

**"Is this a book you would even wish your wife
or your servants to read?"**

On 11th August, our speaker will be Andrew Baker, discussing "The Sensational Trial of Lady Chatterley" back in 1960. Andrew is a fluent, engaging and entertaining speaker, with a particular interest in social, cultural and political change since the First World War. Why did DH Lawrence's novel become a famous court case?. What drama did it produce? How did it anticipate the later 60's upheavals and the permissive society?



Our speaker for September is Guy Bartlett, an aviation historian and trainer, on the subject of the Red Arrows display team.

Red Arrows pilots are amongst the most highly-qualified and experienced within the Royal Air Force.

During the display season the Red Arrows perform between 75-85 air displays and more than 100 fly-pasts. Each pilot is hand-picked and only a very few will be given the privilege of representing the RAF both in the UK and abroad.

Using archive film footage, technology, music, humour and a genuine passion for the subject, Guy will provide a fascinating insight into their history with us.



Gravesham Borough Council, recognising the excellent groups and events our U3A organises, contacted us recently to discuss working together for local over 50's. GBC have a budget to help worthwhile causes so they have offered to support us by providing coaches to set up new groups and grants to encourage new members. Also, they are planning to publicise our U3A on their website, facebook and local publications to attract members to join us.

The GBC Sports and Recreation officer is especially interested in offering Sports such as Walking - Netball, Football and Cricket, also Tai-Chi and Self Defence classes. GBC & U3A working together for the community.

We will have sign-up sheet at our Monthly meeting or please email to confirm your interest. *Alan Scott - details at end of newsletter*

In order to mark the occasion of Gravesend U3A's 20th anniversary in September 2024, the committee would like to invite contributions from creative groups such as, painting, writing and musical groups. The anniversary is in 14 months, so plenty time to make it an eventful occasion! Note that, after taking soundings from group leaders, there is no desire to mark the 19th anniversary of our branch next month.

New Embroidery group

This new group has made a promising start. It has 15 members signed up. The Group leader is Edina Geering and deputy leader Is Joan Porter.

Possible new Anglers group

There appears to be potential for a new **Fresh water fishing group**. There will be a New group interest sheet on the Social Committee table at the next meeting.

Dusk Strollers

Dusk strollers now meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 17:25 at the Windmill Tavern. There is an open invitation to join this convivial group. You could contribute your stories about the area, local personalities, interesting buildings and quirky hidden bits. Even tall tales!

Tame Your Digital Tech group meets every other Wednesday at 11a.m. at the Woodlands Beefeater. The next four meetings are: August 9th and 23rd, September 6th and 20th 2023-enquiries to 01474 824138.

The Sunday Lunch Bunch will meet on Sunday 3rd September 12.30 p.m. at R & M Italiano, 158 Parrock Street, Gravesend, DA12 1ER

**Accidentally took my cat's meds.
Don't ask meow!**

Join the morning rush hour!

For those of you fortunate enough to have a KCC bus pass in your wallet or purse and who fondly remember aspects of your previous life as a working commuter, Kent and Medway councils have jointly announced that, during the month of August, you won't have to fret at home waiting for half past nine to roll around as your pass will be valid on all regular buses!

That's right!! Throughout August, you'll be able to use your older or disabled person's bus pass from the first bus that runs in the morning until 11pm, Monday to Sunday, and travel for free on all local buses in Kent and Medway.

You can find more information about your bus pass on KCC website at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/alldayaugust>.

You lucky people! Ed.

Ramble – Hampstead Heath - Fri 18th Aug

Yes, we're off to London again, this time to explore the world famous Hampstead Heath with its spectacular views over London, Parliament Hill Fields, 18 different ponds and Kenwood House, not to mention cafés and famous pubs. We did this walk eight years ago and it was brilliant. Of course, the rich and famous are often there so who knows who we'll bump into! The walk is about 5 miles and we travel by high speed train to St Pancras and then by bus to Hampstead. There's a very nice café next to Kenwood House for lunch or take your own packed lunch and there's plenty of seating. Hopefully we should be back by 5pm. Please let Colin know if you'd like to come.

Meet at 9.25am at the Rathmore Rd entrance to the station (train departs 9.45) and bring your bus pass if you have one.

Hike – Sandwich to Deal – Fri 2nd Sept

For our final all-day summer special, Ray is leading our walk that starts from Sandwich. We walk to Deal and have lunch by the seaside near the pier before catching the train back to Sandwich from Deal station. It's about 6.5 miles in all, and flat, and should be a lot of fun.

We **meet at Cascades at 9am** and then travel in as few cars as possible to Sandwich.

Please let contact Colin if you'd like to go. In particular, let him know if you would be prepared to be one of the drivers and how many people other than yourself you could take.

New Terms of Trade

Effective immediately, whenever you sign up for any Social Committee event, you need to pay by the next monthly meeting in order to confirm your place. Payments for Social Committee events can be made at our Social Committee tables at our monthly meetings using the following methods:

- (1) By card using the SumUp terminals.
- (2) By cheque, which should always be made payable to 'Gravesend u3a Social a/c'.

You can also always contact the relevant Event Leader (by phone or email) to arrange to send them a cheque by post.

Your Social Diary :

Wed 16 Aug	School for Scandal at Nurstead Court	Mick Brookes
Sat 02 Sep.	Faversham Hop Festival	Marilyn Pascoe
Thu 28 Sep. 14:30	“Witness for the Prosecution” at London County Hall	Jan Rees
Sat 30 Sep.	Murder Mystery Evening at the Three Daws Including supper - Cost £20 Payment now Due	Marilyn Pascoe
Sat 14 Oct.	Barn Dance £4 at door	Steve Nolan/Alan Scott
24 - 29 Oct.	Holiday to Cheshire & Lancashire NB Full balance is due to Jewels by Tue 29th August	Marilyn Pascoe
Wed 01 Nov.	Day Trip to The Poppy Factory	Marilyn Pascoe
Wed 08 Nov 14:30	“The Lion King ” Lyceum Theatre	Jan Rees
Mon 27 Nov.	Wisley Glow Festival with Jewels Tours includes a cream tea - £57.00	Sue Northcott/Anne May

2024

Wed 03 Jan. 14:30	“Peter Pan” London Palladium	Jan Rees
Thu 01 Feb.	Brick Lane Panto and Tea Cost : approx £70-£74	Linda Howe

The Garden in August

August is the last month of Summer and for many of us a holiday month. The weather can be hot and sultry and often all you want to do is just sit outside in a shady nook and simply enjoy the summer days.

If, however, you are going away, you should think about how your garden is to be cared for in your absence. The last thing you want is for

the plants you have so lovingly cared for to die during your absence through lack of water. If you have a family member, friend or neighbour who can come round in your absence, this is ideal. The minimum you will want doing is for all containers and plants growing in a greenhouse to be watered, ideally daily and house plants perhaps once a week. If you don't have any help while you are away, mow the lawns before you go and water the greenhouse and containers thoroughly on the day before you leave. Try to find a shady place where containers can live during your absence. The same applies to house plants. Think about installing some shading in the greenhouse and ensure good ventilation to at least get some fresh air into the place.

A whole new set of flowers make their appearance this month, rather like new acts in a variety show coming on after the interval. There are, of course, the Dahlias. They appear in many guises, from mini subjects to enormous monsters and every conceivable colour. Also, they have the virtues of being not only being beautiful, but also reliable and long lasting. The butterfly bush, better known as Buddleia, flowers this month and has a wonderful fragrance. It is a very robust shrub and stands no end of pruning in winter. Other plants which flower this month are Crocosmia in reds, oranges and yellows, Perovskia, with long blue spires and Penstemon which comes in several colours and also in combinations of colours in each flower.

Some of the most important jobs to do this month are:

■ **Prune Rambler Roses:** Unlike other roses, the time to prune rambler roses is in August after they have flowered. They produce flowers on wood grown the previous year so your task as a pruner is simply to cut these flowered branches to one or two buds from the main stems. If you have some very old stems cut these down to ground level. Then tie in all the new growth to whatever form of support you are using.

■ **Trim Hedge:** August is a good month to do this job because the birds will have finished using hedges as nesting sites. If you want to get your hedges nice and straight fix posts at either end and tie twine between them to the required height. Then trim to this level working from the bottom up. Try to make the hedge wider at the base and narrower at the top. A hedge trimmer is often ideal for this job but if you don't have one use a pair of shears.

■ **Top up water features:** With the intensity of heat at this time of year, ponds and water features can quickly become short of water with detrimental effects on the wildlife which make their home there. Therefore, every few days check on the level of water and top up as necessary..

■ **Harvest vegetable crops:** This should be a bumper month for harvesting with all manner of crops becoming ready to enjoy. Try to pick them when they are young and if you can avoid leaving them to become enormous. They may look impressive, but the flavour won't be anything like as good.

Enjoy the last of summer! *Robert Vanderwindt*

Creative Writing Story of The Month **The House In The Woods – by Penny Collins**

Long forgotten, the tiny village lay hidden in the woods. Grass grew over the buildings, the old garage and a derelict car was covered in mildew and standing tall, as if in charge, one of the windmill's sails was broken.

Bertie (that may not be his name but he looked like a Bertie) made his way through the long grass, stopping now and again to explore the territory. He had never been to this part of the woods before. The sun filtered through the undergrowth and there it was, a large house, door ajar and just ready for exploring. He crept through the gap, in no particular hurry, for he had all day to explore. Inside there was a table and two chairs. One chair had fallen over and had a broken leg. After a while he decided to climb up the old wooden staircase. This took quite a bit of time as he kept stopping to rest, the stairs being very steep. Upstairs he found a bedroom. Cobwebs hung all over like draped curtains. Ugh, horrible things. He would avoid this room but, as he was retreating, he glanced over at the bed and saw what looked like a dead body lying there veiled in cobwebs.

Bertie hurried off. He started the long climb down the stairs and he was nearly at the bottom when he heard a noise. He stood motionless as this was always a good ploy when there was danger. He could hear something scratching and scurrying and then he saw it, a huge mouse, that could barely fit through the door. It came scampering in. Bertie watched it as it crawled all over the table, under the chair and into the sink. Having found no food there it started to move towards the staircase. Bertie shuffled into a small corner as the furry creature took the stairs at alarming speed and dexterity. Within seconds it was down again, this time exiting through the open window, as the door had swung closed. Bertie watched it squeeze through the gap. It was remarkable how flat mice could make themselves.

Bertie was deciding whether to stay or leave when he heard a rumble of thunder and the sound of large raindrops on the roof. Night was drawing in and he made a decision to stay overnight in this new found home. In the corner he found a space with rotting wood and weeds had sprouted up inside the gap. Just right for an evening meal thought Bertie and settled down for the night.

The next morning Bertie continued to explore his new habitat. It was lovely and quiet and peaceful, when he heard some thumping noises outside and some shouting, and he felt the earth tremble. Humans! Oh no.

'Look Terry, look. It's a miniature village but it's all falling apart. Oh, look at the sweet little houses and the windmill and the church. It's almost buried in all the weeds.'

He could hear the children 'ooh' and 'ah' as they explored outside. They were pulling up weeds and shouting. Bertie was hoping they wouldn't come near his house or worse still knock it over. After all, beetles deserved to be left alone to enjoy a quiet life!

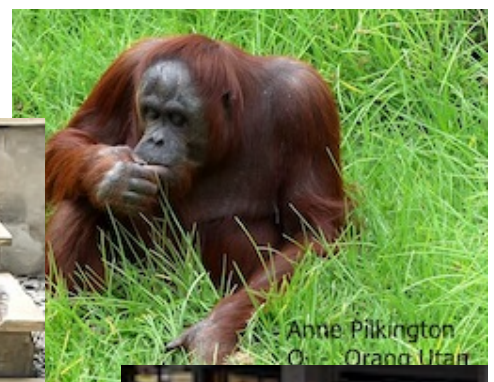
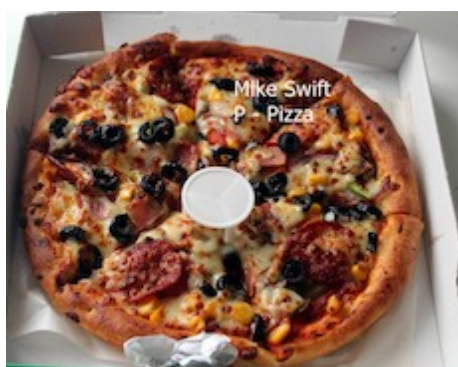
Next month's issue will be edited by Trevor Woodward. Please send all editorial contributions to grv.u3a.editor@gmail.com , deadline Wed 30th August 2023



Photography 1 - Trip to Battersea Power Station

Our Photography trip took us to London Bridge Station, from where we caught the Uber Clipper river bus along the river to Battersea, a lovely 35 minute ride with fabulous

river views of central London. Apart from two other people, we were the only people on the boat! The views at Battersea were even better; there has been an incredible transformation of the area. A number of members couldn't make the trip and the weather was cloudy and dull, which didn't make for the best photography, but it was dry and we all had a really fun and very enjoyable day out. We also had a theme where we had to take eleven photos whose titles started with each of the letters of the word PHOTOGRAPHY. Some of the photos are displayed here



Our **Barn Dance** at Christ Church Hall on 3rd June was very much enjoyed by all who came along for a heel-toe and Do Si Do jig along, did we all get it right! No of course not. But we had a lot of fun and such a laugh trying to get it right. Great social event with bringing your own drinks and nibbles, at £4 it must be better than sitting in front of the TV on a Saturday night. My thanks to Alan for helping with the video link. Join us for the next one as shown below. *Steve Nolan.*

Our next one will be on Saturday 14th October 2023 7.30pm, Christ Church Hall.



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Whitstable & Herne Bay

We didn't take buckets and spades (or eat candy floss or sticks of rock), but 49 of us had a glorious day at the seaside. Clear blue sky, very hot though with a much needed sea breeze, tasty fish and chips if wanted so all we could have wished for. In Whitstable the tide was so low we even

saw the oyster beds. Herne Bay is a little more brash with a vibrant pier (that even has a little wedding beach hut featured on tv recently, but none of our group tied the knot - or went on the hobby horses). As Wallace would say 'A Grand Day Out'. *Joan Porter*



Walks Reports

Early in the month 28 of us met at Gravesend pier for a lovely 5 ml walk along the prom from Leigh on Sea to Southend. With ferry, bus and train it was a real adventure and most knew little or nothing about Leigh, Chalkwell, Westcliff and indeed, Southend. Leigh, in particular, had an olde world charm about it, Chalkwell featured a lot of expensive property and a lovely sandy



beach and Westcliffe equalled it for refinement. Though the weather was hot and sunny there was a lovely breeze off the sea that cooled us. It was a real winner. Oh, and no, that isn't us in the photo in Southend funfair. We just didn't have enough time for the ride!

Chatham Ramble around Marvellous Medway. 21st July. A good walk for the 25 intrepid walkers. Difficult to get them to listen to instructions at the beginning, too many ex school teachers! We started at the outlet car park, and walked to see the French POW war memorial. Through the site of the colleges onto where the Admiral House used to be. Then past the Royal Engineers Museum, onto the Great Lines looking over beautiful Chatham. Next on the list was the Chatham Naval Memorial for a quick 10 minute break and a look around. Fort Amherst was next on the list with tremendous views over the River Medway. Then onto Dock Road past the site of the tragic bus disaster of 1951. Into the Dock Yard and to the Bell Tower and finish. *Ben Winder*

Geography Group - Lebanon

This month we studied Lebanon, knowing nothing about it, except its being a trouble spot. On the east coast of the Mediterranean, it is a small country, roughly the shape of a rectangle, 100 miles from north to south and 40 miles wide. Geographically the country can be split into four regions each of which runs north to south of the country. Firstly there is the coastal lowland plain running along the Med where a high percentage of the 5 million population live. Beyond that are the Lebanon Mountains, which are snow-capped. Beyond the mountains lies the Bekaa Valley, part of the great rift valley that extends north to south of the country and which continues 4000 miles through Africa, south to Mozambique. On the eastern side of the valley are the Anti-Lebanon Mts, which form the eastern border with Syria.

The geography was fascinating but the modern history of the country was one of warfare, poor infrastructure and broken economics. All very sad. As ever, we made our decision on whether it was a holiday destination for us. The answer.....you've guessed it. No!

Photography 2 – A Summer Afternoon

What does that conjure up for you – a spot of gardening or a long, cool drink somewhere lovely? We had sunny u3a visits to Amberley or the seaside to help us, bowls at Cobham etc but could just as easily had peering out of a rainy window or being on a windblown beach in a cagoule – such is a British summer!. Next time, any combination of benches (we are besotted with them) and signs! *Joan Porter*



Calendar (from Beacon)

FRIDAY 11th AUGUST

10:00 Photography 2 - Ben Winder
13:45 Meeting at City Praise Centre

MONDAY 14th AUGUST

10:00 Tenpin Bowling - Arthur Partington
14:00 Cycling Club - Peter Buttle
14:00 Jazz Appr'n CANCELLED
19:30. Modern Jive Dance - Alan+Lynne

TUESDAY 15th AUGUST

10:00 Spanish - Janet Rees
12:00 Fully Loaded - Ben Winder
14:00 Reading - Margaret Groom
14:30. Bowls on Tuesday - Paul Shovlar
19:00. Board Games - Paul Shovlar

WEDNESDAY 16th AUGUST

10:00 Mah Jong I - Linda Mei Stevens
14:00 Guitar Acoustic - Bill Bennet
14:00 Badminton - Sandra Parker
14:15 Line Dancing - Linda Howe
19:00 School for Scandal - Nurstead

THURSDAY 17th AUGUST

10:00 Creative Writing - Penny Collins
14:15 Thursday Bowls - Dennis Neighb'r

FRIDAY 18th AUGUST

09:25 Ramble Hampstead Heath Colin
14:00. Canasta - Sylvie Stickings
14:00. Pool - Tony Tigg

SUNDAY 20th AUGUST

12:00 Slough Fort, Allhallows - Solos

MONDAY 21st AUGUST

14:00 Rummikub - Anne Pilkington
19:30. Modern Jive Dance - Alan+Lynne

TUESDAY 22nd AUGUST

12:30. Petanque all year
14:00 Bridge - Anne Stott
14:00 Painting and Sketching
15:00. Bowls on Tuesday - Paul Shovlar
19:00. Board Games - Paul Shovlar
17:25. Dusk Strollers - Barbara Blum

WEDNESDAY 23rd AUGUST

11:00 Tame your Digital tech - Ali M
12:30. Lunch Bunch - Big Easy at BW
14:00 Badminton - Sandra Parker
14:15 Line Dancing - Linda Howe

THURSDAY 24th AUGUST

10.30 Senior Elastixs - Jan Elci
14.00 French Convers'n - Anne Stott
14.00 Geography - Colin Nice
14:00 Thursday Bowls - Dennis Neighb'r

FRIDAY 25th AUGUST

10:00. Bird watching - Irene Robson
14:00 Wine Appr'n is on Holiday!

MONDAY 28th AUGUST

10:00. Psychology - Lin Fridd
14:00. Cycling Club - Peter
14:00. Rummikub 2 - Sandra

TUESDAY 29th AUGUST

14:30. Bowls on Tuesday - Paul Shovlar
19:00. Board Games - Paul Shovlar

WEDNESDAY 30th AUGUST

14:00 Badminton - Sandra Parker

THURSDAY 31st AUGUST

10:30. Armchair Travellers - Sally
14:15 Thursday Bowls - Dennis Neighb'r

FRIDAY 1st SEPTEMBER

14:00. Table Tennis - Tony Tigg

SATURDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER

09:00 Hike - Sandwich to Deal
Faversham Hop Festival

SUNDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER

12:30 Lunch at R&M Italiano - Marilyn P

MONDAY 4th SEPTEMBER

10:00 Photography 1 - Anne Pilkington
19:30. Modern Jive Dance - Alan+Lynne

TUESDAY 5th SEPTEMBER

10:00. Model Making - Chris Hewlett
10:00. Poetry Appr'n - Theresa Johnson
10:00 Spanish - Janet Rees
10:00. Embroidery / Patchwork TBC
14:00 Local History - Joyce Bell
14:00. Rummikub 3 - Anna Burroughs
15:00. Bowls on Tuesday - Paul Shovlar

WEDNESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER

10:00. Film Apprec'n - Jean Stephens
11:00 Tame your Digital tech - Ali M
14:00 Art Appreciation - Robert V
14:00 Badminton - Sandra Parker
14:00 Guitar Acoustic - Bill Bennet

THURSDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

12:00 Solos Coffee Meet - Linda Howe
14:00 Thursday Bowls - Dennis Neighb'r

FRIDAY 8th SEPTEMBER

10:00 Photography 2 - Ben Winder
13:45 Meeting at City Praise Centre