash can be taken. If you are unable to attend our 6 November meeting, post a cheque to u3a, 81 Hastings Road, Battle TN33 0TF. The Committee will produce a seating plan, as we did last year, to ensure that couples are seated together and that members are on the same table as at least one other member who is in one or more of the same interest groups.

#### **Menu; Three courses for £31.**

**Starter:** Leek and potato soup (V,GF) **or**

Pork and green peppercorn pâté with ciabatta toast and piccalilli **or** Breaded king pawns with chilli jam.

**Main Dish:** Traditional local roast turkey with sage and cranberry stuffing and pigs in blankets **or** Grilled Scottish salmon, poached cucumber, dill and lemon butter (GF) **or** Brie, cranberry and mushroom wellington (V).

**Dessert:** Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy custard **or**

Dark chocolate and orange cheesecake with vanilla cream and cinder toffee crumble **or** Hazelnut pavlova with Amaretti cream **or**

Selection of cheeses, fruit, chutney and crackers (£1.50 supplement).

**Coffee:** Fresh filter coffee and a warm mince pie.

Please inform us of any allergies or intolerances. Not all ingredients are listed on the menu. The Golf Club is unable to guarantee the total absence of allergens.

## Monthly lectures – Dates for your diary

All lectures will be at the Emmanuel Centre, Harrier Lane, Battle TN33 0FL starting at 10.00 for 10.30 unless otherwise stated.

|   |  |
|---|--|
|    | <p><b>Monday 06 November:</b><br/><b>An Actor's Life</b><br/><b>Speaker: Jim Whelan</b></p>  |
|    | <p><b>Monday 20 November</b><br/><b>The Story of Butlins Holiday Camps</b><br/><b>Speaker: Stephen Wells</b><br/><b>NB: This talk will be by Zoom.</b></p> |
|    | <p><b>Monday 8 January</b><br/><b>Local Geology and Fossils</b><br/><b>Speaker: Ken Brooks</b></p>   |
|  | <p><b>Monday 5 February</b><br/><b>The Pheasants are Revolting or Banoffee Pie and Other Adventures.</b><br/><b>Speaker: Ian Dowding</b></p>               |
|  | <p><b>Monday 4 March</b><br/><b>Horticulture at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.</b><br/><b>Speaker: Dave Hatherall</b></p>                         |
|  | <p><b>Monday 8 April</b><br/><b>Piano in the Parlour</b><br/><b>Speaker: Kenneth Roberts</b></p>   |
|  | <p><b>Monday 13 May</b><br/><b>Stories from the Clink</b><br/><b>Speaker: Neil Sadler</b></p>  |

## Past meetings

Since the previous Newsletter we had very well-attended talks on:

- Transports of Delight. Our speaker gave a very interesting talk about the various systems of transport, old and current, which were, and are, used along the coast of Britain; there was a particular emphasis on the coast of East Sussex.
- The Cinque Ports. An insightful talk on the colourful history of these five ports – Sandwich, Dover, Hythe, New Romney and Hastings.
- Ashburnham Place. Because we all know and love the gardens and orangery here, this was a particularly interesting talk on the history of the house and grounds.

## Quiz

There will be a morning quiz on Thursday 23 November at the Emmanuel Centre. Look out for announcements.

## u3a East Sussex East network

A meeting of the local u3a network representatives was held on 19 July when it was decided that we need to decide as to whether to remain as an unofficial cluster or to seek affiliation with the Third Age Trust as a network in order to be able to communicate directly with TAT. Membership of our network includes Battle and District, Crowborough, Eastbourne Central, Eastbourne Meads, Eastbourne and Wealden, Hailsham, Hastings and Rother, Heathfield and District, Mayfield and District and Rye and District. As you will see this grouping is much smaller than our previous network which covered the whole of Sussex, East and West! That network, being far too big was not working

## 2024: Our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Next year, in the Autumn, we will be celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary; hence if you have any particular memories of the early years of the Battle & District u3a we would love to hear from you.

## List of Interest Groups:

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Art<br>Art Appreciation<br>Book Clubs 1, 2 and 3<br>Canasta<br>Chess<br>Country Dancing<br>Crafts<br>Current Affairs 1 and 2 | Family History<br>Film<br>French Conversation<br>Gardening<br>History<br>Out and About<br>Pétanque 1, 2 and 3<br>Scrabble | Shakespeare<br>Short Tennis<br>Singing for Fun<br>Ukulele<br>Walking: long, medium and short walks<br>Wine appreciation. |
|--|---|--|

As you can see, these Interest Groups cover a wide range of different activities, ranging from physical to intellectual and musical activities. Should any member wish to join any of the above Interest Groups please contact the editor or Diane Wilson (contact details at the end of this Newsletter). In case an existing group is fully subscribed we can always try to start a new group that covers the same subject. Should any Interest Group Coordinators wish to attract new members to



their groups by having a display, showing their activities, at our monthly meetings, please let us know.

## News from the Interest Groups:

**Art Group.** In addition to enjoying a coffee and biscuit we enjoy a relaxed morning. We all choose our own subject and medium and encourage each other. Anyone interested in joining would be very welcome. We meet on the second Monday morning of each month.



*The Gardening Group during a visit to Hole Park Garden*

**Gardening Group.** The group enjoyed visits to Sharon and Diane's gardens in Catsfield in September. The clement weather ensured that there was still plenty of colour in the borders. The need for us all to help nature by providing ponds or at least some water was discussed as we observed the wildlife in both small ponds. Ideas and advice were shared as well as some home baked cakes. A planning meeting for next year will take place at Petals Nursery near Burwash in October while we enjoy some more tasty snacks!



**Short Tennis Group.** The photo shows some of our members enjoying short tennis in October at Battle Memorial Hall, where we meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month between 1.15pm and 2.30pm. There is space for a third court so we would welcome more members.

**Singing for fun Group.** This group never really recovered from the effects of the covid pandemic; attempts are now being made to restart the group. Hence, we are looking for new members; it is a very light-hearted group and is a lot of fun; members found it to be stimulating and enjoyable.

You do not need to be a good singer or able to read music - you just need to enjoy having a sing. We normally meet on the morning of the fourth Wednesday of the month. Please do get in touch via the Battle U3A website if you are interested. Janice Bolton.

**Pétanque 1 Group.** On Monday 11th September we held our annual drawn pairs competition; this was a knockout competition with the winners of each match going forward to the next round. Many thanks to Gary Dunk for organising the teams and schedule for the day. After some very competitive games, the last two pairs for the final were John Cherrington/Colin Fuller and Barbara Brooks/David Hughes. The final consisted of the best of three games and

after the first two games, the score was one all which meant it was all down to the final game which proved to be a very close exciting match to watch as it went down to the last boules to be thrown. Congratulations to Barbara and David who were the eventual winners. The photo shows the members and the two trophy winners.



**Out and About Group.** We will be visiting The Stables Theatre, Hastings on 24 November for a behind the scenes tour. Our programme for 2024 will be planned early next year; so, hopefully, members are now checking out interesting venues for us to visit!

**Chess Group.** We meet at The Almonry (next to the Museum), Battle High Street, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month between 10am and noon. We are a small and friendly group and would welcome more members.

## Welcome to New Members

We would like to welcome the following members who have recently joined:

# WELCOME!

Rosemary Parkinson, Battle. Interests: Gardening, French

Andrew Rose, Battle. Interests: Walking, art appreciation

Jane Rose, Battle. Interests: Art appreciation, theatre, swimming

Lilian Foreshaw, Battle. Interests: Art, walking, food and cooking, writing

Jill Mair, St-Leonards-on-Sea.

Rita Rickard, Battle. Interests: Restaurants, places of interest, theatre, dancing

Jane Fay, Hastings. Interests: Travel, restaurants, theatre, reading

Hilary Ganly, Robertsbridge. Interests: Art appreciation, canasta, walking, ukulele

Anthony Ganly, Robertsbridge. Interests: Current affairs, history

Evelyn Modinger, Battle. Interests: Reading, history, music, cards

Alan Blow, Westfield. Interests: Reading, cricket, bridge

Louise Elcoate, St-Leonards-on-Sea. Interests: Art, walking, reading, music, galleries, gym

David Ward, Battle. Interests: Choral singing, wine, canal boating, trains, wine making

Jean Piddock, Battle. Interests: Travel, art, sport, gardening

Sue Burton, Battle. Interests: Cycling, environment, walking

Ron Tree, Hastings. Interests: Art, history, walking, genealogy, holidays

Glynis Tree, Hastings. Interests: Singing, gardening, cooking, ukulele, films, musicals, holidays

Margaret Henderson, St-Leonards-on-Sea. Interests: Art, reading

Clare Middlemiss, Ninfield. Interests: Reading, crafts, theatre, music, gardening

### **Battle & District u3a Committee 2023**

**Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/battle/home>**

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| President              | Pat Tooke           |
| Chair                  | Diane Wilson        |
| Vice-Chair             | Peter Aubrey        |
| Secretary              | Sally Dickinson     |
| Treasurer              | David Hughes        |
| Groups Coordinator     | Diane Wilson        |
| Membership Secretary   | Graham Davies       |
| Newsletter Editor      |                     |
| Web Administrator      | Graham Davies       |
| Committee member       | Christine Pelissier |
| Committee member       | Joy Newland         |
| Speakers Sub-Committee | Diane Wilson        |

NB: Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome.

The u3a committee exists to serve you. If you have a concern or would like a matter raised at a committee meeting please contact one of the above committee members. Members of the committee are willing to continue in post until the next AGM, however, if you would like to be involved with the committee, either now or after the AGM please contact one of the committee members.