



Bearsted & District u3a Monthly Reminder for January 2024

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

From the Rockin' Chair

I hope you have all had a great Xmas and New Year. Greetings to all members were received from Kent Network and from Sam Mauger who is the CEO of the Third Age Trust, who some of you may know. I hope to meet and talk to as many of you as I can in 2024. Should any member wish to contact me, you can do so via the website.

All my very best wishes

Graham

Chair - Bearsted & District u3a



Speaker Secretary (Rick)

In January, we welcome Guy Bartlett.

Guy is an aviation historian, and this talk is entitled "Concorde – Icon of the Skies", telling the story of the fastest passenger aircraft of all time.

We will also hear about some of the technology behind the design of the plane and will see rare footage taken from the flight deck as well as Concorde's final ever landing on British soil.

Editor's comment (Damian)

Following on from Rick's paragraph above, a big "thank you" goes to all those who organised both the annual lunch and the Christmas and 10th

Anniversary celebration; and also, to all the helpers at the latter event, especially Mary and her team for the refreshments and Rick for arranging such fine entertainment.

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 channels.

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

Lunch Bunch (Nigel)

The next Lunch Bunch event will take place at the Park Gate, Ashford Road, Hollingbourne, ME17 1PG (next to the golf club), on Tuesday 23rd January, 12:15 for 12:45.

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.

Special Events (Maureen)

New members get together - Tuesday 30 January, 10 for 10.30am at The Lounge, Downswood Community Centre, Chiltern Close, Downswood, ME15 8XJ

New members should have received an invitation to our "get together" on 30 January, where you will hear about the great opportunities available through the U3A movement. If you haven't received the invitation or are a member of longer standing and would like to take advantage of this, please email Linda Breeze via the website.

Coming soon – Live, laugh, learning visit - not specific to any group - booking required - more details in the next newsletter

Tuesday 21st May at 2 to 4.30pm - Visit the Paddle Steamer Medway Queen at Gillingham & celebrate her 100th birthday with a cream tea in the newly renovated saloon.

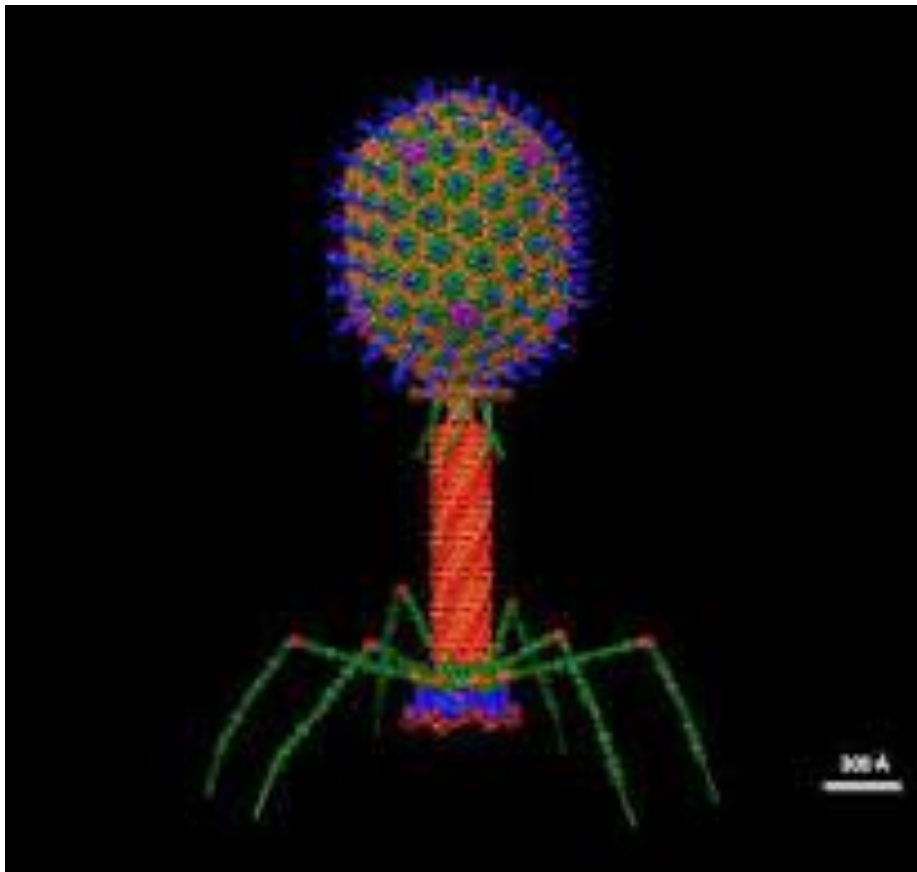


The Medway Queen

Contributions from Members

This month's Quiz (Damian)

1. **Pedology is the science of ...what?**
2. **What is special about the Kelvin temperature scale?**
3. **Who is reputed to be Britain's first professional female scientist?**
4. **What is a bacteriophage and what does it infect?**



A bacteriophage

5. **Which element does the human body mostly consist of?**
6. **What temperature is absolute zero?**
7. **In 1897, JJ Thomson discovered which fundamental particle?**

8. What is Ockham's razor?



William of Ockham

9. Of the four fundamental forces, electromagnetism, gravity, the strong nuclear force and the weak nuclear force, which is the weakest?

10. What is a buckyball?

Answers to last month's quiz

1. First of all, the calendar. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII cut ten days from October to correct the Julian calendar. Why October? **It has fewer holy days than any other month so there was no danger of missing any.**

2. What is Stir Sunday? This is the last Sunday before Advent, when housewives prepared their Christmas puddings.



Damian's favourite Christmas treat

3. What important event should take place on St Nicholas's Day (6th December)? Children's requests to Santa should be posted up the chimney.

4. 21st December is St Thomas's Day. What is "Thomasing" and "mumping" which used to take place on this day? It was the day on which adult members of the parish would give small amounts of money to their elderly neighbours. If the money wasn't forthcoming the elderly were allowed to ask for it. Children were allowed to ask for corn or apples.

5. Who was the first Christian martyr to die following Christ's crucifixion and on what day is his feast day? St Stephen whose feast day is 26th December.

6. 28th December is Childermas. What event is remembered on this day? Herod's slaughter on the Innocents.

7. What infamous murder occurred on 29th December 1170? That of Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.

8. What is Plough Monday? This was the first Monday after Epiphany and the beginning of the working year for agricultural workers. It was a day of traditional celebrations and so work didn't start until Tuesday, which was...

9. ...St Distaff's Day which follows Plough Monday. What does this signify? **This was the day when women resumed their spinning duties but, as with Plough Monday, not much work got done as it was also a day of traditional celebrations!**

10. What was the particular Christmas relevance of Candlemas (2nd February) until Victorian times? **This was the day Christmas decorations were taken down.**

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 February 2024 Reminder](#) (Damian)

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