



## Bearsted & District u3a Monthly Reminder June 2023

Welcome to the June 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 8<sup>th</sup> June starting at the usual time of 2 pm.

### Chair's Chat

Some good news from me this month.

Firstly, we have had two members who have come forward who wish to join the committee and support us with the chair role for next year. Obviously, we will continue our AGM process as usual and so if anyone else wishes to put themselves forward in November you are very welcome to do so. I just wanted to give some good news instead of the many months of insecurity we have felt for the continuation of our fantastic u3a.

Secondly, Liz Thackray our National u3a Chair is visiting Kent the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in July. There is a strong possibility that she will be able to visit one of our groups that Monday morning!

On another note, could I please ask the members at every monthly meeting to be aware of any talking during the meeting. Some members find it extremely hard to hear what is going on and this is not helped by anyone having a 'quiet chat amongst themselves.'

Kind regards

*Jenny*

Jenny Akehurst

Chair - Bearsted & District u3a

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## Speaker Secretary (Richard)

May`s speakers, Peter and Carol Batty, gave a very interesting account of the history and work carried out at the East Malling Research Station. Who would have believed that the irrigation of roses growing in the Rift Valley of Kenya is controlled from the Research Station in order that there is no waste of water, a precious commodity in that Country!

June`s speaker is Emma Anderson, with her talk “Stories of Radical 19<sup>th</sup> Century Women and Egypt” and will tell us about these explorers, writers and collectors and how their collecting has a connection with the Maidstone Museum. Emma is a director of two Museums in the North of England.

## Car Sharing

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.

## 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.

## Interest Group Co-Ordinator`s Update (Linda)

I joined u3a a few years ago because I wanted to learn Spanish and I knew that they had a group. After a few years the group coordinator, Garry, decided it was time to pass the baton on to some-one else and I was asked if I would take it on. I was very nervous about doing so but I agreed and found that I really enjoyed it. After a year I started a second Spanish group for beginners (Hola Español). That was when I really found that leading a group helped me enormously with my knowledge of the language.



## **Walking Group (Geoff)**

In the month of April, led by Damian, then again in May, when the relatively new group member Paul was walk-leader for his first time (but I doubt it will be his last), we enjoyed two lovely walks. They shared some common ingredients by way of splendid views from two of Kent's high points during a good part of each walk, in April from Sutton Valence over the Weald and its fruit farming and mixed grazing land; and in May heading away from Bluebell Hill village looking West/North West over the Medway Valley as the river curls round and under the motorway bridge towards Rochester, then overlooking Nashenden Nature reserve and the high-speed rail line below.

Both walks were well attended in aggregate over their two days, the first Thursday and the following Wednesday in each month. Those who chose to light lunch afterwards were well served by The Queens Head at Sutton Valence and The Robin Hood Bluebell Hill, respectively.

I aim to resurrect my abandoned Autumn 2022 walk in June, starting from The Carpenters Arms at Eastling.

## **Village Visits (Liz)**

Following on from the excellent and well received talk this month, Kay Ryan and I are contemplating the viability of a group visit to East Malling Research; preliminary enquiries show that to be viable 20-25 members are required to sign and commit. If you are interested, there is a link to Village Visits on the contact page of the website.

## **Exploring World Faiths (Claire)**

The Exploring World Faiths group started in the autumn of last year and we now have eight members. Among topics we have covered are the basic tenets of various world faiths including Judaism, Hinduism, the Sikh faith, Christianity, the Baha'i faith, Orthodox Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Confucianism and Islam. We have also looked at various famous women in religion and women saints. We also covered the origins of Christianity in Europe and the arrival of the Christian faith in Kent! We have covered religion affiliations and how they were reflected in the UK's 2021 census. We have also covered various themes, including weddings, marriage and religious festivals. More are planned on this front including rites of passage and

pilgrimages. We will be visiting the Sikh temple (Siri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara) in September where we will be given a guided tour. We also plan to visit Rochester Cathedral. We have lots more topics in the pipeline in the future - there is so much to cover! New members are welcome whether they follow a religion or not. (2nd Monday PM currently at Claire's house) No one is expected to be an expert. We are all learning together and enjoying doing so.

### 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

#### **This month's Quiz. Subject: Pub Signs (Damian)**

Give the meaning or derivation of the following pub signs:

1. **The Bull's Head**
2. **The Horse and Groom**
3. **The Spread Eagle**
4. **The Bear and Bacchus (this pub is in Warwick High Street)**
5. **The Green Man**
6. **The Hare and Hounds**
7. **The Bag o' Nails**
8. **The Ship and Shovel**

9. The Chequers (there are several answers to this question of which I will give three next month)



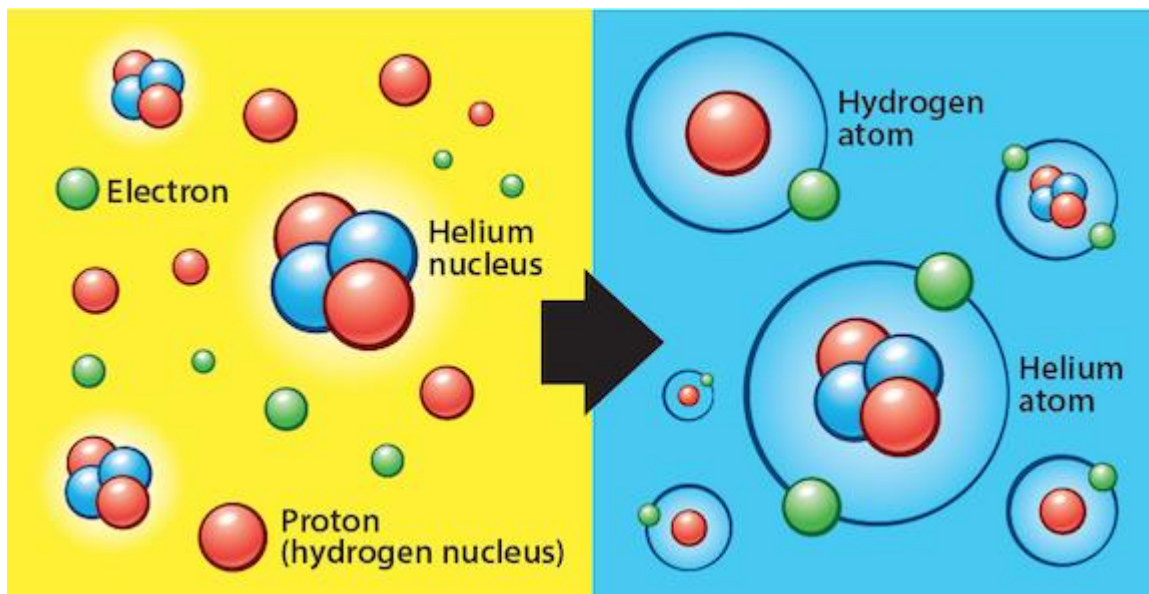
This is not necessarily a clue! This Chequers is at Doddington.

10. The Castle

*Answers to last month's quiz*

Elementary my dear Watson (Damian)

1. What were understood to be the only elements in ancient and medieval times? **Earth, Air, Fire and Water.**
2. Name the element most plentiful within the Earth's geosphere. **Iron.**
3. There are three elements which form the majority of matter in the human body. Name them. **Hydrogen, Carbon and Oxygen.**
4. What element is the most abundant in the air? **Nitrogen.**
5. Which element was discovered first via a spectrograph of the Sun? **Helium.**



6. Name the most abundant element in the universe. **Hydrogen.**
7. Which element was used to paint the dials of clocks and watches in order to make them luminous? **Radium.**
8. Who discovered this element? **Marie Curie.**
9. What other element was discovered by this person? **Polonium.**
10. Which element was the first to be artificially created? **Technetium.**

Readers of “New Scientist” may note that by sheer coincidence, one of the above questions was also in the quiz in a recent issue of the magazine! **This was question 4.**

### 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.

### 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 July 2023 Reminder](#)** (from Damian)

Please note that the **deadline** for contributions to the July 2023 Reminder is Friday **23rd June because I will be on holiday** (yes – again) and will need to issue the Reminder around 30<sup>th</sup> June. 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.