



Bearsted & District u3a Monthly Reminder for November 2023

Welcome to the November 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 9th November starting at the usual time of 2 pm.

Chair's Chat

I would like to take the opportunity in this, my last *Chair's Chat*, to thank everyone who has supported and helped me in this, and in my previous Interest Group Coordinators role, over the last 7 years. I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know so many of you over this time.

Our AGM on the 9th November will bring in a New Chair and Supporting Committee and I look forward to all the new things they will bring with them.

On December 8th we have our u3a Christmas Meal booked with the Mercure Great Danes Hotel which is now fully booked. Nearer the time we will send an e-mail just to remind all of you that are coming what time we are meeting etc.

On Thursday 14th December we have our Christmas Party Afternoon from 2.00pm – 5.00pm. There will be mulled wine, soft drinks, tea, coffee and light refreshments.

We hope that you may all like to get into the Festive spirit by wearing those Christmas Jumpers, Tinsel and Holly and anything seasonal! There will be a prize for the one that stands out the most!

We are also celebrating Bearsted & District's 10th Anniversary so will have a cake cutting ceremony!

Kind regards

Jenny

Chair - Bearsted & District u3a

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Speaker Secretary (Rick)

At our November meeting we will meet Barbara Meyer with her illustrated talk “Big Cats Around the World”. Barbara is South African, a professional photographer and works in animal conservation. That includes working, amongst others, with the safari parks at Canterbury and Port Lympne, set up by John Aspinall for the breeding and re-settlement of animals in the wild. We will see and hear about big (and some small) cats from around the world and what is being done to ensure the further protection and survival of the species.

14TH DECEMBER — 10TH ANNIVERSARY AND CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Further to Jenny’s note above about our U3A’s 10th Anniversary celebration together with Christmas, an all-afternoon bumper event is being arranged. We will have two entertainers. However, it has been decided that the Read It Aloud Group will not, after all, be reading on this occasion. This is because it is felt that there will not be enough time for members to socialise when the other planned activities are taken into account.

The entertainers are John Field (a magician), and Cameo Christmas Capers (music, singing and comedy).

John is a member of The Inner Magic Circle of the Magic Circle, a position that few magicians achieve. He is very experienced and has been giving his talk `The Amazing World of Magic` for many years at Corporate Events, on Cruise Ships and to many local groups such as ours. He will go back in time, looking at different styles of magic and perform tricks that will “leave the audience bewildered”.

Cameo Christmas Capers is a festive celebration of various forms of music interlaced with comedy. The group comprises of three singers (Judith, Jeannette and Matthew) with Judith also playing the keyboard. Be prepared for some laugh out loud moments and an invitation to join in some carol singing.

There will be a quiz to try whilst enjoying tea/coffee and of course, cake!

It’s going to be a great afternoon, so do come along.

Membership Cards (Claire)

As you all know we no longer print out membership cards for all our membership. Some of you have sent me stamped addressed envelopes requesting a membership card and I have duly sent these out. Your membership number remains the same from when you first joined and does not change. However, if you would still like a membership card, please send an SAE (and note identifying yourself) to me - Claire Anderson, Sandiacre, Orchard Close, Langley ME17 3LL. Alternatively, if you have forgotten your membership number, you can email me (membersec.u3a@gmail.com) and I can let you know your number.

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.

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.

Interest Group Co-Ordinator's Update (Linda)

Bearsted u3a now has 46 groups covering a wide variety of interests. Make sure you keep up to date by looking at our website or pick up a leaflet.

Our **new Local History 2** group has held its first planning meeting and will start officially on 16th January at Bearsted Library from 10.00 to 11.30 am. It has been decided to change the day to the 3rd Tuesday of the month to suit more people. Each member is expected to contribute to the group and present a topic of interest to them, e.g. social, individuals, towns & villages etc, or organise a trip. If you are interested you can join via the Groups section of the website or talk to me at one of our monthly meetings.

If we don't cater to your interests perhaps you would like to start a new group yourself. Others may be glad to join you and help plan the meetings. You don't have to do everything yourself.

Group Activities

Lunch Bunch (Nigel)

The next lunch meeting is at The Black Lion, The Street, Lynsted, ME9 0RJ on Tuesday 28th November at the usual time of 12:15 for 12:45. We don't meet in December but will pick it up again in January.

Local History 1 Celebrates its 100th Meeting (Damian)

Local History 1 enjoyed its 100th meeting on 17th October when Nick presented an interesting and well-researched talk about the shifting coastline and precarious geology of the "Fifth Continent" (Romney Marsh according to *'The Ingoldsby Legends'*).



Romney Marsh

Amongst numerous other topics discussed in our hundred meetings were the story of Bearsted benefactor Walter Fremlin, notes on the village of Goudhurst, and a series on the Anglo-Saxon kings of Kent. We have also visited many interesting places, including Dickens's house at Gads Hill near Rochester; St Augustine's Abbey at Canterbury; and Boxley Church.

We wish Local History 2 good luck in their researches. Should they need any help or advice we are willing to advise them if we can.

Local History 2 (Alan)

Following on from Linda's note above concerning the 'inaugural' meeting of Local History Group 2 it was decided that with only one more opportunity to meet before Christmas, we would start in earnest in January (which fast approaches!). The meetings are to be held in Bearsted Library, which has an interesting selection of books on local history, amongst much else.



Thurnham Castle

To start our year, and before the weather tempts us out on group trips, we have a spring programme: January: Mote House - Richard; February: The Battle of Maidstone – Alan; March: A History of Samphire Hoe – Maureen. If you're interested in joining us in discovering the history of Kent, please contact Linda (details above).

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.

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.

Contributions from Members

This month's Quiz (Damian) – the subject is British Kings and Queens and surprising facts you may not know. “British” here means any monarch who ruled a kingdom or territory in these islands at any time since the Romans left.

- 1. King John of England has a reputation for ruthless cruelty. However, he had an active interest which shines a different light on his character. What was it? The clue is that all leaders should have this in mind.**
- 2. The usurper, Henry IV of England, was said to suffer from which disease, considered by the clergy to be divine retribution for his execution of Archbishop Scrope of York?**
- 3. At whose coronation were the abbey doors closed so as to exclude the queen from the ceremony?**
- 4. Which king of Scotland was the last British king to be canonized?**
- 5. For what act was Henry VIII awarded the title “Defender of the Faith” by the Pope?**
- 6. Which couple had the shortest royal marriage, and how long do you think it might have been?**
- 7. Which British monarch holds the record for the greatest age difference between a king and his spouse?**
- 8. Who spent the shortest period of time as a reigning monarch?**

9. Who was the oldest successor to be declared monarch?
10. King Aldfrith of Northumbria is known for having written several books amongst which was a very light hearted one. What was its subject?

Answers to last month's quiz

1. Where in the Kingdom of Spain is its highest point? **On Tenerife. It is Teide-Pico Viejo volcano at 3718 m (7500m above the sea floor) and the world's third tallest volcano.**
2. Who wrote "The Ingenious Hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha", published in 1604-5? **Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra.**
3. Sir Francis Drake is said to have singed the king of Spain's beard. Where did this event occur? **Cadiz in 1587.**
4. Which ruler of Portugal died believing that he was still in charge, though he had been deposed 2 years before? **The dictator, Antonio de Salazar in 1970 (he had a stroke in 1968).**
5. In which year were the Moors finally expelled from Iberia? **1492.**
6. Portugal is said to be the UK's oldest ally. This alliance was forged via the marriage of John 1 of Portugal to the granddaughter of which English king? **Edward III. Phillipa was the daughter of John of Gaunt.**
7. By which treaty did Pope Alexander VI bring about the division of the New World between Spain and Portugal in 1494? **Tordesillas.**

8. Where in the Republic of Portugal is its highest point? Mount Pico on Pico Island in the Azores. It is 2351 m above sea level.



Mount Pico

9. Who was the first king of Portugal, acceding to the throne in 1139? Alphonso I, nicknamed “the Conqueror” (of the Moors).

10. The Portuguese Douro World Heritage Site is famous for which product? Port.

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 December 2023 Reminder](#) (Damian)

Please note that the **deadline** for contributions to the December 2023 Reminder is Friday **1st December**. 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.