



Bearsted & District u3a Monthly Reminder July 2023

Welcome to the July 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 13th July starting at the usual time of 2 pm.

Chair's Chat

The sun has truly come out for us this month and with that we need to look after ourselves and keep as cool as possible.

My favourite way of achieving this is sitting in a shady part of the garden with a long cool drink (I am not prepared to say what the drink consists of!). This has given me a great idea so if anyone has a photo of themselves chilling out put it on Facebook! It may just give us a smile when we look back when we are in the depths of winter!

Our Bearsted and District u3a 10th Anniversary is this year. The committee has decided to celebrate it with all the members at our Christmas meeting on the 14th December 2023. More details will be sent out nearer the time, but I would like to ask if there are any members that could get together (or by themselves) and bake an Anniversary Cake for the occasion? Please let me know.

Kind regards

Jenny

Chair - Bearsted & District u3a

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Speaker Secretary (Richard)

At the June meeting, we learnt from Emma Anderson about “Radical 19th Century Women and Egypt”. Her talk was meticulously researched and included the fact that the ‘Mummy’ in the Maidstone Museum’s Egyptian collection had been taken to KIMS for a scan that revealed significant information, including her age when she was mummified.

In July, we will be joined by Stephen Goss who will talk about “The tolerance of undeserving rank and splendour – the wit and wisdom of Gilbert and Sullivan” with references to the politically satirical nature of some of the characters in their operettas.

Message to all members of the u3a from the Third Age Trust (Dan)

“URGENT NOTICE: Phishing email

“We are aware of a phishing email which appears to have been distributed among u3a contacts. The email will appear to have been sent by someone in your email address list, so someone you probably know. The email contains a blue box with the word ‘Preview’ in it and wants you to click on it.

DO NOT OPEN OR CLICK ON IT

“If you have tried to open it or clicked on it then please let us know so we can help you sort this out. Please e-mail national.office@u3a.org.uk or call one of our team on 0208 466 6139. Our staff team will note your details and help you accordingly. The e-mail should be deleted from your inbox and from your deleted folder and you should change your password.

Thank you.

The Third Age Trust"

Transport

1. Those who regularly attend monthly meetings will know that parking in Detling can be difficult. It would therefore be helpful to others if members would consider whether car sharing is an option. Perhaps you know another member who lives near to you and also attends meetings. We know that some of you already do this but many may not have considered this as an option. Car sharing would not only benefit members but also the local community.

2. Whilst on the subject of transport, u3a members may know that work is scheduled to take place in Ware Street for 10 weeks from Monday 26th June. One of our vice-chairs, Richard, has provided us with an alternative bus timetable to cover this period. A copy is attached to the covering e-mail sent with this copy of the Reminder.

Social

May we remind everyone that committee members are considering whether a social sub-committee should be set up with a view to organising events such as coffee mornings, coach trips and other occasions. Members are invited to help in this. If you would like to be involved in increasing the scope of u3a activities in this way, please contact Damian, the Reminder editor, via the website and he will make sure that your interest is noted. Alternatively, he is usually at the monthly meetings so you could speak to him there (he is very approachable!). Other committee members will be able to help if he isn't available.

Interest Group Co-Ordinator's Update (Linda)

Now that we are into the holiday season and many of our members go on holiday, you may find that group numbers are a bit low. Please make sure you let your group c-ordinator know if you will miss a meeting because if there is a waiting list for your group it may be possible to invite others to join you. This gives prospective members an opportunity to see what the group is about and may mean you don't have to cancel a meeting through low numbers.

Village Visits

There has been plenty of support for this new group which will have its first outing shortly.

Ancient History 2

Keith Pockett has been leading an Ancient History group very successfully for many years. He will be leading a second group from September so please let me know if you would like to join.

If you have an idea for a new group there is a sheet on the table at the back of the room at monthly meetings where you can put your ideas. You can always contact me via the website too.

Group Activities

Lunch Bunch (Nigel)

The next lunch meeting is at the Angel Inn at Addington Green, Addington ME19 5BB on Tuesday 25th July 12:15 for 12:45.

Gardening Group (Babs)

At our last meeting we discussed the pruning requirements of clematis. Methods vary but are not difficult when you know how. Clematis are divided into three main groups for pruning purposes, dependant on their time of flowering and their vigour. Getting it right will give its rewards.



Our hostess provided refreshments and a beautiful garden for us to sit in and to explore.

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.

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.

Contributions from Members

I Wish (Graham -Vice Chair)

Some time ago I heard a new member commenting “I wish there was a group about...” (I forget what the subject was). My reaction was to say that she could always start one. “Oh, no” she replied, “I’m not ready to be group leader yet. Besides, if there is no group there must not be any interest”.

I don’t know if any of you feel the same. This is just a reminder that there is a wish list on Linda’s desk at the back of the hall at the monthly meetings. Please make a suggestion for a group if something is nagging at you. It doesn’t mean that you are volunteering to be a leader but it may just trigger a response from others who may be thinking the same.

A Fairy Tale from another Point of View – for the grandchildren, perhaps? (Vivienne)

The Chicken’s Perspective

I was thinking just the other day that I’ve been all alone in this cage for years and years. It’s been so long I can’t remember the last time that I was let out to wander about freely. The fence is much too high for me to fly over and I’m not sure I could do it now if I tried. I can’t be bothered to try to escape when they come to feed me, and they are very quick at shutting the gate. My feathers are getting so very dull and dirty because I can’t get out and flap my wings about or preen them like I used to. As for my claws they are getting so long I can hardly walk around. They need to be trimmed or I need to be able to get out and scratch around. Oh, what I’d give to be allowed out for the day with all my old friends clucking about together and pecking and scratching in the yard.

No-one was more surprised than me to find out that I wasn’t like all the others. For some strange reason, or a quirk of nature, I’ve been given a very

special skill. Mind you, sometimes it's really annoying not to be just the same as everyone else. What's the point in laying golden eggs when you're a chicken? I can't do anything with them. They do come and take them away and so avoid them cluttering the place up. Oh, what's all that noise?

"Clank, clank, clank" came the sound from the edge of the cage.

I could see that something was trying to get into the cage without a key. It wasn't a normal large two-legged thing but a much smaller one. It was climbing the fence very quickly. I wonder if it can make it over the top? I do believe it's trying to get in with me. I wonder what for? Must be a new thing to the area as it's acting very strangely and has now managed to get into the enclosure

"Hey what are you doing coming into my cage" I shouted and was totally amazed when the thing made a lunge, picked me up under my chest and tucked me neatly under its arm. Before I knew it, it had climbed back over the fence and was running as fast as possible down the path.

Well, what a stroke of luck! Looks like I'm going to get out of here and into the big space beyond, whatever that is.

"Don't hurt me please" I shouted but it didn't hear because a louder voice boomed and echoed out.

"FEE FI FO FUM! I smell the blood of an Englishman!". It was the great two-legged thing thundering down the path towards us, bellowing.

I think we're going to have to speed up if we're going to escape. It's getting a bit dodgy for the little two-legged thing. Sounds like the big two-legged thing is getting very annoyed.

I clung on to him like mad as we dashed across to this strange looking green thing that was swaying about and poking through the clouds.

This month's Quiz (Damian)

All of the following were pop stars. By what name are they better known (all had hits in the 1960's)?

- 1. Arnold Dorsey**
- 2. Brian Rankin**
- 3. Terence Nelhams**
- 4. Sandra Goodrich**
- 5. Charles Westover**

6. **Ronald Wycherley**
7. **Richard Sarstedt**
8. **Adrian Hill**
9. **Charles Holley**
10. **Brenda Tarpley**



(Harry Webb – not included in this quiz)

Answers to last month's quiz

Give the meaning or derivation of the following pub signs:

1. **The Bull's Head - the cognizance of Henry VIII**
2. **The Horse and Groom - where a stallion was kept for stud purposes**
3. **The Spread Eagle - the arms of Germany: showed that German wines could be obtained therein**

4. **The Bear and Bacchus** (this pub is in Warwick High Street) – a corruption of “**Bear and Baculus**” (Bear and Ragged Staff), the badge of the Earl of Warwick

5. **The Green Man** – the late gamekeeper of the lord of the manor turned publican



(A different sort of Green Man – amongst others!)

6. **The Hare and Hounds** – a compliment to the sporting squire or lord of the manor

7. **The Bag o' Nails** – a corruption of “**The Bacchanals**”

8. **The Ship and Shovel** – referring to Sir Cloudesley Shovell, an admiral of Queen Anne’s reign

9. **The Chequers** (there are several answers to this question of which I will give three) - (i) in honour of the Stuart dynasty whose shield had plaid-like checks (ii) in commemoration of licences granted by the Earls of Arundel or Lords Warrenne (iii) to show that a private room was set by for merchants etc where they can make up their accounts or use their “Chequers”

10. **The Castle** – the arms of Spain: showed that Spanish wines could be obtained therein

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.

Photographs

This is to remind group co-ordinators that they should ensure that all members of their group who appear in photographs are happy to do so when it is intended to post the photograph on the website, publish it in the Reminder or otherwise make it publicly available.

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 August 2023 Reminder (from Damian)

Please note that the **deadline** for contributions to the August 2023 Reminder is Friday **28th July**. The committee will need to scrutinise a

draft before issue so prompt responses would be appreciated. Also, 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 members' surnames in The Reminder for privacy reasons.