
Please note that we do not include personal contact details in this web version. They are available in the personal copy sent to you.

Message from the Chair.

Dear Friends,

In October I had the privilege of representing Canterbury & District u3a at the AGM of The Third Age Trust (TAT), held in Milton Keynes. Christine, Vice Chair, accompanied me in support. We were interested in one of the resolutions put forward for TAT to launch regular national promotional activities to publicise u3a; and are pleased to report that this was passed. National publicity of u3a is critical to sustain the u3a movement which is dependent on a continuing stream of volunteers prepared to lead learning group activities and to join committees. Please do come and have an exploratory chat if you would like to know more.

We next meet on Wednesday 8 November, at St Mary Bredin, for our Annual Quiz. Six members per team please. If you are a new member, then do still come along on the day as we will build new teams and it's a great way of getting to know people.

I also draw your attention to Friday 8 December when we hold our Christmas 'Bring & Share' Lunch at Chartham Village Hall, 12.45 for 1.00 p.m. Please book with me on my phone or email chair@u3acanterbury.org.uk and advise if you are bringing a savoury or sweet dish. Please note we do not have facilities to heat or cook food. We do provide drinks. The lunch is always good fun.

See you soon.

Robin Terry



Important Dates

Friday 3 November. Joining Session 10.30 to 12 noon. Blue Room, St Peter's Methodist Church, St Peter's Street Canterbury CT1 2BE. Please pass this date on to friends who are interested in joining us. New members who have joined on line—please come along and meet us in person. A warm welcome awaits all!

Wednesday 8 November. Annual Quiz 2 p.m. at St Mary Bredin Church, Nunnery Fields, Canterbury. Come along as a team of six or be prepared to join a team with space. This is a friendly and informal afternoon with plenty of fun!

Thursday 16 November. Potential tutors' and group/activity leaders' Workshop. See below.

Wednesday 6 December. Christmas Concert 2 p.m. at St Mary Bredin Church, Nunnery Fields. An informal get together that allows members of our musical activity groups to demonstrate their learning and enjoyment. Be prepared for some surprises! Mince pies and tea to follow.

Friday 8 December'. Christmas Lunch 12.45 for 13.00 at Chartham Village Hall. This is a 'bring and share' lunch and usually a very social, festive occasion.

Creative Activities in Lockdown Research Presentation

There will be a feedback session for all those interested in Canterbury & District's Research Group's Lockdown project on Creative Activities in 2020–21.

The purpose of the research was to document members' experiences of taking part in arts and creative activities during the Covid-19 lockdown, with particular reference to any linked benefits to wellbeing.

The session will be an opportunity to see the results of our research with the chance to ask questions.

Tea or coffee provided. DATE: Friday 1st Dec at 2 p.m. BOOK: email Ann Skingley by Friday 17 Nov.

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

Potential Group/Activity Leaders' and Tutors' Workshop

This event had to be cancelled due to illness and is now re-scheduled for Thursday 16 November from 10.30 to 12 noon. However the venue had to be changed, so please note that the new venue is the Friends' Meeting House, The Friars, Canterbury.

I look forward to seeing all those of you who have expressed an interest in group leadership, whether now or at a later stage. This is an informal information-giving session without any pressure to commit. Please let me know if you are intending to come (01227 711 536 or ursulae@btinternet.com; it helps with the planning as we are providing refreshments.

Ursula



Learning Opportunities

English Folk Song

Next meeting of the new Interest Sharing Group: Thursday 9 November 2.30 to 4 p.m.

At Asda Community Room, Sturry Road, Canterbury.

Several members of the group will be bringing a song to share, with some knowledge about its history, and recorded music and words—help with both is available.

If you would like more information or to book a place please contact Chris Plant by email or phone.

Green Fingers Gardening Group

Look out for more details in the next Bulletins. Planning for an exciting programme is in progress.

U3A Allotment Vacancy

Our Allotment is part of the Pilgrims Allotments, situated on the Barton Estate. The U3A site is a full sized area but divided up into five sections, each being roughly 30 feet by 40 feet.

We have ONE vacant section at the moment. This needs a great deal of work to restore it to a useable state.

We have a shed with a lock which is shared between us, in which we store tools etc.

The rent per person per year is £15.00 plus a one-off cost of £5.00 for a key to the gate.

Note: This is not a group activity. Everyone takes care of their own section. There is no group working.

If interested, please contact Len Hinksman by phone.

and remember . . .

There are talks and short courses provided by the Third Age Trust, our national representative body, for all members. Just visit their website to find out more.

. . . and some more good news—

Christine Plant has agreed to become coordinator for our Interest Sharing Groups. These currently are:

Knit and Natter

u3a Allotment Group

Greenfingers Gardening Group

Two Bridge Groups

English Folk Song

For more information contact Christine by email or phone.



Cinema Interest Group

The Gulbenkian apologises for the delay in notifying details for Saturday 4 November. They have been unable to arrange a speaker. The film shown will be 'The Great Escaper' which will be a great film for members. There is still a £5 ticket offer with the usual U3A promocode.

On Saturday 2 December they will show Shane Meadows' 2004 film 'Dead Man's Shoes' which was re-released recently and Lawrence Jackson, one of their film academics who specialises in British cinema, will be speaking. Take note that it is an 18 certificate with some strong violence.

Both will be on sale on the Gulbenkian website very shortly.

Robin Terry, Chair



Thank you to our Walks Coordinator.

Pam Godden has been our walks coordinator since 2015. She and her team have done a wonderful job at helping all members who can and want to walk to enjoy the beautiful and interesting part of Kent we live in. Since the pandemic participation in walks has sadly declined and organisers who spent a lot of time mapping and planning the walks have often faced disappointingly low numbers of members. Nevertheless, they have continued in their efforts and many members have experienced the pleasure of u3a walks over the years. Pam has now decided to take a well-earned rest and we say a heartfelt THANK YOU to her for all her hard work and the creativity in this role.



Minnis Bay and at Chillenden Windmill

So that walks can stay on our programme we now need a new coordinator or a couple working together, to head up the team of active and committed walk leaders. Pam Godden or I would be happy to talk to anyone who feels they might be able to help. Pam can be reached by phone or by email. My contact details are usteiger@u3acanterbury.org.uk and 01227 711 536.

Please remember that our u3a is run entirely by our members, and we can only offer the activities which members volunteer to lead. Thank you for giving this appeal your consideration.



A December Walk

Tuesday 12 December at 10.30. Meet at Broome Park Hotel car park, CT4 6QX.

Bus 16 from Canterbury will stop outside Broome Park, where you walk 5 minutes to car park.

We walk over the golf course, across Barham to Breach Downs. Then through the wood to Denton (one stile) and finish at Broome Park around 1 p.m. for a coffee or lunch.

If we're lucky, Christmas decorations will be up!

To Book: Texts please to Penny's mobile.

Penny



Book Review: *The Secret Hours* by Mick Herron

The author uses the title of his book several times through his gripping novel of almost 400 pages.

I'm glad people have stopped comparing him to the masterful John le Carré: Herron's story-telling stands on its own merits. The book requires concentration, as any good spy-world story should. The action switches, often seamlessly, between the present—'Monochrome', an enquiry into possible misdoings by the security services and the events that its panel inadvertently put into play—and Berlin in the 1990s after the wall had come down and Germany's reunification had begun.

Although the book stands alone, fans of Herron's world will identify a few of the story's players—even with their names changed, their habits give them away and their appearance will raise a smile of recognition. The structure of the book is different from his earlier novels in that there are no chapters; these are replaced by longer 'parts'. The first part contains an extended put-down of recent PMs and at least one well-known chief political advisor. After this the locus of the story's arc moves in both space and time, coming to a focus in the final part. The plot twists and turns and there was a part of me that didn't want to get to the final pages when at least the bigger questions were answered. Another part of me wanted to read and read and read until it was over. This makes it a book one can heartily recommend.

Bob Newport

A warm 'Hello'

from your new joint Membership Secretaries, Lizzie Arrow & John Wetherell.



We moved to Canterbury from London just over a year ago, and had both recently retired, but our involvement with u3a only began after noticing a sign on the window of the Orange Street office, once we were here.

In November 2022 we joined the choir (Singing for Pleasure) and, early in the New Year, found ourselves approached by Ursula who with consummate charm persuaded us into becoming Committee members.

For the past six months, we've been shadowing Mary Laslett (Membership Secretary). But as from today 1st November she will be taking a well-earned rest from the role, and handing over officially to us.

We've so enjoyed getting to know you, Mary, not to mention how much you've taught us! Now that you'll have fewer commitments with u3a, you must surely be looking forward to spending more time with your family.

We wish you all the best and every happiness.

Mary's untiring efficiency and dedication is a hard act to follow. But we'll give it our best shot, and if any of you reading this have feedback to offer, or questions about membership, recruitment or anything else (u3a-related)—please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Our contact details can be found on your pink membership card.
Or contact both of us on membership@u3acanterbury.org.uk



And finally . . . Cryptic Authors

Chris Anspack thought the Quiz below may interest our book group members in particular and readers generally. Enjoy!

- 1 A sheltered youngster (3, 5)
- 2 Sounds like a new day in the West Country (8, 5)
- 3 Old Queen's hubby and uprooted sumac go together for French scribe (6, 5)
- 4 Possibly a Breton Limey? (5, 6)
- 5 Fish doesn't want to live long it seems (6, 7)
- 6 Wobbly lament after climbing Everest (6, 6)
- 7 French give a cake for this lady (5, 5)
- 8 The square guy (2, 5)
- 9 Remember to firm garden soil before finding nuke (7, 4)
- 10 She found the night would inspire her (5, 6)



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.

