

Message from the Chair.

Dear Friends,

I hope that you agree that u3a is an invaluable organisation in your life thanks to its unique blend of learning and social participation.

Canterbury u3a membership numbers almost 1,000 members; impressive in an era where people seem to be less likely to join clubs and societies. We are so fortunate that this scale of membership enables a large and diverse range of courses and activities.

However, we must not rest on our laurels. To sustain and grow a movement like ours relies on working together and I thank all of you who willingly make the most of being part of Canterbury u3a by leading the many varied functions and activities. Getting involved and sharing your interests and skills maintains the vigour and confidence vital to sustaining the life of Canterbury u3a. Your participation is invaluable—thank you.

On that note, please come and support our Joining Day on Friday 7 July at St. Peter's Methodist Church CT1 2BE (10.30–12.00). Please encourage anybody you think could benefit from participating in Canterbury u3a. Spread the message that u3a is an opportunity both to lead a group and to learn new skills. All welcome for coffee and friendly conversation.

I also look forward to your company on Wednesday 12 July, at St Mary Bredin, for a light-hearted monthly meeting, commencing at 2.00 p.m., and including Strawberry Tea.

Robin Terry



Important Dates

Tuesday 4 July: Outing to Romney Marsh. Rose and Tim are looking forward to seeing all who have booked for this outing—and there is more below!

Wednesday 12 July 2 p.m. Strawberry Tea and entertainment at St. Mary Bredin Church, Nunnery Fields.

August: There will be no monthly meeting in August.

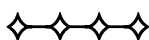
Wednesday 13 September Monthly meeting 2 pm at St Mary Bredin Church, Nunnery Fields. 'Name-Dropping during Forty Years in Show Biz'. Keith Simmons.



Autumn/Winter Courses Programme

We are very aware that members are eagerly waiting for the new courses programme and we can promise you it is stunningly interesting and features 117 courses and activities. We want to be sure that systems for charging fees are working properly and need to run some careful tests which take time, especially as we are relying on technical expertise which we are buying in. Please bear with us, we're working hard to ensure you have the programme within the next couple of weeks.

Your Course Team



The Sussex Coast, our next outing for your diary, on Tuesday 12 September.

The day should be entertaining and easy on the feet. We will be visiting Bramber village and its unique reproduction of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel, Lancing with the soaring Gothic chapel of Lancing College, and the sea front at Worthing. Either a chicken or vegetarian alternative lunch will be provided.

It will be an early start, 8 a.m. at Canterbury Bus Station, and the cost will be £55.

To book a place, please:

EITHER: email outings@u3acanterbury.org.uk with 'Sussex' as the subject, giving your name, membership number, daytime phone number and mobile phone to be used on the outing. Do state if you want an alternative to the chicken lunch or have any dietary requirements.

OR complete the booking form which we will have at the monthly meeting on 12 July and on the next outing.

Bookings will close on Sunday 16 July due to the August holiday month.

Please don't send cheques or pay by bank transfer until we can confirm your place which will be soon after 16 July.

Rose and Tim



Fun with Handbells

Elizabeth Treweeks, who has recently joined Canterbury and District u3a has run three successful taster sessions for would-be Handbell Choir members. We had fun and learnt how to produce sounds from the bells and how to stop them, how to interpret the carefully prepared music and how to play as a team, and how to look after these precious 'musical' instruments. Thank you, Elizabeth, for your hard work, kindness and patience.

Elizabeth will continue in September, so look out for her course in the autumn programme. Anyone can apply whether you have attended the taster sessions or not. *Ursula Steiger*



Book Review

... a brief review of *Small Pleasures* by Clare Chambers:

The novel is set in the 1950s and the central character, Jean, is a 39-year old journalist who is living with her somewhat demanding Mother. Jean has to take her small pleasures where she can. The plot is based on an interest amongst scientists of that time, as to whether a virgin birth is possible. The story is about friendship, love and 'doing the right thing'. It is thought-provoking and a good read. Just wonderful when fiction generates so many questions. How important are small pleasures? Do we under-estimate them? When does a small pleasure become a big pleasure?

Carol Mearles Pay



A summer cricket story: French cricket rules, OK?

Before you turn away from this story because of the title, I need to tell you that I do not intend to explain the rules of cricket to you. They say that 'impossible' does not exist in the French vocabulary, but it does exist in the English dictionary, and, as far as the rules of cricket are concerned, it's an accurate word to use.

My story really begins when I was living in Cambridge and my Parisian girlfriend, Sylvie, would come over via the Eurostar at the weekend. Cambridge is a lovely town, wonderful architecture, some interesting museums, good restaurants and a lively atmosphere. However, on a summer's weekend it could get unbearably crowded with tourists and students so we used to escape to more rural settings.

A favourite haunt was north Norfolk, long sandy beaches, quaint country villages, some great pubs. There were also a few historic buildings to visit, including the Queen's residence, Sandringham House.

The house is situated in Sandringham, a small village, quite remote from other towns and villages. The estate and the countryside around the house are very picturesque. I always found the formal gardens inside the estate too formal, manicured to point of being charmless. The Queen had forbidden weeds to grow in the flower beds and it looks like she had been obeyed.

The house is grim, especially the dining room, where literally scores of heads of deer that have been shot on the estate stare down on you through eyeless skulls. Apparently, Lady Di and Lady Sarah found the place boring, and used to scuttle off to the local gym in the nearby town of Kings Lynn for a bit of living entertainment.

The area is home to a very large population of pheasants. I remember explaining to Sylvie that the pheasants had originally been reared locally and released on the estate for the Royal Family and friends to shoot. However, I told Sylvie that the Royals were very poor shots and many pheasants had escaped into the wild and the population had grown into large numbers. All nonsense, of course, but believed by Sylvie, and, it appears, her Parisian friends.

Cricket lovers are by now getting impatient but hang on. Sandringham has a village cricket team that play on a tree-lined ground on the estate. The standard wasn't great, but they were very enthusiastic. I remember one sunny Sunday afternoon, walking hand in hand with Sylvie around the cricket ground. A lovely scene, a cricket match in progress, players all in pristine white, the chestnut trees in bloom and the grass neatly cut.

There was quite a lot of running and shouting from the players out on the pitch, and I stopped to watch the game. At this point, Sylvie asked me

'When is the match going to start?'

'But it's started', I replied

'But they're all wearing the same white colour', exclaimed Sylvie

You can now understand why I decided not to try to explain the rules of cricket to her.

Chris Anspack



Summer Activities. There are still places on the following:

Note that we do not include personal details in this web version. Your individual copy has contact details.

A walk on Tuesday 11 July at 10:30

Botany Bay Hotel, Kingsgate Ave, Broadstairs. CT10 3LG.

5½ miles

Ever wanted to see John Buchan's actual thirty-nine steps? Or where Billy Bunter lived? Or where 1920s Hollywood golden couples spent their honeymoon? Then put on your walking boots and meet me outside the Botany Bay Hotel. After our walk, we can lunch or have a coffee overlooking the sea.

To BOOK YOUR PLACE please contact Penny Stevens by email or text and leave a contact number.



Charity Shop Bonanza — Tuesday 11 July. —An event repeated after several requests.

We will be meeting outside St Peter's Methodist Church in the High Street at 10.30 a.m. and introducing ourselves to each other. You will then have the chance to browse through the many charity shops and find a gift/gifts for up to £6 for one of the participants. Names will be drawn out of a hat beforehand.

Bring a carrier bag, some old wrapping paper/newspaper and some tape/string. We'll then be meeting up in the Green Room (café) at the Marlowe Theatre at 12 noon and having a bite to eat and exchanging gifts.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 6–8.

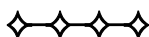
CONTACT: Barbara Rogers, [by email or phone](#)



Spring Holiday — Save the date: 26–30 April 2024

A 5-day holiday over a super-long weekend, Friday to Tuesday, to South Yorkshire with lots of art, history and industrial heritage. More details next month with brochures and booking following on.

Helen Natrass



And here are some Paraprosdokians for you, courtesy of Barbara Vosper

☞ A paraprosdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence, phrase, or larger discourse is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect, sometimes producing an anticlimax. For this reason, it is extremely popular among comedians and satirists such as Groucho Marx. —Wikipedia

- 1 Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- 2 The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
- 3 Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- 4 If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- 5 We never really grow up; we learn only how to act in public.
- 6 War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
- 7 Knowledge is knowing that tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in fruit salad.
- 8 To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- 9 I did not say that it was your fault, I said that I was blaming you.
- 10 You do not need a parachute to skydive; you only need a parachute to skydive twice.
- 11 I used to be indecisive, now I am not so sure.
- 12 Going to church does not make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- 13 You are never too old to learn something stupid.
- 14 In filling out an application, where it says: 'In case of emergency, Notify . . .' I always put 'DOCTOR'.

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.

