



Bearsted & District u3a Monthly Reminder for October 2023

Welcome to the October 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 12th October starting at the usual time of 2 pm.

14TH DECEMBER — 10TH ANNIVERSARY AND CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

To celebrate our U3A's 10th Anniversary, together with Christmas, an all-afternoon bumper event is being arranged. We will have two entertainers and a presentation by our own 'Read It Aloud' Group.

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.

Read it Aloud group is putting together the readings that I am sure will be every bit as entertaining as the presentation they performed last Christmas.

There will be a quiz to try whilst enjoying tea/coffee and of course, cake (but see below)!

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

Chair's Chat

As mentioned above, our Bearsted and District u3a **10th Anniversary** is this year. I would like to ask once again **whether there are any members that could get together (or by themselves) and bake an Anniversary Cake for the occasion?** Please let me know via the website or by telephone.

This month you will start to see the correspondence around our AGM which is on the 9th November 2023.

As you are all aware I have now served my permitted time on the committee and am now ready to hang up the reins!!

I can only say that it has been a pleasure both serving as the Interest Groups Coordinator and Chair of our u3a for the last 7 years and with the support of the committee members over that time, we have helped in continuing to make Bearsted and District a special u3a to be a part of.

Kind regards

Jenny

Chair - Bearsted & District u3a

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Speaker Secretary (Rick)

In September, we welcomed Andrew Baker.

His talk, "Seven years of political chaos" was highly informative and was impressively delivered (as you would expect from a retired headmaster). The appreciation for the talk was demonstrated by the applause he received. For anyone who wishes to explore the subject further, by pure coincidence, Laura Kuenssberg (BBC's political correspondent over that period) has a three-part series on this very subject, that was shown during September, and is available on I-player.

At the meeting in October, we will meet Jack Deans who will talk on "Fingerprints and Murder". Jack trained as a civilian in the Metropolitan

Police to become a Crime Scene Investigator. He will consider three cases where he carried out the crime scene investigations and will continue the stories through to the point where he appeared as an “Expert Witness” at the Old Bailey trials. He assures me that it is nothing like the impression given in various television series.

Then in November, 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.

[Help needed: Bearsted u3a Financial Accounts \(Kevin\)](#)

These will be presented to members at the AGM in November. Unfortunately, the independent examiner we have been using in recent years has had to step back this month, just as the accounts are about to be finalised. We therefore need someone to volunteer to examine the financials, before the end of October. The only caveats are that the independent examiner cannot be a Bearsted u3a committee member, or member of any committee member’s family.

It’s no more than checking bank reconciliations, supporting paperwork and a few necessary simple accounting adjustments, currently recorded via a spreadsheet; a couple of hours’ time maybe. If you are able to do this, please contact our treasurer, Kevin, on kevin.bearstedu3a@icloud.com.

[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 \(Linda\)](#)

As the children go back to school and Adult Education begin their new Autumn term it has always been a time for me to reflect on the new things I want to try or learn. Over the years I have had a go at pottery (hopeless!), Russian composers (not my favourite), flower arranging (relaxing), badminton (exhausting), Italian & Spanish (así así), stained glass work (rewarding). u3a groups have now taken the place of these but I hope I never stop wanting to learn something new. u3a has provided me with the opportunity to continue learning among friends.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that we are starting a **Local History 2** group. This has been a very popular subject in the past and there are already several names on the list so you will need to act quickly if you are interested. 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. The group will meet at Bearsted Library on the 3rd Thursday of the month 10.00 - 11.30 unless a visit has been arranged.

Face the Music now has space for one or two more people. Each month members suggest a particular song based on a theme such as Transport, Winter, Drinks, People's names. There are often some interesting stories to hear as members tell the group what a song means to them.

The **Cryptic Crossword** group is looking for more members. No experience necessary. If you've always thought that cryptic clues are impenetrable then this is the group for you. By understanding how clues are constructed it all starts to make sense. Members are guided through each step. Just come along and try it. You might be surprised to see how addictive it can become.

The **Village Visits** group has space for a few more people too. An opportunity to visit some of the interesting and beautiful villages around our county.

Details of the above can be found on the website where you can apply to join.

We also have a new **Art** group which will be meeting at Bearsted & Thurnham Tennis Club on the 1st Friday of the month 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.

Group Activities

Art Appreciation (Maureen)

I'm relatively new to Bearsted U3A and am thoroughly enjoying the special interest groups. So far, I've joined the existing Geology group & am very much looking forward to the new Ancient History Group.

It was good to be in at the start of Art Appreciation coordinated by Jean Tustin as it gave me a great insight into the philosophy behind the U3A expectation that everyone should play their part. As a relative beginner I was nervous of giving any kind of presentation. I didn't need to be, as the other members of the group were so helpful & supportive.



Last weekend was our first trip out, to investigate the new small art galleries which are popping up in Margate old town. Some of us travelled via train & others by car from varying directions, so our WhatsApp group proved invaluable, especially bearing in mind our continuing Kent roadworks. If your group hasn't set up WhatsApp yet, I would strongly advise you to as it saves so much time & confusion.



The art was varied & gave plenty of scope for discussion. Lunch was great too & the weather was perfect. We all agreed it was an excellent day out and are already planning our next trip.

Foodies Group (Jenny)

The Foodies group had fun this month making a Fraisier cake. Thank you to the mathematician in the group who worked out the quantities and also shared hers with the Recorder group!



Lunch Bunch (Nigel)

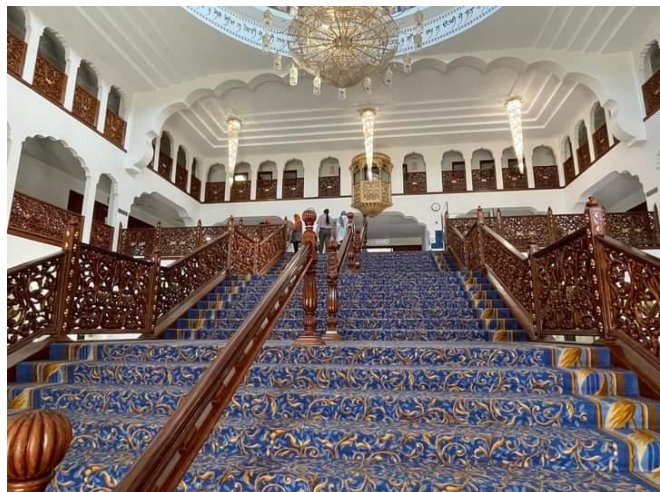
The next lunch meeting is at The Duke Of Wellington, Birling Road, Ryarsh, West Malling ME19 5LS on Tuesday 24th October at the usual time of 12:15 for 12:45.

World Faiths Group (Claire)



On 4 September various members of the 'Exploring World Faiths' group plus various other members of the Bearsted and District u3a visited the Guru Nanak Darbar Sikh temple in Gravesend. It is a stunning building inside and out and one of their

guides gave us a tour. It is one of the largest Sikh temples outside India and provides a place of worship for the 15,000 Sikhs in the area. The building was funded entirely by the local community and reflects the growing confidence of British Sikhs. In addition to the tour, we were given a lovely meal of curry and chapattis. It was a fascinating afternoon and we learnt a lot about the Sikh religion.



Giving visitors a meal is a central part of Sikh tradition. Sikhs from the temple cemented their place in Kent folklore by providing and delivering

thousands of meals to lorry drivers stranded on the M20 in December 2020 because of a border closure at Dover. During the first lockdown the members of the Sikh temple worked round the clock to provide 65,000 meals to those shielding at home, working on the front line and the homeless.



Bad Hair Day at Richborough Roman Fort (Diana - retired Potions Teacher and University Lecturer)



On Tuesday 19th Sept 2023 Local History 1 visited this site. It was the windiest day of the year but we were determined to visit as our previous planned date of 18 July had been scuppered by Network Rail who

closed the access road just on that date. Undeterred, in September we happened to be there at 11am, just as the amazing volunteer guide Lorraine was stepping out with her maps, diagrams and immense knowledge of the site. She was losing her voice shouting in the wind but kept going for about 90 minutes as we asked so many questions. She made the site sing as she explained so much about the Claudian Gate built for the first Roman invasion of England. She also put us right about the order of building the structures.

There were 3 staff there that day and they couldn't have been more helpful. I'm a life member of English Heritage (EH) and one of our group joined up on the spot, having enjoyed the visit so much. I'm gifting Life Membership of EH to my daughters when they get married - seems a very fitting wedding gift. The small museum was great with so many artifacts found during the amphitheatre excavation. We loved all the items of metal jewellery in particular and the well-preserved coins which were larger than we'd expected. We ended up gathered round one of the cabinets, with me giving the group a short explanation about the abundance of the metals of the Periodic Table; and how the Periodic Table is a map of the atom.



For me the highlight of the day was standing on the wooden bridge which represented the start of Watling Street (now A2) going west out of the site ... and the hay "don't look down" toilet.

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)

- 1. Where in the Kingdom of Spain is its highest point?**
- 2. Who wrote "The Ingenious Hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha", published in 1604-5?**
- 3. Sir Francis Drake is said to have singed the king of Spain's beard. Where did this event occur?**
- 4. Which ruler of Portugal died believing that he was still in charge, though he had been deposed 2 years before?**
- 5. In which year were the Moors finally expelled from Iberia?**
- 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?**
- 7. By which treaty did Pope Alexander VI bring about the division of the New World between Spain and Portugal in 1494?**
- 8. Where in the Republic of Portugal is its highest point?**

9. Who was the first king of Portugal, acceding to the throne in 1139?

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

Answers to last month's quiz

1. When was the first official county cricket match played? **12th May 1880. Yorkshire beat Gloucestershire by 8 wickets at Bristol.**

2. How did the term "hat trick" come about? **In 1858 cricketer H H Stephenson took 3 wickets with 3 balls when he was presented with a hat.**

3. What was the highest score in a senior international ice hockey match? **Slovakia beat Bulgaria 82 – 0 on 6th September 2008.**

4. Everton played at home when the first ever English Football League games were played on 8th September 1888. But where was Everton's home ground? **They beat Accrington Stanley 2 – 1 at Anfield.**

5. Who won the first ever men's tennis grand slam tournament? **Englishman Spencer Gore at Wimbledon in 1877.**

6. ... and ladies? **Englishwoman Maud Watson at Wimbledon in 1884.**

7. Gillingham FC are currently the only Kent team in the English top four divisions. But which team, based at Chatham, were in three of the first four FA Cup Finals, winning in 1875? **The Royal Engineers.**

8. Which snooker player scored the first competitive 147 in 1955? **Joe Davis (who else?).**

9. When was the first recorded cricket match between women? The **history of women's cricket** can be traced back to a report in *The Reading Mercury*. On 26 July 1745 a match took place between the villages of Bramley and Hambledon near Guildford in Surrey.

The *Mercury* reported:

"The greatest cricket match that was played in this part of England was on Friday, the 26th of last month, on Gosden Common, near Guildford, between eleven maids of Bramley and eleven maids of Hambledon, all dressed in white. The Bramley maids had blue ribbons and the Hambledon maids red ribbons on their heads. The Bramley girls got 119 notches and the Hambledon girls 127. There was of bothe sexes the greatest number that ever was seen on such an occasion. The girls bowled, batted, ran and catches as well as most men could do in that game." (Thank you, Wikipedia!)

10. ... and football? 9th May 1881 at Easter Road, Edinburgh, between Scottish and English teams. Result not recorded! *The first of these teams, widely considered the first British women's football team, was Mrs Graham's XI, established in Scotland in 1881 by Helen Graham Matthews (who played under the pseudonym Mrs Graham). The team's first recorded match was the game mentioned above.*

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.**

Whilst on the subject of such things Sue, our Business Secretary, has noted and viewed two u3a videos which she found interesting entitled ***u3a In Conversation on Positive Aging Part 1 and Part 2***. The links to them are:

<https://youtu.be/pBYNPbmk2Q?si=SZ-JnZ47cO5dnLo7>

<https://youtu.be/WFWk75OPJek?si=6vuPA7VKEcoqaF70>

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 October 2023 Reminder (Damian)

Please note that the **deadline** for contributions to the November 2023 Reminder is Friday **27th October**. 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.