



## News from the Chair

I do hope you are keeping warm and dry in this winter weather. Now the clocks have gone back, we have the longer evenings and maybe time to catch up on those indoor tasks, read a book, sew and embroider and make Christmas Presents.

Jacquie and Jill, our group coordinators, have been busy visiting many of the groups and I have managed a few. It has been very interesting to learn how the groups work and see what you all do.

A big thank you to all the group leaders for their organizational skills and to the participants who enjoy the activity and join in to make each group individual and fun.

Cliff our Speaker coordinator, has done a sterling job of obtaining interesting and varied people to our monthly meetings. Sue our Membership coordinator, Andrew our Treasurer, Sue G for the Newsletter, Shan our Secretary, Barry and Mike have all contributed and worked hard over the past year in planning and organizing the U3A Faversham and District I am sure you join me in thanking them for all they do in ensuring we “learn, laugh and live”.

We must thank the Tea and Coffee ladies who provide our drinks at the monthly meetings. A warm drink over a chat with friends is very much appreciated by all who attend. Thank you.

Our Christmas meeting is on 20<sup>th</sup> December and takes the usual form of a Quiz. A fun light-hearted afternoon with nibbles and sweets to get us in the mood for Christmas and all it brings.

I wish you a Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.  
Best wishes,

*Jenny*

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## Group Coordinator's Report December 2023

We have 47 active interest groups; just over half are full and I see this as a success that we have so many established groups where people want to stay. We have also managed to reduce the numbers on the waiting lists so there are only four groups with more than two people waiting. That means there are still 24 groups with spaces for new members. Groups which would appreciate a few additional members are Art, Board Games, Film Making, Golf, iPhone and iPad, Spanish and Tennis.

I am pleased to tell you that the Walking group has begun again, this time under the leadership of Ann and David. Val has set up the third Discussion group, called Discussion3, and spoke at the recent monthly meeting to advertise it with the result that it is now full.

Two of the groups which have had the longest waiting lists are the Art Appreciation and Art History groups but there is a good chance that a third group will begin in the new year. Those members on the two waiting lists will be given first chance to join but, if there are any spaces left, these will be open to other members.

There will be a meeting for all interest group leaders at the Guildhall on Tuesday 30 January, 10:30 – 12:00. The idea is to meet other group leaders and members of the committee to discuss any issues they are encountering or successes they have had. I will write to the leaders in the new year with the agenda and ask for RSVPs, so we have some idea for catering.

The national u3a is advertising all the opportunities for online learning in the flyer on the next page.

There will no newsletter in January, but you can always contact me via email on [group.coordinator.fadu3a@gmail.com](mailto:group.coordinator.fadu3a@gmail.com)

Jacquie Dabnor, joint group coordinator

# Get the u3a online events straight to your inbox every month

Sign up to the u3a online events mailing list to be kept up to date on all the free opportunities on offer

By clicking 'subscribe here' at the top of the u3a online events webpage, you can enjoy online learning events for members across the movement. These events are open to all u3a members to enjoy for free.

Group leaders and members might be interested in offering a talk for the wider u3a community. If so, please get in touch at [learning@u3a.org.uk](mailto:learning@u3a.org.uk) .

**Featured Event: The Art of William Morris** Wednesday 6th December, 2pm

A journey into the incredible work and beautiful art of William Morris

by Helen Elletson, Senior Curator at the Emery Walker Trust .

## u3a Interest Groups Online

### The group you're interested in is just one click away'

You can enhance your u3a experience by joining Interest Groups Online (IGO) on the national u3a website.

IGO is an optional addition to your local membership and offers the opportunity to join groups from the comfort of your own home via Zoom.

IGO is perfect for those seeking to share a niche interest with others, those wanting to connect with people from other areas and those who simply want more accessible opportunities during the winter months. You can join existing groups or will be supported to start your own.

View the groups on offer with topics ranging from a Jane Austen Reading group to Science in the News.

A year's membership of Interest Groups Online costs £12, joining now will cost £6 and give you access to groups until April 2024.

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## Monthly Speakers

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
**Our annual Christmas Quiz**

Wednesday 17th January 2024  
Simon Waterfield is coming to talk about the  
**Tolpuddle Martyrs**

Wednesday 21st February 2024  
Simon Newcombe is coming to talk about the history of the  
English countryside.  
**"A walk in the woods will never be the same again"**

*Cliff Holroyd*

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### **Calling all Groups**

Have you a tale to tell?

Interesting, amusing or a picture or two to show us all  
what makes your group “tick”.

Contact the Editor at:  
[gunnersue564@gmail.com](mailto:gunnersue564@gmail.com)

For those interested in writing & storytelling, you may like to contact Marcia (below) for more information and/or the regular newsletter.

## u3a Creative Writing Newsletter September 2023

### Subject Adviser:

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This edition marks 10 years since I became Creative Writing Adviser. My predecessor, **Maggie Smith**, is still active in u3a, as you will see from her article on page two.

**Crediton leader Lynne Carroll** regularly writes short stories for women's magazines. She is on the panel of regional judges for the u3a Short Story Competition, having been winner in 2021. On page 3 is the first article in her proposed series giving tips for successful writing.

This year's **Wenlock Olympian Short Story Competition** is announced on page four.

Congratulations to the winners of this year's u3a **Short Story Competition**. The organisers took on your feedback & there were many more entries this year. The standard was good & the scoring close, so 2 entrants share second prize:-

- |                             |               |                    |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. <b>Laurene Henderson</b> | (Wissey u3a)  | See Emily Play.    |
| 2. <b>Jane Guinery</b>      | (Malvern u3a) | Colours in the Fog |
| 2. <b>Lynne Patrick</b>     | (Witney u3a)  | Moving On          |

To read the stories, look on the u3a's national website.

**Writing prompt :-** A chance remark

**Marcia**

### Change of contact details ?

Please let me know if your address or group leader changes, or you no longer wish to receive Newsletters. I will alert u3a Office, which sends them to you.

E-mails are the simplest way to collect Newsletter entries. Please find someone willing to copy your work & e-mail it to me if you have no access to a computer.

If you write a letter that needs a reply, please remember to enclose s.a.e.

If you'd prefer a Word version of the Newsletter, please let me know.

**Marcia**



Dear Kent Residents,

As the number of scams continue to increase, as anyone can be a victim of a scam, it is important to stay alert and follow our guidance.

This advice is received from Kent Police or Kent County Council Public Protection

- ⊖ Reputable traders and contractors do not cold-call for business and they will NEVER ask you to go to the bank or cash point.
- ⊖ If you receive a scam phone call, hang up and don't return their calls. NEVER disclose any personal information such as bank details, no matter who the person claims to be.

Get free advice from Citizens Advice 0808 223 1133 Report scams to Action Fraud 0300 123 2040

## LATEST SCAM INFORMATION FROM KCC

### Cold Caller Alert

Kent Police have received information of cold callers in the Dartford area impersonating HMRC personnel using fake ID badges. These criminals may be operating in other areas in Kent so please be alert.

They state you owe money to HMRC and try to get you to pay in person or via a telephone number. If you're concerned about someone calling at your home, don't open your door. Do not engage with anyone impersonating HMRC as they do not conduct home visits.

Any concerns report a non-urgent crime [online](#) or talk to Kent Police on [LiveChat – available 24/7](#).

If you think that you may have been a victim of this, then contact your bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159

### Winter doorstep crime scams

For homeowners, the prospect of winter means a review of any work needed to make sure your home is watertight and prepared for any possible storm. Doorstep Criminals know this, and will be looking to target you.

They will knock at your door and offer: Gutter cleaning, Roof repairs or cleaning, Driveway cleaning or maintenance, Tree felling or garden work. They use high-pressure or scare tactics and tell you they can do it for a good price - but only if you agree now. The work they carry out will be overpriced, unnecessary and of poor quality Never agree to have work done by cold callers.

**Plan now, what work do you need?** - Find a safe local trader using [Trading Standards Checked](#)

Get three quotes, Look out for neighbours and friends, report any cold callers to Kent Police on 101.

### Fake Toys

Did you know that fake toys often have toxic chemicals?

One of the most common toxic metals found in counterfeit toys is lead. Lead exposure is particularly dangerous for children, as their brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to lead's harmful effects. Fake toys are also made with low-quality materials which often contain loose parts or sharp edges. Giving fake toys to children could have serious consequences, and could lead to choking, burns, damage to hearing, or even strangulation.

If you have information about fake products, tell CrimeStoppers what you know. You stay 100% anonymous. Always. No one will know you've spoken up, but what you tell us could make a big difference.

**Other scams happening:** Text scam impersonating EE with fake prize offer  
Kent residents targeted with timeshare scam

## Committee Members Contact Details

|                              |                                |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Chair                        | Jenny Gurney                   | <a href="mailto:chairjgfadu3a@gmail.com">chairjgfadu3a@gmail.com</a>                       |
| Vice-Chair                   | Vacancy                        |  |
| Secretary                    | Shan Probert                   | <a href="mailto:secfadu3a@gmail.com">secfadu3a@gmail.com</a>                               |
| Treasurer                    | Andrew Holden                  | <a href="mailto:treasurerfadu3a@outlook.com">treasurerfadu3a@outlook.com</a>               |
| Interest Group Co-Ordinators | Jacquie Dabnor & Jill Chalkley | <a href="mailto:group.coordinator.fadu3a@gmail.com">group.coordinator.fadu3a@gmail.com</a> |
| Membership Secretary         | Susan Lane                     | <a href="mailto:memsec2fadu3a@gmail.com">memsec2fadu3a@gmail.com</a>                       |
| Newsletter Editor            | Sue Gunner                     | <a href="mailto:gunnersue564@gmail.com">gunnersue564@gmail.com</a>                         |
| Speakers                     | Cliff Holroyd                  | <a href="mailto:cliffhol@gmail.com">cliffhol@gmail.com</a>                                 |
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Website: [Faversham & District u3a: Home](#)

Are you on Facebook? Do join us, we now have over seventy members.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FavershamU3A>

Charity Number: 1175180