

Monthly Meetings

The speaker for the talk on Wednesday 9 June will be Janie Ramsay and is entitled ‘Without Reserve—A World of Antiques’. It will be held via Zoom. Chris Plant will be sending out an email inviting members who wish to attend to contact her.

Now we are hopefully getting back to some normality, we thought it might be helpful to remind members of our monthly meetings calendar. Meetings take place on the second Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. either on Zoom or, once the easing of lockdown has been completed, hopefully in the autumn, at our usual venue, St. Mary Bredin Church, Nunnery Fields. You will be informed when this has been decided.

Monthly meetings are usually scheduled as follows:

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| JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH: with a speaker | APRIL: Annual General Meeting |
| MAY: Annual Open Day | JUNE: with a speaker |
| JULY: Summer gathering such as a strawberry tea or picnic | |
| AUGUST: no monthly meeting | SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER: with a speaker |
| NOVEMBER: Annual Quiz | DECEMBER: Festive Season Celebrations |

Of course, there could be changes to this programme, but this is basically what has worked for our u3a. New ideas are always welcome!



Advice for members attending summer programme courses and activities

We are very grateful to Carol Stewart and Robert Mathews for putting together such an excellent summer programme. And, of course we appreciate the commitment and enthusiasm of tutors and leaders who have given us so much during these last twelve months.

Now, slowly, the clouds are lifting and we are able to look toward face-to-face activities, which will be wonderful news, especially for those who are unable to use Zoom.

Tutors and coordinators are being briefed on their responsibilities according to Third Age Trust guidelines and they are doing everything possible to stay within those and Government guidelines to ensure your safety. While we are talking about guidelines, we want to stress that Canterbury u3a committee is totally committed to adhere to Government guidelines and decisions on easing of lockdown restrictions. We remain flexible and mindful of the fact that there could be last-minute changes to any of our plans.

As always, with privilege comes responsibility. I am sure those of you who are interested in meeting with others for learning and socialising will read carefully the relative entries in the programme.

Each individual will know their own situation and will be able to consider their vulnerability and that of those they may be caring for. We would especially ask that you think about the journey to your chosen activity, prepare for different weather conditions and check any details you are uncertain about with the tutor at the time of booking your place.

Make sure you complete this individual assessment for your own safety and assurance; there is no need to share it with anyone else.

We hope that, as we emerge from the pandemic, we will rediscover the pleasures of learning with others, of renewing friendships and finally getting to meet Zoom colleagues.

Enjoy your summer!



Book Reviews

***The Night Hawks*, by Elly Griffiths**

This is the thirteenth novel in the Dr Ruth Galloway series by Elly Griffiths, and is now out in hardback. Ruth is an academic archaeologist at the University of North Norfolk, in King's Lynn. The wild, bleak and flat North Norfolk coast naturally puts in an appearance as a character, too. Ruth is a single parent, and has a yoyo relationship with the (married) father of her daughter; 'Nelson' also happens to be a senior police officer, who fortunately and repeatedly involves her in his investigations. Ruth is a rounded human character with whom to share adventures. Elly Griffiths's style is full of wry humour, and, through Ruth's predicaments, gives insights into female issues. It also tends towards the mystical, which perhaps reflects the author's Catholic upbringing. This plot involves strange bones being found where they shouldn't be, secrets from the previous generation, and a denouement that at times does strain credulity. However, those who like her will forgive the plot and concentrate on the very real pluses of getting to know Ruth again, back in her Norfolk milieu, and the lively give-and-take among the protagonists. For those who don't know this series, you may have a treat to enjoy—but probably best to start on the first book.

368 pp.

Gina Langford

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***Saturday*, by Ian McEwan**

One of the pleasures of lockdown (yes, there were some for me) has been to re-read favourite books—a pleasure that a busy lifestyle and belonging to two reading groups does not allow for. This is one of those books.

The Saturday is Mayday 2003 in London. When I was young my dad used to take me to Mayday Parades in Zurich. Without fully understanding their meaning I enjoyed the bands and the atmosphere and I became acquainted with the protest movement and the freedom to demonstrate.

Perhaps that is why this novel had such a powerful effect on me. It has protest at its heart and follows neurosurgeon Henry Perrowne, his reluctance to become involved in the march and how his career shapes his life. The story moves swiftly from the opening peace march to more closely personal matters and, if you are interested in the subject of neurosurgery then you will not be disappointed.

If, like me, you were part of that peace march protesting against the US invasion of Iraq, then this book will bring back memories and may reopen questions that you may not have thought about for some time. Opinions can and do change over 18 years, but have we learnt valuable lessons?

I recommend this book; it is a thought-provoking read.

308 pp.

Ursula E. Steiger

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Distance Learning

FutureLearn is a great platform for distance learning. I particularly enjoyed 'Medicine and the Arts, humanising health care'. The next starting date for this is 7 June.

Another, 'Forensic Psychology, Witness Investigation', starts on 5 July. A really fascinating study. These are just two of the courses on offer. The courses are free and you are able to work at your own pace. They have courses in a diverse range of subjects and are always adding more. Courses vary in length and most are six to ten weeks long, but there are some shorter, two- and three-week courses. Google FutureLearn for full details.

Chris Plant

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