



Bearsted & District u3a Monthly Reminder for September 2023

Welcome to the September 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 14th September starting at the usual time of 2 pm.

Chair's Chat

There is a very good article on the visit to Kent of the national chair Liz Thackray in this month's Bearsted Community Ad Magazine which I hope will introduce the U3a to a wider audience than we currently have. It is still surprising to find that so many people, particularly those in their third age, are not aware of the U3a and we need more publicity like this to promote our existence and worth in the community. If anyone has any suggestions for more places where we could promote our organisation please get in touch.

I am sorry but Risk Assessments are now required from all groups. These are much less daunting than you think. If any group coordinator would like any assistance, again, please get in touch.

You should have all received details of the Xmas Lunch at the Mercure Great Danes on 8th December. Bookings are now coming in and I hope many of you will come along. This was a regular event pre-pandemic so I think it will be popular and another step towards normality.

Many thanks to Graham for his cabin crew explanation of the fire exits and assembly routines at the last monthly meeting. We have all had these briefings at other meetings or on-board aircraft and tend to be a little casual about fire safety but it is important and we will continue to do it before each meeting. And as Graham said, we hope you will continue to fly with us!!

Kind regards

Jenny

Chair - Bearsted & District u3a

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Speaker Secretary (Richard)

At the August meeting we welcomed Philip Oostenbrink, the head gardener at Walmer Castle. Philip gave us an account of his career so far, following this with a short history of Walmer Castle and its gardens; and explained recent work there under his direction. The net result was that many attendees expressed a wish to visit Walmer.

At our **September** meeting Andrew Baker, a retired headmaster and cruise ship lecturer, will present “British Politics in Turmoil”, looking at the interlocking factors that lie behind the upheaval brought about by, for example, multiple PM’s, Brexit, the financial crash and the pandemic; and how all this shapes our thinking today.

Looking forward to October, we will be joined by Jack Deans, who was employed in a civilian capacity by the Metropolitan Police, working as a forensic investigator. He will be telling the story of three crimes he became involved in, when his forensic investigations contributed to the cases being heard at the Old Bailey where he appeared as an `expert witness`. He will reveal the verdicts in each of these three cases.

Our December Meeting (Jenny)

As mentioned last month our Bearsted and District u3a **10th Anniversary** is this year. The committee has decided to celebrate it with all the members at our Christmas meeting on 14th December 2023. More details will be sent out nearer the time, but 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 (my number is mentioned above in ‘Chair’s Chat’).

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)

There has been a lot of interest in a second **Ancient History** group and this is now fully subscribed. The first meeting will be in September.

There has also been lots of interest in **Pickleball**. We hope to get this new group established very soon although we are still looking for a Coordinator to run it.

We have two people who are willing to start **Fishing** and **Classical Guitar** groups. They do not seem to be as popular as those above but you don't always know what you are going to enjoy until you try it so put your name forward.

The new **Art** group is having its first get together soon to decide how the group will operate. It's not too late to join in whatever your level of expertise.

We recently held our annual lunch for our group coordinators at Aylesford Priory to thank them for all the hard work that they put in in keeping our groups running. The groups are at the heart of u3a but they wouldn't exist without the enthusiasm and commitment of our coordinators.

Several coordinators are leading two groups and deserve extra thanks. Several also serve on the committee too. They always say you should ask a busy person if you want something doing!

Many of our coordinators have told me that they had never contemplated becoming a coordinator until someone else had suggested them but once they started, they realised that it really wasn't that difficult or

onerous. In fact, it is often very rewarding. If we don't offer a group for an interest of yours why not start one yourself.

If you want to join a group or start a new one you can always come and talk to me at our monthly meetings. You will find me at the back of the room at our Interest Groups table. Alternatively, you can email me via the website.

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.

Group Activities

Lunch Bunch (Nigel)

The next lunch meeting is at the Hook and Hatchet, Church Road, Huckling, ME17 1QT on Tuesday 26th September at the usual time of 12:15 for 12:45.

World Faiths Group (Claire)

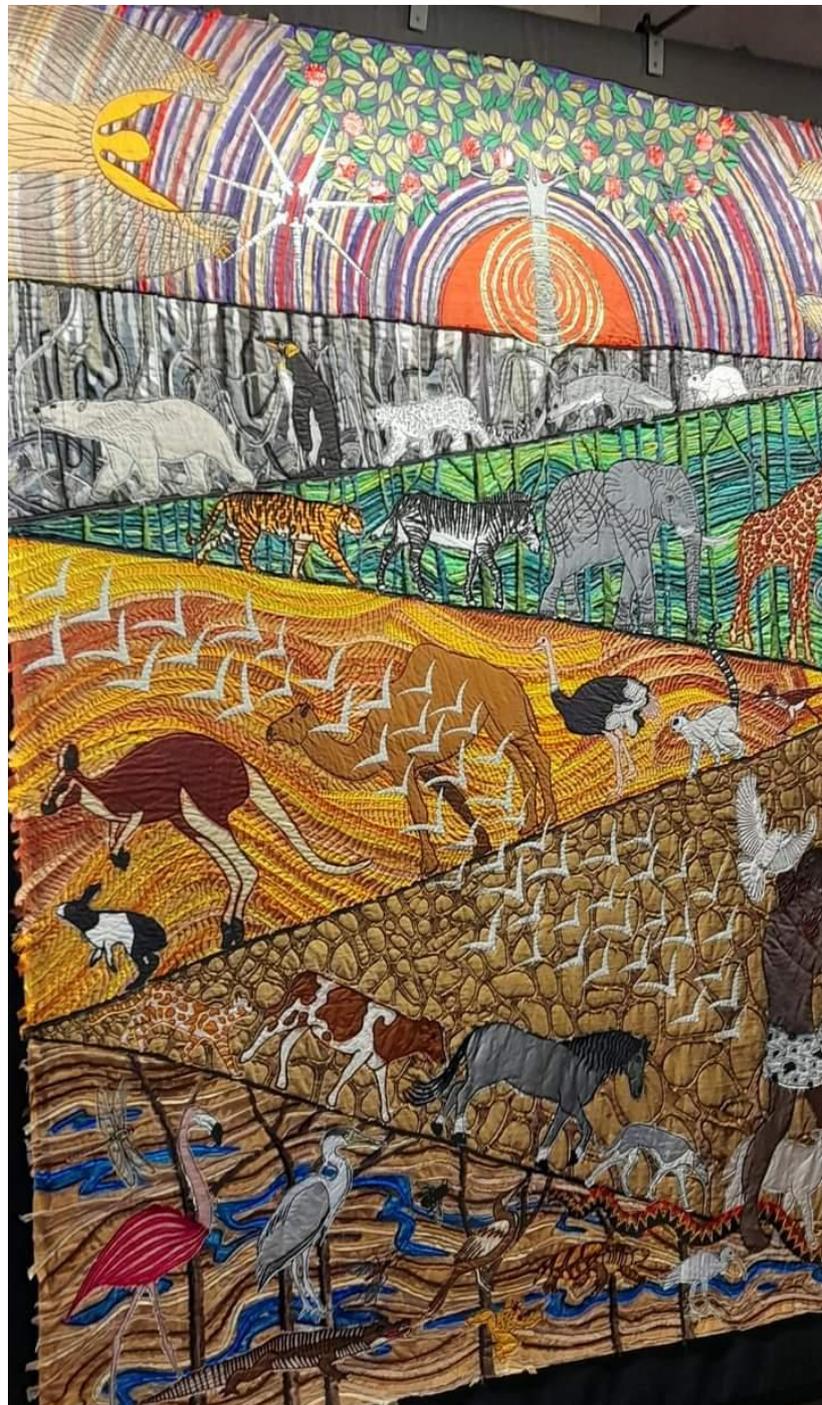
The World Faiths group are having a trip to the Sikh temple in Gravesend on Monday 4 September at 2pm. If you would like to come along, please contact Claire, the Membership Secretary, via the website.

All members of Bearsted and District u3a are welcome.

Craft Group (Sue)

Craft Group went to see *Threads Through Creation* at Rochester Cathedral. The 12 textile panels were spectacular. All sewn by the artist over a period of almost three years. It was a lovely morning and six of us

wondered at the imagination, symbolism and work that had gone into the panels. We saw and read about the Jubilee bog oak table too. The crypt cafe had great homemade cakes and a small exhibition of papier mâché gargoyles and medieval monsters which was fun.



Italian Conversation (Adrian)

In August during the hot weather the Italian Conversation group didn't just meet *al fresco* but met *al bosco*. Arriving for our meeting our host

suggested that we met in the cool of his woods where you can see us. In addition to having a *chiacchierata*, Italian for a chat, we are reading a book called “*Resto qui*” (I am Staying Here) by Marco Balzano. It is based on the village of Curon which was submerged in the 1940s into lake Resia in the Tyrol by Mussolini to provide a water supply. The lake is famous as the church tower sticks out of the lake to this day. The book is about a family of peasant farmers caught up in the fascist regime, the war and the impending submerging of their home. They defiantly stay in the village until forced out by the Nazis. I can’t tell you more as that’s as far as we have got!



Contributions from Members

This month’s Quiz (Damian)

1. **When was the first official county cricket match played?**
2. **How did the term “hat trick” come about?**



Probably not any of these hats!

3. What was the highest score in a senior international ice hockey match?
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?
5. Who won the first ever men's tennis grand slam tournament?
6. ... and ladies?
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?
8. Which snooker player scored the first competitive 147 in 1955?
9. When was the first recorded cricket match between women?
10. ... and football?

Answers to last month's quiz

Inventions

1. In which year was the heat pump invented, and by whom? **William Thompson (Lord Kelvin) in 1851.**
2. Who in 1831 invented the electric generator? **Michael Faraday.**
3. Gottlieb Daimler of Germany invented what in 1885? **The Motor Cycle.**
4. In which year did Peter Goldmark of the US invent the colour (color!) television? **1940.**

5. Italian Bartholomew Fredi invented the watch in which century? **The 15th (in 1462). Apologies - his name is “Manfredi” not “Fredi”.**
6. Mrs WA Cockran of the US invented the automatic dishwasher in which year? **1889.**
7. In which century was the pencil invented by Frenchman Nicholas Jacques Conte? **The 18th (1795).**
8. When did Fang Fen of China invent the universal joint (be surprised!)? **c140 BC.**
9. Denis Papin invented the pressure cooker in which century? **The 17th (1679).**
10. What flying machine did Louis and Jacques Breguet of France invent in 1907? **The Helicopter.**



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 October 2023 Reminder \(Damian\)](#)

Please note that the **deadline** for contributions to the October 2023 Reminder is Friday **29th September**. 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.