



## Bearsted & District u3a Monthly Reminder February 2023

Welcome to the February 2023 Monthly Reminder, which is being distributed to all members either via e-mail or paper copy. This month's meeting will be held in Detling Village Hall on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February starting at the usual time of 2 pm.

### Chair's Chat

I am now getting immersed into the groups that I attend and each one brings something extra into my life, especially the people I am getting to know. I am often amazed that just by chatting away to someone another avenue of interest opens up.

Rick, our Speaker Secretary, has interesting speakers booked up for nearly the whole of this year so come along and be entertained with the wide range of topics on offer. Do contact him via the website if you have any suggestions for interesting topics that our members might like.

Our membership is steadily increasing with 258 members. If you know anyone who may be interested in joining us, pass them onto Claire, our Membership Secretary, again via our website.

If you haven't signed up to the u3a National Newsletter yet, do something new for 2023 and sign up on their website [u3a - Newsletter](#) They have a brilliant year planned and you can be among the first to know about all the new events.

If you missed National u3a Chair Liz Thackray's New Year's Message wishing you all the very best for 2023, you can catch up and listen to it on their YouTube channel . [u3a YouTube channel](#)

I look forward to seeing many of you at February's meeting.

Kind regards

*Jenny*

**Chair - Bearsted & District u3a**

**01622 663743**

## Speaker Secretary (Richard)

In January, Paul Whittle spoke about "The Venetian Connection", visiting relevant locations in the Mediterranean before venturing into the Adriatic Sea, to Split, Dubrovnik and then Venice, where the main sites and islands, with historical backgrounds, were viewed. The talk was expertly delivered and well received.

Our speaker this month is Linda Regan who will entertain us with a presentation entitled **Acting Can Be Murder**.

Linda is an actress who most people will have seen on TV or film. She has also had several crime novels published. She appeared in the first five series of "Hi De Hi", "Minder", "Bergerac", "Holby City", "The Bill" and others as well. She played a lead character's girlfriend in "Quadrophenia", has recorded audio books, featured on Radio 4 and provided the voice overs for around 100 advertisements. Her books have been successful, one receiving an accolade from Colin Dexter of "Morse" fame.

Her talk is described as 'amusing' to 'laugh out loud funny' with anecdotes and stories about her career.

## Share your Knowledge!

We know that many of you have hidden talents and so we would be interested to know whether anyone would like to make a presentation at our monthly General Meeting. Full support will be given so if you would like to share knowledge accrued in your working life or that reflects your interests, please let Richard or Jenny know through the usual channels.

## Committee

We still have vacancies on the committee. First, we would like to invite someone to take over the role of **Social Secretary**, previously carried out by Steve. The incumbent will be responsible mainly for activities such as coach trips and perhaps other events during the year. If you are interested in taking over this role, be assured that you will be fully supported by others on the committee: please let Jenny know if you are interested or would like further information.

As you should all be aware, **we need someone to take over as Chair in November**, because Jenny will be unable to continue on the committee, having obtained permission from u3a HQ to continue for this year only. This was permitted because of exceptional circumstances and will not be allowed again. **This means that if we are unable to find someone who is willing to be take over from Jenny, our u3a will have to close. We need someone to take on the role of Vice-Chair now.** Ideally, we would like two volunteers for this role so that they can

shadow Jenny with a view to one of them perhaps taking over as Chair and the other continuing as Vice Chair from November 2023.

As mentioned above, if no-one comes forward to be Chair, the Bearsted & District u3a will have to close and will cease to exist. Any remaining funds will be transferred to u3a HQ. It may be possible to merge with another u3a, such as Maidstone or maybe further afield. We are sure that members do not want our u3a to close. It has been very successful and it would be a shame to see the efforts of so many over the years come to naught.

Please come forward if you feel you have the time and skills necessary to take on the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair. Please be aware that you will not be expected to do everything. You will get all the help you need. The committee is there to help and share any tasks which arise.

**If you are interested, please contact Jenny either via the website or telephone (see above in *Chair's Chat* for her number).**

### [Interest Group Co-Ordinator's Update \(Linda\)](#)

**Do you take an active part in your group?  
The more you put into the planning and running of your group the more you will get out of it.**

As I only became Interest Groups Coordinator before Christmas I am planning to visit as many groups as possible over the next year. It's a great way to see what goes on and meet most of you.

My first visit last week was to the **Armchair Travellers** Group. Due to incompatibility between computer systems it looked as if the planned talk would be scuppered. Undaunted, one of the members stepped in to talk about a recent holiday to Egypt. That's team work for you. It was a lovely afternoon when everyone contributed with stories of travel successes and hiccups, recommendations and anecdotes. (1 space available)

The following afternoon saw me join the men of the **Transport and Machines** group. Why no women, I wondered? I was tempted to join myself as I was made very welcome as we settled down with pots of tea and coffee and plates of biscuits to hear from one of the members about his time working on the Channel Tunnel Project. There were some fascinating facts and stories as well as photographs that can only come from someone who was there. The group will be starting visits to a wide variety of places in the South East shortly. (1 space available)

As I write I have just returned from the **Ancient History** group which has been running since 2017. Were you someone like me who remembers History at school as dull and boring? This enthusiastic, knowledgeable and lively group changed my thinking totally. Keith brought the Roman hierarchy to life talking about The Greasy Path to Power. There were recommendations to exhibitions, writers and books. It was only the weather that was dull! (3 spaces remaining).

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**Can I remind everyone to let your group coordinator know if you are unable to attend a meeting. Some groups have a waiting list. If you do not give apologies on three occasions your place may be given to someone else.**

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The **Hidden London Walks** group braved a very frosty morning to have their first meeting, not in London, but in Mote Park. It was a great way for members to get to know each other before the first walk in London in February. Pairs of members will plan a walk each month so it will be a great way to improve our knowledge of our capital city. Interest has been very high and this group is now fully subscribed but anyone can add their names to the waiting list.

February sees the start of a new **Latin** group. There are spaces if anyone else is interested in joining.

We are holding another **iPad Workshop** in February. There is only one space remaining but we will repeat the workshop again soon if there is enough interest.

There is interest in a new **Art Appreciation** group. The group will put together a list of topics such as Women Artists, Art in Advertising, Portraits etc. Members will then be asked to do a bit of research on a particular aspect. Please add your name to the list at our monthly meetings in Detling or contact me via our website if you would like to join.

In last month's Monthly Reminder I put forward a few suggestions for new groups. One of our new members expressed an interest in **Village Visits**. Is anyone else interested in getting a group established?

While chatting at one of my group visits it seems that there might be enough interest in starting an **Astronomy** Group. Anyone else interested?

If you have an idea for a new group come and talk to me at the table at the back of the hall at our monthly meetings or contact me via the website.

## [Group Activities](#)

### **Local History 1 (From Damian)**



Upnor Castle

January's meeting was an opportunity to make plans for the coming year. Members will talk about a variety of topics and, for the summer months there are some visits to

historical sites in the diary. Subject matter includes the Romney Marsh, Down House (Charles Darwin's residence), and Upnor Castle amongst other things.

### Emergency contact details

Members are reminded to keep their emergency contact details up to date. If you need to make any changes, please let Claire know via the website.

### Request for Contributions

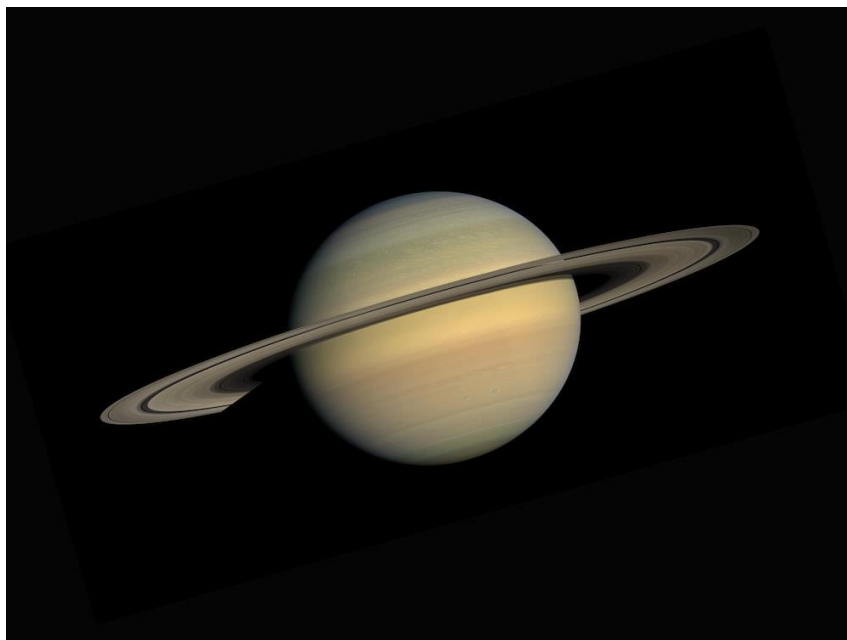
Everyone is invited to make a contribution to the next Reminder or to comment on this one. Please contact Damian via our website. Book groups might like to send a photograph of the cover of a book they have been reading; or you might like to submit a picture of a member carrying out a u3a activity.

Many of you subscribe to "Third Age Matters", the magazine of the national u3a. Members are invited to contribute their thoughts to The Reminder on any interesting articles they read there. If you wish to do so, please let Damian know via the website.

### Contributions from Members

#### **This month's Quiz. Subject: *The Solar System* (from Damian)**

- 1. Which planet is closest in size to the Earth?**
- 2. Jupiter is the largest planet. How much of the Solar System's planetary mass does it possess?**
- 3. Saturn is famous for its ring system but which other planets also have rings?**



Saturn

4. In 2006 Pluto was demoted to the status of dwarf planet. What is the next largest dwarf planet and where is it located?
5. What is peculiar about the rotation of the giant planet, Uranus?
6. Which planet is the hottest in the Solar System?
7. Mercury has the shortest year of any of the planets. What is its length in days?
8. Mars has two moons. What are their names?
9. Pluto could be described as a dwarf binary planet, a binary being where the centre of gravity of the system is between the two objects (the Earth and the Moon are not binary planets because the centre of gravity is within the largest of the two). What is the name of Pluto's partner?
10. Which planet has the fastest winds in the Solar System?

*Answers to last month's quiz*

1. On 29 November 2022 the world's largest active volcano erupted for the first time for 40 years. What is its name and where is it? **Mauna Loa in Hawaii.**
2. Which British prime minister resigned in May 1923 and why? **Andrew Bonar law who was suffering from incurable throat cancer.**
3. Within Holy Cross Church, Bearsted is the earliest remaining known example of what? **A consecration cross from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century.**
4. Beethoven completed one of the greatest symphonies ever written in 1823. Which one is it? **The 9<sup>th</sup> in D (Choral).**
5. Which British actor, born in 1923 appeared in the films 'Doctor in the House', 'Day of the Jackal' and a 1996 TV adaptation of 'The Canterville Ghost'? **Donald Sinden.**
6. Janus, the Roman god of entrances and the dawn was also the god of what? **Travel.**
7. Which republic was proclaimed in 1923, following the abolition of the Sultanate? **Turkey.**
8. Who had his first No 1 hit 50 years ago in January 1973 and what was the song? **David Bowie. The Jean Genie.**



9. What is the origin of the word “hussy”? **Housewife – but the term “hussy” has come down in the world!**

10. In which year was Action Man first introduced into the UK? **1966.**

## Website

Dan, who is responsible for our u3a’s publicity, would like members to send him any particularly attractive photographs of Bearsted that they think would be appropriate for the Welcome page of the Bearsted and District u3a website. If you have any, please contact him using the publicity link on the contact page of our website. He will give instructions on how to submit them.

Up-to-date details of our u3a are on our website. For access use the link: <https://u3asites.org.uk/bearsted/home>

The national u3a newsletter is full of useful and interesting things you can become involved in, including podcasts. All u3a members can now obtain access to national newsletters from the u3a website available at <http://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>. It is easy to create an account to use it. If you want to listen to u3a radio podcasts, you can do so by accessing the [u3a YouTube channel](#). **Please note: should clicking on any link not work simply cut and paste the link into your browser.**

## Deadline for Contributions to the March 2023 Reminder

Please note that the **deadline** for contributions to the March 2023 Reminder is Friday **24<sup>th</sup> February**. The committee will need to scrutinise a draft before issue so prompt responses would be appreciated. New members may wonder why the deadline needs to be so early. This is because some of our members are not online and so time needs to be allowed for them to receive paper copies by post. It would be appreciated if any contributions could be submitted in WORD format.

Members will not need reminding (although we are going to do so), that we do not use surnames in The Reminder for privacy reasons.