

News from the Chair

Dear All

The meeting last Wednesday was enjoyed by us all and opened our eyes to the countryside around us. It is lovely to see the bulbs coming through and the buds on the shrubs and trees beginning to open.

We had a well attended Leaders coffee morning in January where the process of Beacon on the internet was talked through. It was good to meet and share how the various groups work and to thank them for all they do in organising the groups that we all enjoy

.
A new members meeting is arranged in March for all the newcomers we welcomed in the year 2023.

It will be good to get to know you better and to learn about your experience in joining Faversham and District U3A.

The U3A movement is planning on having a stall at the Kent Show this July and are looking for volunteers to man the stall. If you are interested, please let a committee member know.

This year's Festival is being held in York, also in July. Further details are in the Magazine that you receive.

Best wishes

Jenny

GROUPS COORDINATOR'S REPORT MARCH 2024

Firstly, Jill and I have shared the Group Coordinator's role but Jill is stepping down so I am now the Groups Coordinator. The email address remains the same and Jill has kindly volunteered to continue to print off all the forms we use – the job I dislike.

I said recently it would be great to have 50 interest groups, I thought it might take some time, but I am delighted to say there are now 53 active and proposed!

I'd like to mention the four new ones:

🗒 Classical Music Ensemble – I mentioned last month that Killara is hoping find classical music players who would like to play with others for fun.

🗒 Participants must have their own instruments and be able to sight read. No grade is specified, but ideally around grade 5 level or above would be helpful.

🗒 Steven also wants to start a music group for people who play or would like to learn to play the ukulele or guitar to play popular music together. Steven is based in Dunkirk but there is the possibility of holding the sessions at the Market Inn.

🗒 The Mahjong for Beginners is going really well and now Chris is offering to run monthly Mahjong sessions for experienced players, using the BMJA rules.

🗒 Some groups take a few months to establish but I think this final new group is going to be very popular from the start – the Fun Lunch and Quiz group.

🗒 Eddy and Gillian are going to co-host monthly lunches where there will be a themed quiz, which they will set, but will ask diners to also bring in their own additional questions.

If you are interested in joining any of these or other interest groups, please contact me on group.coordinator.fadu3a@gmail.com, via the website or sign up at a monthly meeting.

Below is the list of interest groups, with venue, time, etc. and whether there are spaces for people to join. As ever, when there are four or more names on a waiting list, I encourage one or more of them to set up a parallel group.

Jacquie Dabnor, Groups Coordinator

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GROUP	LEADER	MEETS	TIME	VENUE		NO. IN GROUP	MAX NO.
Allotment No Dig	Ann	Various	Various	Millfield allotment 35a	FULL	5	5
Allotment Dig	Wendy	Various	Various	Millfield allotment 62a		4	6
Art Appreciation	Nina	1 st Wednesday	14:00-15:30	William Gibbs Court	FULL	8	8
Art and Life Drawing	Sue	Every Monday	13:00 – 16:00	Newnham Village Hall		9	20
Art History	Yvonne	4th Monday	12:00-14:00	Bear Inn	FULL	8	8
Birding	Kit, Sue and Maggie	Various	Various	Various		32	38
Board Games	Moira	2nd Thursday	18:30– 20:30	Railway Hotel	FULL	8	8
Book Group Monday	Sue	4th Monday	14:00 – 16:00	Sun Inn	FULL	12	12
Book Group Wednesday	Marion	2 nd Wednesday	11:00 – 13:00	Gunpowder Mill	FULL	8	8
Book Group Thursday	Ann	2 nd Thursday	11:00 – 13:00	Creek Creative Cafe	FULL	10	10
Bridge Club	Hilary	Every Thursday	13:30 – 16:00	Market Inn		20	X
Bus to Walk	Kyrenia	Every 4-6 weeks	Various	Various	FULL	12	12
Cinema	Jane	Various	Various	Royal Cinema & other venues	FULL	20	20
Craft	Jenny	1 st Tuesday	10:00-12:00	Creek Creative Cafe		12	15
Classical Music Ensemble	Killara	4 Thursdays initially	10:00 – 11:30	Athelstan Road		2	6
Cycling	Colin	Every Mon & Wed	11:00	From Aldred Road		14	X
Discussion3	Val	3 rd Thursday	11:00 – 12:30	Bear Inn		5	7
Family History	James	3 rd Friday	10:00 – 11.30	Creek Creative Cafe	FULL	10	10
Flower Arranging	Ros	3 rd Thursday	10:00 – 12:00	Sheldwich	FULL	10	10
Folk Music Appreciation	Martin	1 st Tuesday pm	14:00 – 16:00	Sittingbourne or zoom	FULL	11	10
French Chat	Shelagh	Alternate Mondays	14:00 – 15:30	Mountfield, Faversham	FULL	4	4
French Conversation	Mike	Every Thursday	10:30 – 12:00	Bear Inn		7	8
French Conversation 2	Peter	Thursdays	14:00 – 16:00	New Creek Road, Faversham		4	6
German	Susan	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays	14:00 – 16:00	Secret Garden		5	6
Golf for Men	Ray	1 st and 3 rd Mondays	Mornings	Faversham and Boughton golf clubs		5	X
Golf for Women	Terri	Every Friday	Various	Boughton golf club		5	X
History4U	John	1 st Tuesday	10:00 – 12:30	Secret Garden	FULL	20	20
IPad and iPhone	Sheila	Last Tuesday	13:00 – 15:00	Railway Hotel		6	8
Jazz Appreciation	Val	1 st Wednesday	14:00 – 16:00	The Umbrella Centre	FULL	12	12
Knitting and Crochet for Charity	Carole	Every Thursday	14:00 – 16:00	Secret Garden		14	X

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Looking at Art	Marion	3 rd Tuesday	14:00 – 16:00	Preston Grove	FULL	8	8
Lunch Club	Ruth	1 st Wednesday	Various	Various	FULL	40	40
Lunch and Quiz	Eddy and Gillian	Monthly	tbc	Preston Street		5	8
Mahjong for Experienced Players	Chris	Monthly	tbc	tbc		1	4
Mahjong for Beginners	Eddy	Alternate Tuesdays	12:00 - 14:00	Railway Hotel	FULL	10	10
Not Too Serious Discussion	Jacque	2 nd Wednesday	14:00 – 15:30	William Gibbs Court	FULL	7	7
1-1 Technical Support	Geoff	As and when				1	
Pickleball	John	Every Monday	14:00 – 15:30	Teynham Village Hall	FULL	12	12
Plants and Gardens	Babs	2nd Thursday	10:30 – 12:00	Physic Garden, Various	FULL	34	30
Play Reading	Eddy	Last Friday	11:00 – 12:30	Preston Street		7	10
Reading group	Vicky	2 nd Monday	10:30-12:00	Secret Garden	FULL	8	8
Rummikub Tuesdays	Shelagh	Every Tuesday	14:00 – 16:00	Railway Tavern	FULL	11	10
Rummikub Wednesdays	Shelagh	Every Wednesday	14:00 – 16:00	Railway Tavern	FULL	11	11
Scrabble	Priscilla	4 Thursdays, Nov & March	14:00 – 16:30	Ospringe Place	FULL	8	8
Slow Stitching Group	Jill	1 st and 3 rd Monday	14:00– 16:00	Secret Garden		9	10
Spanish	Gillian	Alternate Wednesdays	14:00 – 16:00	Santando, Sittingbourne		3	6
Strolling	Ruth	Monthly, various days	10:00 – 12:00	Various		60	X
Table Tennis	Jane	Every Thursday	10:00 – 12:00	West Faversham Com. Centre	FULL	22	18
Tennis	Geoff	Every Monday	10:00 – 12:00	Sittingbourne and Faversham		8	12
Ukelele and Guitar	Steven Parry	Monthly	tbc	Boughton		1	
The Other Discussion Group	Gill	4th Tuesday	14:00 – 15:30	Ashford Road		6	7
Walking Group	Ann and David	Monthly	Various	Various	FULL	45	45

Monthly Speakers

Wednesday 20th March

Melanie Gibson-Barton

The life and times of Edith Cavell

This is a presentation exploring the story of the British heroine who died in Brussels in 1925.

Wednesday 17th April

Heather Carolan K.C.C. Social Services

Heather works within the Adult Social Care team at Kent County Council and will talk to us about social care topics such as maintaining your independence, supporting carers and where to find resources.

Wednesday May 15th

Jane Scotchmer

Some of you may remember that Jane visited us last October and gave us a very interesting talk about her travels in Burma/Myanmar. Jane has several other presentations and closer to the time I will update you on which topic she will be talking to us about .

Wednesday June 19th

Lesley Griffiths

Lesley will be talking to us about the important work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and its educational charity the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation.

Plus information about the large number of local graves

In Kent.

[Continued/.....](#)

Wednesday July 17th

Philip Waite

Philip is a retired RAF Police sergeant who served for 22 years in the UK and Germany, and on a special squadron undertaking Royal visits. Ministerial and VVIP duties. He has some interesting tales to tell.

Wednesday August 21st

Informal meeting

This meeting is an informal meeting with a Quiz or some other exciting event to be confirmed!



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

Residents have reported two men knocking on doors in Dover offering to clear blocked drains. They were also asking questions about whether the residents lived alone.

Never respond to cold callers. To find a safe, local trader visit: [Trading Standards Checked](#)

- **Report it** - Kent Police on 101 or 999 if the callers are aggressive or refuse to leave.
- **Get advice** from Citizens Advice on 0808 223 1133.

Ever received a letter demanding payment from a solicitor, not meant for you?

A Kent resident has reported receiving letters from a solicitor. The request for payment was due to an incident where petrol was not paid for at a filling station. The letters threatened a CCJ (County Court Judgment). If it wasn't paid, they would be sending bailiffs to the property. While this was an error, the resident did not want bailiffs at his home. After repeated attempts to contact the solicitor, they still haven't heard back.

This could be a scam to try and get you to pay money or identity theft where a fraudster using your personal details to commit offences.

Dog owners in Kent are being urged to keep control of their pets in the countryside following a rise in attacks on sheep.

As the lambing season gets under way, the National Farmers' Union (NFU), Kent Police and Kent Trading Standards are working together to urge pet owners to obey the Countryside Code and

Kent resident scammed on football betting site

After winning on the site, they were unable to withdraw their funds or their deposit. When they tried to contact the support, no one has responded, and resident has lost their deposit money and winnings.

Recognising a scam website:

- you suspect you're not dealing with a real company – for example, if there's no postal address
- you've been asked to transfer money quickly
- you've been asked to pay in an unusual way – for example, by iTunes vouchers or through a transfer service like MoneyGram or Western Union
- you've been asked to give away personal information like passwords or PINs
- you haven't had written confirmation of what's been agreed

For advice and to report contact Citizens Advice on consumer helpline 0808 223 1133 or [visit their website](#)

Membership fees for 2024/25

Your annual U3A membership fees become due from April 2024.

Our fees for next year will continue at £20.00/person for a full year. In line with our normal practice, membership fees for 2024/25 can be paid anytime from March onwards.

We will again be issuing membership cards and you will need to bring these to our monthly meetings, where they will be checked on arrival. New cards will be available for collection at the March and subsequent meetings held at the West Faversham Community Centre.

At the March meeting we will be available from 12.45 to collect your membership fees and issue your new membership cards.

As our local bank has closed, we are asking members to pay either via bank transfer or cheque (not cash). Payment can be made at our monthly meetings or electronically.

If paying via bank transfer bank details are:

Lloyds Bank Sort Code	30-99-08
Account number	23479060
Account name	Faversham and District U3A.

If paying by cheque:

This needs to be payable to the "Faversham and District U3A" and handed over at our monthly meetings.

Any current member who has not paid by the end of April will be removed from membership of our U3A and any groups you might have been a member of.

Finally, could I ask that those who have not completed a Gift Aid form for your membership fee, you consider doing so, as it increases our income by 25% at no cost to the individual (but you do have to be a UK taxpayer), I will happily supply forms if required (or they are available on our website).

Andrew Holden

Committee Members Contact Details

Chair	Jenny Gurney	chairjgfadu3a@gmail.com
Vice-Chair	Vacancy	
Secretary	Shan Probert	secfadu3a@gmail.com
Treasurer	Andrew Holden	treasurerfadu3a@outlook.com
Interest Group Co-Ordinator	Jacque Dabnor	group.coordinator.fadu3a@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Susan Lane	memsec2fadu3a@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Sue Gunner	gunnersue564@gmail.com
Speakers	Cliff Holroyd	cliffhol@gmail.com
	Barry Roberts	Barry907@btinternet.com

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