

## Notice of the 23rd Annual General Meeting

To be held on Tuesday 2nd April 2024  
starting at 10.30am  
at the Queen's Hall, Halstead

This notice is issued on Wednesday 28th February 2024  
in accordance with the Constitution of the Third Age Trust.

If there are matters you wish to raise at the AGM, they must  
be put in writing and sent to the Secretary by  
Thursday 28th March  
by either email or post to the address at the bottom of the  
page:

Any person wishing to be nominated to become a trustee  
and serve on the committee should also send their details  
by  
Friday 15th March to the email or postal address below.

All members are reminded that, in order to take part in a  
vote as part of the above meeting, they must have paid their  
subscriptions for the year 2024/25

Honorary Secretary: Howard Stanley  
23 Winston Way, Halstead, CO9 2TH  
halsteadu3ahonsecretary@gmail.com

Full details of the 2023 March Annual General Meeting,  
including the Minutes and Treasurer's Report will be circu-  
lated prior to this year's Annual General Meeting in the April  
edition of *thelink*



Your u3a still needs  
**YOU**

## TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT

I WISH TO NOMINATE...../MYSELF

THEIR/YOUR SIGNATURE.....

POSITION – Chairman / Secretary / Committee

PROPOSED BY.....

SECONDED.....

All nomination forms are to be returned to THE SECRETARY: Howard Stanley by  
FRIDAY 15th MARCH Any nominations received after this date will not be considered.



# YOUR u3a NEEDS YOU

## Election of Trustees

At our Annual General Meeting on 2nd April 2024 our constitution requires us to elect a maximum of twelve members (Trustees) to form our committee for the following year.

**This year we have two important vacancies that must be filled to ensure that our u3a can continue to function**

Not only do we want new committee members but also, and especially, a Chairman and a Secretary.

Both Patricia and Howard will be relinquishing their respective roles and it is imperative that both positions are filled following a vote at next month's AGM. If no nominations are received, the posts will remain vacant and if the committee is unable to fill the roles they will have to consult with the u3a Trust regarding the future of a u3a in Halstead.

As described in last month's edition of **thelink**, although the roles are important, neither of them are time consuming or difficult to undertake and Patricia and Howard will be more than happy to help whoever takes on either role to ensure a smooth handover.

If you would like to nominate either yourself or another member to take on either of the above roles or simply join the committee, please use the form above or create a copy via email and return it to the Secretary by the **15th March 2024** either by post or email (Address on previous page). If you are nominating yourself, you do not need to get a seconder. If you are nominating someone else, you must get their permission to do so.

Alternatively, contact either Patricia (01787 472901) or Howard (07565 326033)

# Once again – Good News for all our members!

## No Increase in Membership Fees

Now is the time for all of our members to renew their membership for next year and, despite ever rising costs, especially on food and energy, we have good news – once again there will be no increase in membership fees for the coming year.

Annual membership for the year 2024/5 will remain at £15.00 per member. This amount includes the capitation fee of £5.00 for each member our u3a has to pay to the u3a Trust.

### How to renew your membership

**1** A copy of the membership form is included with this copy of **thelink** which can be completed online and emailed back to: [halsteadu3amemsec1@gmail.com](mailto:halsteadu3amemsec1@gmail.com) with the membership fee (£15.00) paid by bank transfer (BACS) as detailed on the form.

**2** The form can be downloaded and printed at home, completed by hand and posted either with the BACS payment details, or with a cheque made payable to Halstead and District u3a to Membership Secretary, 44 Colne Road, Sible Hedingham, Halstead CO9 3JP.

**3** The form can be downloaded, printed at home, completed and handed in **AT THE END** of the March monthly meeting with payment being made by either debit/credit card or cheque. We ask members wherever possible not to pay by cash due to the problems of banking the money.

Copies of the membership form for completion will also be available at the March meeting.



### Third Age Matters (TAM) magazine

If you wish to receive copies of the u3a magazine during the year an additional charge of £3.80 should be added to the cost of your membership fee and the appropriate section completed on the Membership Form. Unfortunately, this year's 20p price increase included in the above cost is beyond our control.

## Expandflation!

No doubt you have read and heard about “shrinkflation”, especially in supermarkets where the contents and pack sizes of popular brands have decreased whilst the price has gone up.

Our u3a is reversing the trend – from the March monthly meeting you will get 50% more coffee or tea as we increase the size of the cup from 8oz to 12oz still keeping the cost at £1.00 per drink.

And if you want an even bigger hot drink at the meeting bring along your own re-useable hot drinks cup and we will fill it up and, still only charge £1.00.

Our new improved range of biscuits have been well received and these will remain at 50p per pack unless there is a major supplier's price increase.

## March Monthly Meeting



We will be welcoming Sarah Doig to our next monthly meeting who will be giving an illustrated talk on “Travellers’ Tales – East Anglia through the eyes of travel writers over the Centuries”.

Sarah grew up in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. After a twenty-year career in the Foreign Office, she moved back to Rick- inghall and made a radical shift to being a self-employed historian, writer, public speaker and musician.

Local history research and writing takes up the majority of Sarah's time, with a passion for writing readable and accessible local history, aimed at enthusing and informing those who simply want to know more about the places in which they live or the counties and towns they visit. Since 2013, she has had eleven local history books published.

The meeting takes place on Tuesday 4th March .

Doors open at the Queen's Hall at 10.00am for a 10.20am start.

Once again we ask members not to enter the hall until 10.00am to allow the committee time to



## Royal Opera House Live Screenings at The Empire



In March and April there will be three live screenings from The Royal Opera House showing at the Halstead Empire.

### **"Madame Butterfly" Tuesday 26th March 6.30 for 7.15pm**

Moshe Leiser's and Patrice Caurier's production of Puccini's ever popular opera features Asmik Grigorian as Cio Cio San. The Royal Opera Orchestra will be conducted by Kevin John Edusei.

### **"MacMillan Celebrated" Tuesday 9th April 6.30 for 7.15pm**

This programme of MacMillan's choreography features "Danses Concertantes", "Different Drummer" and "Requiem". Music by The Royal Opera Orchestra with a cast from the Royal Opera Ballet.

If you would like to see either of these shows please let me know by e-mail by 16th March; or sign up at the monthly meeting on Tuesday 5th March.

### **"Swan Lake" Wednesday 24th April 6.30 for 7.15pm**

Tchaikovsky's classic ballet will be performed by The Royal Ballet.

If you would like to see this performance please let me know by 2nd April or sign up at the monthly meeting.

Tickets for each performance are £16.50 each and, depending on numbers, a discount may be available. Please note that once tickets have been ordered it is not possible to obtain a refund.

**Malcolm Swainsbury**  
m.swainsbury@hotmail.co.uk

## u3a Travel Club



Our coach trip to Wisley Gardens on May 1st is proving to be very popular so, if you were thinking of joining us, it is probably best to book early!

Wisley is the historic home of RHS and houses one of the largest plant collections in the world. Enjoy swathes of bulbs and blossom in the Spring, and tulips in dazzling shades. Wisley is also home to more than 140 Yoshino cherry trees, smothered in white to pale pink blooms. Let us hope that the weather is on our side and both the tulips and blossom will be showing in abundance.

Visit RHS Hilltop, the new centre and home of gardening science, wander through the many themed gardens and be amazed by the cathedral-like Glasshouse. Punctuate your day with refreshment visits to The Terrace Restaurant or Wisley Café and round off the day with a treat from the Garden Centre and Shop. The gardens cover a large area and it is recommended that comfortable footwear is worn.

The cost for non RHS members is £42 for coach and entrance. RHS members plus one guest qualify for free entrance, so the cost for coach only is £26.00. Please tell us if you are an RHS member when booking and please take your RHS card with you on the day. Payment should be made at the time of booking, but the latest date is 17 April please. Cheques payable to Halstead and District U3A or you can now pay by debit or credit card.

The coach leaves Butler Road, Halstead at 9.15 and should arrive about 11.15am. We depart Wisley at 16.00 and arrive back in Halstead approx. 18.00/30.

**Ann and Jean.**

## Essex Wildlife Trust Braintree Group AGM

The meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th March at St Andrews Church Hall, Halstead starting at 7.00pm. This will be followed by an illustrated talk on Amphibians by Jon Cranfield.

A £3.00 donation to the Essex Wildlife Trust is payable at the door.

For further information contact Tracey Kay for details:  
kay.tracy@yahoo.co.uk