



Bearsted & District u3a Monthly Reminder for April 2024

Welcome to the April 2024 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 11th April starting at the usual time of 2 pm.

From the Rockin' Chair

Our Open Day next week will feature the majority of our groups showcasing their activities and achievements. Please come along and bring a non-member to see what may or may not unexpectedly grab your curiosity. Remember in the U3A it's all about having a go!

Apologies for the difficulties with the hearing loop at the last meeting. I am assured all will be well in time for our next meeting.

If you have any suggestions to improve our U3A please get in touch with me via the website. For now ...

Live, Laugh and Learn.

All my very best wishes

Graham

Chair - Bearsted & District u3a



Speaker Secretary (Rick)

In March, we welcomed Dr Geoffrey Mead, a retired tutor at the University of Sussex. He spoke to us about the geology and geography (together with some social history) about the channel coastline around Kent and Sussex. We heard about the wildlife and landscapes of the

Hoo Marshes, Dungeness, the Seven Sisters and Thorney Island in Chichester Harbour. We were also advised not to eat sea kale!

April's monthly gathering is the `Show and Tell` giving the opportunity to see what all the groups in our U3A are about, so there will be no speaker. Do come along and you may find a new interest to take up as a hobby.

Transport

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.

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 Graham know through the usual channel

Interest Group Co-Ordinator's Update (Linda)

Our groups are at the heart of u3a and I am constantly reminded of the hard work that group coordinators put in to ensure that our groups are successful. I know that they find it very rewarding but we should never take them for granted. It is, therefore, disappointing when I hear that some members don't always respond promptly to emails or WhatsApp messages, especially when a group coordinator is trying to organise a visit. So, please, can you do your bit by also ensuring that you let your group coordinator know if you are unable to attend a meeting. You will be missed.

Last year we organised an **iPad Workshop** where members can help each other with any queries. Is there any interest for another? It is not a tutorial. You must be able to bring your own iPad along and it would not be suitable for other makes of tablets.

We currently have Italian Improvers and Italian Intermediate groups but is anyone interested in **Italian for Beginners**? We are told often enough how beneficial

learning a language is for our mental agility so it might be just the group for you and might start you planning some trips to Italy soon.

A member is wondering if anyone might be interested in a **Golf** group? Maybe you haven't played for a while or would like to get together with a few fellow golfers. This might be just the group for you.

One of our new members is interested in **Archaeology**. Would anyone else like to join her in starting up a new group?

I've just read that Bromley u3a are starting a Daytime Disco which sounds a great idea. Would someone like to start a **Bearsted Boogie** group?

You can contact me through the website regarding any groups that you might be interested in or just come and say hello to me at the monthly meeting in Detling. If you have any ideas for a new group, I can help you get started.

Group Activities

Village Visits (Liz and Kay)

This was the first outing of the season for the group. Cranbrook Museum was the venue, where twelve members received a very warm welcome.



We enjoyed fresh coffee with cookies (pre-booked) and a group tour prior to the official opening in April. So much to take in (and our guide was a past chair of u3a!).



Afterwards, we paid an unscheduled visit to St Dunstan's Church, also known as the Cathedral of the Weald. It was worthy of a separate, organised visit.

We perused the local independent shops after which ten of us took lunch at The George, where Elizabeth 1 stayed in 1573.

All remarked on how enjoyable the day had been.

Next month is a guided tour of Holy Cross Church and Bearsted village. Booking in the usual way.

Lunch Bunch (Nigel)

The next Lunch Bunch event will take place on Tuesday 23rd April, 12:15 for 12:45 at the Maypole Inn, The Street, Borden ME9 8JN.

Special Events (Maureen)

These are one-off trips which aren't linked to any particular interest group. Booking is essential as numbers will be restricted & places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

If you have any ideas for places that we could visit as a group, maybe with a guide, please let me know via the website.

WE ARE CURRENTLY TAKING BOOKINGS FOR THE FOLLOWING 2 EVENTS:

TUESDAY 21 MAY 2 – 4.30pm

VISIT TO THE HEROINE OF DUNKIRK, THE MEDWAY QUEEN PADDLE STEAMER IN HER 100TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR.

This is not a boat trip. The Queen stays moored alongside Gillingham Pier. You will be served a cream tea in the recently renovated saloon and volunteers will be on hand to talk about the history & restoration of this grand old lady.



ACCESSIBILITY – there are steps leading down to the saloon & lower decks.

PARKING – there is limited free parking adjacent to the pier. Car sharing highly recommended.

WCs – either on the ship or in the workshop.

COST - £6 per person for the cream tea plus £7 entry (tickets valid for 1 year). If you already have an entry ticket, there is no need to pay again.

Proceeds go towards the Medway Queen Preservation Society.

PAYMENT – by bank transfer to The Bearsted & District U3A account No 81627254. Sort code 51 70 55 (Please quote your name plus MED Q in the reference) or by cheque to the treasurer.

SATURDAY 27 JULY 2-4pm

GRAVESEND POLLINATOR GARDEN VISIT

£7.50 per head (including tea/coffee & cake)



Numbers restricted to 20 so book early to avoid disappointment.

Stunning private garden featured on BBC Gardeners' World in 2022. Designed to provide year-round habitat for all wildlife, especially pollinating insects. See which moths visit after dark and pick up tips as to how to make your own garden nature friendly.

ACCESSIBILITY - most of the rear garden is level but there are 14 steps with handrail leading from the drive to the house and terrace. Some narrow footpaths and steps in terraced side garden.

PARKING - street parking - please aim to car share.

Sorry no dogs allowed.

PAYMENT - by bank transfer to The Bearsted & District U3A - account No 81627254 - sort code - 51 70 55 (Please quote your name plus POL GDN in the reference) or cheque to the treasurer.

IN THE AUTUMN:

WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER 1-3.30pm

TOUR OF GURDWARA SIKH TEMPLE GRAVESEND

Booking details to be advised nearer the time.

[Membership Secretary \(Claire\)](#)

Emergency contact details

Members are reminded to keep their emergency contact details up to date. Please note that if a couple attend a group together their

emergency contact should be a third person not each other. If you need to make any changes, please let me know via the website.

Third Age Matters Magazine

Should anyone no longer need their copy of the Third Age Matters magazine, you can drop them off at the monthly general meeting at the new members table, new members coffee mornings or at our 'show and tell' afternoons. You will find Claire at the Membership desk.

Photographs

Any member wishing to photograph other members should **ensure that all those in front of the camera are happy to have their photograph taken**. This is **especially important if it is intended to publish the photograph in any way**, particularly on the website, in the Reminder or otherwise make it publicly available.

Contributions from Members

This month's Quiz (Damian)

1. In which of Dickens's novels do Bill Sykes and Nancy appear?
2. Who sang "My Old Man's a Dustman", a UK No 1 hit in 1960?
3. What is the Title of Richard Osman's first novel?
4. In which children's comic did Desperate Dan appear?
5. What is the title given to Beethoven's 6th Symphony?
6. Hi Ho Silver was the Lone Ranger's horse, but what was the name of Tonto's?
7. In what year was the Roman Empire at its greatest extent?
8. Who wrote "The Darling Buds of May"?
9. Petula Clark and Harry Secombe both had hits with "This is My Song" in 1967 but who wrote it?

10. Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan and Harry Secombe were the three most well-known members of the “Goon Show” but what other famous comedian featured in the first two series?

Answers to last month's quiz

1. Beethoven used the words “Be embraced, ye millions, I embrace you. This kiss to all the world” in his 9th Symphony (Choral). Who wrote these words? **Friedrich Schiller 1759-1805 in his “An die Freude” (Ode to Joy).**

2. Who famously said, “But it does move” about the Earth? **Galileo, following his recantation of this fact.**

3. The advice “never eat more than you can lift” was given by whom? **Miss Piggy of course!**

4. “Some people think that football is more important than life or death. I can assure them it is much more serious than that.” Who made this statement? **Bill Shankly, former manager of Liverpool FC.**

5. Who said “History is about arrogance, vanity and vapidty. Who better than me to present it?” **David Starkey.**

6. Which Prime Minister said “My policy on cake is pro having it and pro eating it”? **Boris Johnson.**

7. “I sing all kinds” and “I don't sound like nobody” were the words of a completely unknown singer shortly before making his first demo recording. Who was he? **Elvis Presley**

8. Who said, about France, “How can you govern a country which has 246 varieties of cheese?” **Charles de Gaulle.**

9. “Two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I am not completely sure about the universe” was said by whom? **Albert Einstein.**

10. “...an altar upon which are placed the choicest offerings of my mind” was said by whom about what? **Beethoven about his 6 octave piano made John Broadsword and Sons of London.**

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.**

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.

Deadline for Contributions to the May 2024 Reminder (Damian)

Please note that the **deadline** for contributions to the May 2024 Reminder is Friday **26th April**. 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 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.