

### Message from the Chair:

Dear Friends,

Well, where did that year go?

Last April I received the honour of being voted in as your new Chairman of Canterbury & District u3a. My stated objective was to enjoy myself; and hopefully not be forced to be too serious! I saw my role as continuing to promote the growth and stability of Canterbury u3a and in particular to support the role of all the many volunteers who make things happen. An organisation of this size and complexity relies on many, many volunteers to thrive.

As we head towards the AGM on 12th April, I can say that I have enjoyed engaging with you during many activities ranging from committee meetings to courses to walks to holidays and much more. So, thank you all who have assisted me in so many ways. It has been interesting and fun!

Canterbury u3a is a very positive and dynamic association and I hope you will all come along to the AGM and continue the two-way dialogue that I have enjoyed during this year with you.

Remember, Canterbury u3a is run by the members for the members. I look forward to sharing the AGM with you.

*Robin Terry*

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### Important Dates to remember

#### Wednesday 12 April: Canterbury and District u3a Annual General Meeting:

2 p.m., St Mary Bredin Church, Nunnery Fields, Canterbury. Please come and make your voice heard.

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#### Please note change of date: Open Day

Thursday 18 May: Open Day 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Peter's Methodist Church and Church Hall.

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### Riviera Travel — a reminder

If members arrange a holiday through Riviera Travel; they will give 10% back to u3a, *providing* they mention Canterbury u3a when booking.

To book, to check availability or to request a brochure, call 01283 248304 or visit [U3Ariviera.co.uk](http://U3Ariviera.co.uk)

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### Correction of error: What is nature friendly gardening and why is it important?

Please note that the correct day and date for the above event is Monday 19 June.

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### A couple of Holiday Tales—

#### A Train Ride to Habsburg Coffee Houses in Vienna and Trieste

From the Eurostar, Austrian Railways Nightjet took me to Vienna. I woke at midnight and opened the blind to an illuminated Cologne Cathedral and the bridge over the Rhine.

I arrived at 9 a.m. to the garish new Hauptbahnhof Wien, and took a short stroll through the Belvedere Gardens, past the Staatsoper to the centre of town along streets lined with the best of Art Nouveau and classical architecture.

My favourite coffee house in Vienna is the Hawelka just off Graben, which serves hearty, nutritious goulash soup. That and an Austrian white wine made a warm welcome to Viennese culture.

The next day I visited the Café Museum, and gazed through the window at the iconic Secessionshaus, wishing that Klimt and other painters of his era, regulars in Vienna's golden age, were still here.

After nine hours the train from Vienna approaches Trieste along the clifftop overlooking the bay, with the red-gold sun setting over a motionless, indigo sea. I caught a glimpse of Emperor Maximilian's holiday home on the shore below. The following morning I visited the Antico Café Torinese, my favourite café by far. At a nearby table a Greek Orthodox priest chatting with a bearded youth, comfortable with rosary and espresso, reflected the multicultural nature of this international city.

The next Sunday, I went to the Café Tommaseo for café corretto. Italian irredentists met here in the twenties, struggling to establish their Italian identity in this multi-faceted city. The coffee house essential? — Newspapers on sticks.



The Secession Building, Vienna



Antico Café Torinese



Goulash and white wine.

*Ruth Keene*

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## Marie Antoinette

On the 16 October 1793, the Place de la Révolution (now Place de la Concorde) in Paris was not a good place to be if you were called Marie Antoinette. Then again, having your head chopped off wouldn't have been much fun even in Place Vendôme. At least it would be over in a slash, and it would only happen once. Or would it?

En route from La Rochelle to home in Kent, we decided to break the journey overnight near Le Mans. We know a delightful Château, dating back to the 16th century, roof in the form of 'chapeau d'évêque'. We have stayed there many times; our favourite room is named Marie Antoinette. It is full of furniture from that era, as well as modern artefacts and reproduction artwork relating to the period.

On our last visit, we went out in the evening to a local restaurant to enjoy our last meal in France before facing English fare. We were certainly going to miss the steak tartare and the civet de marcassin.

When we got back to our room, we noticed immediately something seemed different when we opened the door. We soon realised that a large mirror, a genuine Louis XIV, had fallen off the wall and was lying in pieces all over the tiled floor.

We started to pick up the pieces, taking care not to get glass splinters in our fingers. We then lifted up the frame and the backing board. We could find no reason for the mirror to fall.

Then to our surprise, underneath the debris we found a reproduction plaster bust of Marie Antoinette, and just like on that fateful day, over 200 years ago, her head once again had been separated from her shoulders.

My host was quite philosophical about the damage but at least he felt he could glue Marie Antoinette's head back onto her body. Maybe the third time around she'll be lucky enough to keep herself together.

*Chris Anspack*

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**Hidden London.** We're very pleased to say that this outing is now fully booked. Apologies again to those who missed out. If there is anyone who would like to join the waiting list please email us at [outings@u3acanterbury.org.uk](mailto:outings@u3acanterbury.org.uk). The next Outing will hopefully be in July, destination still to be decided.

*Rose and Tim*

## Summer Programme Courses and Activities

Please note that we **do not** publish personal data in this electronic bulletin. To find contact details see the personal copy sent to you by email (or on paper if you do not use email).

### An Exciting New Venture

We have received a wonderful offer from Elizabeth Treweeks who has recently joined Canterbury and District u3a. Elizabeth has a splendid set of handbells and would like to start a handbell choir in the near future. She is an experienced campanologist and handbell ringer and has travelled the world giving concerts.

So that members can have an opportunity to experience how handbells work and whether it is an activity for them, Elizabeth will run three sessions during the summer before forming the choir from interested members in the autumn, when the course will be advertised in our courses and activities programme.

VENUE: Upper Room, St Mary Bredin Church, Nunnery Fields. Parking in Holman's Meadow, or on-street parking in and around Nunnery Fields.

MAXIMUM NUMBER for each session: 16 to 20. Members can attend more than one session.

DATES AND TIMES: Wednesday 26 April, Wednesday 31 May, Wednesday 14 June. 10.30 to 12 noon.

BOOKING for these three sessions will be by email to ursulae@btinternet.com or by ringing Ursula on 01227 711536 after Wednesday 5 April.



### Canterbury Croquet Club

We would like to invite u3a members to a taster session of Croquet and a cup of tea and piece of cake. (Green fee of £5 per session would apply.)

The Club is situated at Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road (A257) Canterbury, CT3 4AF. Buses 11 and 14 stop outside. There are 3 laser level lawns and all the equipment necessary to play.

The taster sessions are to be held on Wednesdays 26th April–10th May and 24th May, starting at 2.00 p.m. If you are interested, please contact Jim Godden.



### Visits to, and research into local War Graves

FOUR SESSIONS 10.30 a.m.–2.30 p.m. with three-week gaps in between: 2 May, 23 May, 13 June and 4 July.

MAXIMUM 12; MINIMUM 6

VENUES: varied, see below

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission calculates that there are over 170,000 war graves in the UK, with a large number in Kent. At each meeting we will visit one or two churchyards or cemeteries (hopefully when the churches are open so that we can enjoy them too) within a 45-minute drive of Canterbury to view a selection of war graves at each site and to discuss the backgrounds of those buried.

After the first meeting each participant will be asked to research a small number of graves at sites that are earmarked for future visits, with a view to presenting their findings to the group at the appropriate time.

We will share cars as far as is possible. Participants should be aware that graveyards can be very uneven and that they will need to wear stout footwear.

There should be time to visit a pub for a snack at lunchtime for those who wish to do so.

Book by email to Lesley. For members without email please telephone Ursula Steiger.



### Linocut taster session

This is a ONE morning taster session in linocut. The aim is for the members to cut and print two designs from a choice of pre-drawn linos. I hope this will encourage members to want to try some more techniques in the future.

WHEN: I am running three separate sessions throughout the summer, on Tuesday 9 May, Tuesday 6 June, and Tuesday 4 July, each between 10.30 a.m. and 1.00 p.m.

VENUE: Sturry. Please note: there are steps to the front door. This will be taking place in my summer house, so only 4 people can attend each session. Light refreshments will be provided.

COST: £5 for materials.

PARKING: on other side of the A28, in Fairview Gardens. Bus route 8 or 8a—alight at Homewood Road.

BOOKING by email. Please state choice of date in preferred order. I will aim to give you your first choice. I will be teaching a five-session course in the main programme to show other ways of creating lino prints. *Sylvia McNally*



## Disco Dancing in the Summertime (When the Weather is High) 2023

For those who want to keep dancing throughout the summer, disco dancing is back. If you've never joined us before, do come along and give it a go. Dance to tunes of the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and even some from this century. If you don't want to dance, come along and tap your feet, do the hand jive or just sit and listen.

WHEN: Wednesday 11 June, 11:15–12:15; Monday 17 July, 11:15–12:15; Tuesday 15 August, 14:00–15:00.

You are invited to attend any of the sessions, or all three if you prefer.

VENUE: Baptist Church Hall, St George's Place, Canterbury. CT1 1UT

MAXIMUM NUMBER: 25, MINIMUM: 10

BOOKINGS by email only — Margaret Scott



## And finally:

### Autumn Holiday to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Sunday 3 September to Thursday 7 September 2023.

With just over a third of the places already booked, there is still good availability of single and double rooms.

We have five days in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight staying in a Four Star hotel on the outskirts of Winchester.

The itinerary includes Stonehenge, Winchester Cathedral, The Hospital of St Cross, Butser Ancient Farm, a day on the Isle of Wight with Osborne House, a day in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, and RHS Wisley on the way home. This is another no-single-supplement holiday.

Cost: £689 per person, which includes the day-ticket to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

Due to a number of factors, there is a limit of 10 double rooms and 15 single rooms on this holiday.

Taking into account the unreliability of the post at the moment, for efficacy, please email me for a copy of the brochure: Helen Natrass.

If you are not connected to the internet, please write requesting the brochure with a stamped addressed envelope to Helen Natrass, 19 St Peter's Grove, Canterbury CT1 2DH.



## Answers to Springtime Quiz

- 1 A puritanical flower (8) — primrose
- 2 On reflection, he was quite lovely but yellow (9) — narcissus
- 3 A morning concert (4, 6) — dawn chorus
- 4 This plant sounds like kidnappers demands (7) — ramsons
- 5 Pigeons' song embraces headless waterfowl for this winger (6) — cuckoo
- 6 This butterfly may be operating about (5, 3) — orange tip
- 7 The whole thing is a pious lady detective (9) — primavera
- 8 A sad carillon (9) — bluebells
- 9 Named from the tip of a volcano to fly in your garden (9) — brimstone
- 10 A bloomer from a line dance (9) — celandine

Thank you for all your contributions, from a couple of sentences up to 250 words.

Keep them coming, as this is your News Bulletin.

Send them to Ursula Steiger: [ursulae@btinternet.com](mailto:ursulae@btinternet.com).

