

### GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

On the home page of the Third Age Trust is the slogan 'Learn, Laugh, Live'. I know it doesn't start with L, but I think EG u3a could add Fun to this. For fun is what we've certainly had as we ended 2023. Amongst other activities we enjoyed Bavarian Curling, Glass Decorating and making Festive Wreaths.

Then, of course, there was our lovely Christmas Party when, as well as being entertained with music by the Ukulele and Hand Bells groups, we had the fun of the Beetle Drive! Ten days before Christmas we enjoyed the concert from our Singing for Pleasure group, with lovely music and a delicious afternoon tea.

I know that many of you had celebrations in your groups with festive food at your December meeting or lunch at a local pub.

Our Facebook page has reflected these events with colourful photos. If you aren't a member of our private Facebook group – EGU3A - then do think about joining.

I wish all our members a very happy and fun-filled 2024!

Best wishes,

*Susan Hodgson*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**HUB MEETINGS: 2.30pm – Meridian Hall  
(Doors open at 2.00pm)**

At our monthly Hub meetings you are invited to listen to an interesting talk on a variety of topics, as well as having the opportunity to chat with u3s friends over a cup of tea and biscuits. You can also meet members of the committee and group leaders. We welcome visitors to the Hub, who are interested in finding out what EG u3a has to offer.

Date	Event
Thur 24th Jan 2024 (TBC)	Ten Pin Bowling
Wed 7th Feb 2024	February Hub Meeting: "Sextant to Sat Nav Part 2" by Peter Griffiths
Wed 6th Mar 2024	March Hub Meeting: "America's Presidents in Bits & Pieces" by Joe Mendell
Wed 3rd Apr 2024	April Hub Meeting: "The Life of Tommy Cooper", a talk by John Field
Wed 1st May 2024	May Hub Meeting: "A Sussex Farm during the 1950's" a talk by Ian Everest
10th & 13th May 2024	Lawn Bowls: Instruction and a game, tea and cakes
Wed 5th June 2024	June Hub Meeting: "Waterloo" a talk by Rod MacArthur

### A message from your Membership Secretary

Thank you so much to everyone who renewed their membership this year in such a timely fashion and welcome to all our new members too.

Did you know that if your circumstances have changed, for example, address, telephone number, Gift Aid status, emergency contact details, etc, you can change them either online via the Beacon Portal or notify me by email or letter. It would be extremely helpful if as many of you as possible with online access could register on the Beacon Portal, details of how to do this can be found by following the link on the membership page of our website, otherwise please look out for an email from me in the new year when I will explain in a bit more detail.

Best wishes and a Happy New Year to you all.

Katrina Whitfield (Membership Secretary)

Email: [memsec@eastgrinsteadu3a.co.uk](mailto:memsec@eastgrinsteadu3a.co.uk)

*Happy  
New Year*

### AGM : Nov 22nd

Many thanks to the Tea Gang and all the members who brought cakes in to serve at the AGM – there were many comments on how delicious the cakes were. It was a well attended event and the Tea Gang worked their socks off behind the scenes.

Veronica Edney

# Group News

## Try Something New

Over the last two months Try Something New Group members have taken part in a wide range of activities. We tried our hand at Archery, got creative at Glass Art, encouraged our bodies to strike some new Yoga poses and took to the ice for Bavarian Curling. We have a group lunch at Rocca booked for January with Pickleball and Escape Rooms planned for February. Here are a few photos from Archery, Wreath Making and Glass Art.

Sandra Webb



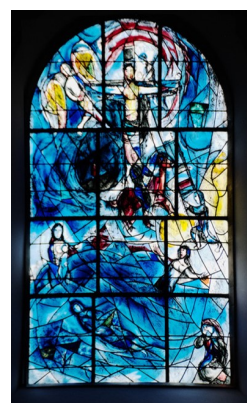
## Out and About Group 3

We had a great visit to Tudely Church on October 13<sup>th</sup>. The stained-glass windows which were designed and created by Marc Chagall are truly amazing, and well worth a visit. Daphne, our guide gave us an excellent informative talk about the background to the creation of the windows, and the techniques which Chagall used.

We then went to Teapot Island, a great café in Yalding with the Teapot Museum attached.

After lunch we visited the fascinating museum – room after room of teapots of every shape and size!

Lynne Fallowell



## Singing for Pleasure

The choir would like to thank everyone who came to our Christmas concert and helped us raise an amazing **£821 for Jigsaw**, a wonderful local charity based at East Court. Jigsaw offers grief support to children and young people who have experienced the death of a significant family member. They also provide support to children and young people who have a family member with a life-limiting condition.

We must particularly thank our lovely Welsh members Anne, Kath and Sue who sang a verse of *Sospan Fach* in Welsh and the members of our Ukulele group who accompanied some of the carols.

Choir rehearsals will restart at Ashurst Village Hall on Friday January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00, when we will be starting a new repertoire of pieces in preparation for our next concert in the spring and will be pleased to welcome new members.

Judy Mendell



*And to round off the report, the last word comes from our u3a EG Chair, Susan Hodgson, who also attended the concert:*

The Singing for Pleasure Christmas concert was thoroughly enjoyed by an appreciative audience. We were entertained to a wide range of songs and also encouraged to join in the singing of carols. As always there was a delicious afternoon tea to enjoy at the interval. It was a lovely afternoon. Thanks to everyone involved.



# Group News

## Mahjong

We have an active group of mahjong players - we meet from 2 - 4 pm on Thursdays at the Kings Centre. Pictures show that we have great fun, have recently had a Christmas meal together, and looking forward to our first meeting in the New Year on 4th January 2024. Training and support is offered to all new players.

Lin Challis Group leader



## Handbell ringing

We have just finished a very busy season playing our bells for Christmas. With some new ringers and with doubling up we have played 8 bells comfortably and were well received by our audiences in the Felbridge WI group, the u3a party, the Motor Neurone Disease party at Turners Hill, and Stildon nursing home in East Grinstead.

The change ringing at Lingfield Lodge and St Swithun's craft fairs went well. In the Church we started at 9.45 and finished at 2.45 with a couple of short breaks for the church choir to sing and their saxophonist to play. Many volunteers to have a go!

We start back on the 4th January, and are looking forward to playing 12 bell music and we would welcome new members!

Marilyn Emmett

If you are interested in joining any of the u3a's groups, please do not hesitate to contact the Group Leader via our Website online, where full details can be found, or if you do not have access to the internet please ring **Janet Taylor** (Group Leaders' Co-ordinator) on 07771715787, who will put you in touch with the appropriate Group Leader.

## All Seasons Walking Group

We couldn't resist taking this photo on a recent walk on a public footpath through Bletchingley Golf Course.



Richard Argyle



*They do look a scary lot!!*

*Editor*

## Water activities

After a very pleasant time paddling on Hedgecourt Lake on mostly sunny Friday afternoons, we broke up at the beginning of December with a little party in the club house. We have enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of Hedgecourt with all the bird life, and even some ice at the end!

We have another two-man boat from Crawley Mariners to add to our rack, and we have had to buy all new buoyancy aids for us, and a few buoyancy bags for some boats, to meet with present day safety requirements. My sailing dinghy has been receiving some TLC ready to go on the Lake some time next year.

We plan to return in the spring when the air and water is warmer, probably in April.

Marilyn Emmett

## EG u3a Christmas Party

Thanks to Gary Wood and the rest of the Committee who all pitched in to help organise this event.



The Tea Gang served refreshments and we had some brilliant festive entertainment from the Ukulele and Handbell Groups, plus a Beetle Drive and a Raffle. Thanks to everyone for making this a successful event.