



Bearsted & District u3a Monthly Reminder January 2023

Welcome to the January 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 12th January starting at the usual time of 2 pm.

Chair's Chat

I hope you have enjoyed this festive season, celebrating it in your own way and that 2023 brings you all a good year.

This year we returned to Aylesford Priory for our main u3a Christmas lunch which was attended by forty-eight members and the food was enjoyed by all. I would very much like to thank Steve and Mary for everything they did in organising this for us.



Aylesford Priory (but not in winter!)

January is often a dull and grey month but if you are a member of our u3a it is so refreshing to get back out there and meet up with your friends, whether it is out with the walking group in January around Loose or catching up with each other at an interest group meeting. It gives us all something to look forward too. Our monthly meeting on the 12th of January has the Venetian Connection as our speaker's topic and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Why not bring a friend along and let them try us out?

I am looking forward to the year ahead, for our u3a to continue to thrive, new groups starting, extra knowledge gained, and more events planned, it should be an exciting year.

However, a reminder to us all that to do this, it is essential, as in most voluntary organisations, for members to come forward and use their skills either as an officer or as a committee member, to ensure the succession of a productive committee. We need to know that you want our u3a to thrive and that you will offer your help wherever it is needed.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year

Kind regards

Jenny

Chair - Bearsted & District u3a

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Speaker Secretary (Richard)

From Damian: Thank you to Steve for organising our Christmas meeting. Read it Aloud amused with an eclectic series of Christmas readings; and Steve and his band entertained us with a very interesting and well-performed selection of songs. The quiz was challenging though someone was less than pleased to be unable to answer one question in the series concerning the names of backing groups of yesteryear! Thank you also to the ladies who provide the drinks and assist in the kitchen, thus proving that it is not a thankless task! (**From Damian**)

From Richard: Our speaker for this month's meeting on 12th January will be Major Paul Whittle TD and his talk is entitled The Venetian Connection. Paul is a Freeman of the City of London having worked in HR at one of the Banks, served 34 years in the Territorial Army, being awarded the Territorial Decoration, and was involved in NATO exercises. He is a lecturer on Fred Olsen and P&O cruise ships having been public speaking for over 20 years. He supports more charities than I care to mention. His talks cover a wide range from `Eritrea` to `Hill Stations of the Raj` etc. etc.

This talk deals with who started building Venice, and why, right through to the recently built lagoon flood prevention system. He covers the rise of Venetian Maritime power with references to Dubrovnik, Split and other cities, visits the lesser known islands (e.g. Murano, where the famous glassware is made), as well as some of the popular tourist traps. I believe the Orient Express fits in somewhere!

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

As mentioned in last month's 'Reminder' we still have vacancies on the committee as outlined by Jenny at our AGM. In particular we need someone to take on the role of Vice-Chair. Ideally, we would like to have two volunteers for this role so that they can shadow Jenny with a view to one of them perhaps taking over as Chair in November 2023. If you are interested, please contact Jenny either via the website or telephone (see above in *Chair's Chat* for her number).

Members should be aware that without a chair the u3a will not be able to continue and will therefore cease to exist.

Interest Group Co-Ordinator's Update (Linda)

Your Group Co-ordinator Needs You! Be Active in Your Group!

As Our Founder, Eric Midwinter said

“Everyone involved in u3a should be an involved member and not a customer being served”

As we move into the new year many of us will be making resolutions and thinking about starting something new. U3a has lots of groups that you might be tempted to try but haven't got round to doing anything about. Now is a good time to put those thoughts into action. Have a look at our Bearsted & District website for our current groups and if you are tempted just let me know.

You might want to try something new but realise that our u3a doesn't currently have a group. Help us get some new groups started. You don't have to do everything yourself. Help is available. Here are some ideas:

Grumpy Old Men (or Women)

Philosophy

Crochet and Knitting

Photography for Fun

Health Matters

Painting and Sketching

Creative Writing

Village Visits

Don't forget that you can always join one of u3a's online groups too:

[Laughter Yoga](#)

[Cryptic Crosswords Explained](#)

[Story of Motown Records](#)

[Holocaust Memorial Day](#)

[The Geology of Oil and Gas](#)

[Mindfulness \(6-week course\)](#)

[Swans](#)

Again, look on the main u3a website for more information.

[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.

[Group Activities](#)

[Walking Group \(Geoff\)](#)

From Damian: Our first January walk has already taken place with a total of twenty attendees. We were lucky with the weather and hope the same will apply for the repeat walk on Wednesday 11th January. If anyone wants to join us, the walk will start at The Cock, Boughton Monchelsea, meeting at 0945 for 10 am. It will be led by Sue and Damian and proceed to Boughton Green and on to Loose village. For those who don't know the area it is more rural than you might expect and will be, for the most part, on lanes or hard footpaths. Sensible footwear and clothes should nevertheless be worn given the time of year. We have access to the pub toilets before-hand. Please let Geoff and Damian know whether you intend to walk via the usual channels and whether you might partake of lunch at the pub afterwards.



Loose Village

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 (from Damian)

- 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?**
- 2. Which British prime minister resigned in May 1923 and why?**
- 3. Within Holy Cross Church, Bearsted is the earliest remaining known example of what?**
- 4. Beethoven completed one of the greatest symphonies ever written in 1823. Which one is it?**
- 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'?**
- 6. Janus, the Roman god of entrances and the dawn was also the god of what?**
- 7. Which republic was proclaimed in 1923, following the abolition of the Sultanate?**
- 8. Who had his first No 1 hit 50 years ago in January 1973 and what was the song?**
- 9. What is the origin of the word "hussy"?**
- 10. In which year was Action Man first introduced into the UK?**

Answers to last month's quiz

- 1. In which country were the dates of the Twelve Days of Christmas fixed in 567 CE? France, at the Council of Tours**
- 2. What are the names of the three Magi? Caspar, Balthasar and Melchior**

3. In what year were the first British festive stamps issued? **1966**
4. What was “Wassail’s” original meaning? **To be in good health**
5. From what does the Christmas Cake derive? **The Twelfth Cake, consumed on Twelfth Night**
6. Glass baubles originated in Lauscha, Germany. In which year? **1847**
7. A football match occurred on Christmas Day 1914, between a German and a British regiment. The German regiment was the 133rd Royal Saxons, but who were the British? **The Seaforth Highlanders**
8. What were the names of the children revealed to Scrooge beneath the gown worn by the Spirit of Christmas Present in Dickens’s “A Christmas Carol”? **Ignorance and Want**
9. In 1819, at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, the first British pantomime was performed. What was its title? **Jack and the Beanstalk**
10. In what year was the first commercial diary produced and by whom? **1812 by John Letts of Letts & Co**

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 February 2023 Reminder

Please note that the **deadline** for contributions to the February 2022 Reminder is Friday **28th January**. 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.