



## Chairman's Bulletin – 7 March 2023

It was last March when we returned to the Trust Hall after nearly two years meeting via Zoom. Zoom was a blessing as it enabled us to keep some sort of programme running during the pandemic but by last March, most of us were thoroughly fed up with it and it was such a relief to be meeting face to face again. That first meeting there were only 25 people there but the numbers have slowly increased each month and now we are back to a full hall – lovely.

As mentioned last month, we are still in need of a volunteer to take over from Graham as Treasurer from the AGM in October. I shall have to keep badgering until someone volunteers, hopefully without too much arm twisting. If we can't find a Treasurer, we can't continue, so please seriously think about it.

Please don't forget that you can always find details of all our future events and 21 groups on our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/harpenden/home>.

Viv (01582 766147)

### **Members' News**

This month we are delighted to welcome **Geoff Cunningham, Diane Shepherd, Delia Bonner, Helen Mellor** and **Billie Chasty**.

Our Vice Chairman, **Roger Thompson**, has had a nasty fall while on a walking holiday in Majorca ending up in hospital there with four or five broken ribs. This must be very painful. Get well soon, Roger and we look forward to seeing you back soon.

## **Dates for Your Diary**

Below is the programme of General Meetings up to the end of May. They will all take place in the Trust Hall, opposite the Plough and Harrow, at 2.15 on the dates shown. Whereas the Speaker Meetings have a talk by a visiting speaker, Members' Afternoons have a shorter talk by one of our own members, followed by time for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

**16<sup>th</sup> March**                      **Speaker Meeting – 'William Morris and the Arts and Craft Movement'** This talk will be given by **Mark Lewis**. Mark is a freelance artist, designer, silversmith and semi-retired university lecturer.

**30<sup>th</sup> March**                      **New Members' Meeting** (by invitation only)

**4<sup>th</sup> April**                         **Harpenden Seniors' Fair** – 10.30–1.30 at the Eric Morecambe Centre

**6<sup>th</sup> April**                         **Members Afternoon** – Our Vice Chairman, **Roger Thompson**, will give a short presentation on **'The History of the BBC as it turns 100'**

**20<sup>th</sup> April**                      **Speaker Meeting – Bobbie Darbyshire** will give a light hearted, informative talk on **'A beginning, a muddle & and an end: where do novelists get their ideas from?'** Bobbie is a prize-winning author of four novels. She has much life experience to draw upon having worked as a barmaid, mushroom picker, film extra, maths coach, cabinet minister's private secretary, care assistant and volunteer adult-literacy teacher, as well as in social research and government policy.

**4<sup>th</sup> May**                         **Coronation Celebration Tea**

**18<sup>th</sup> May**                         **Speaker Meeting – 'Poisons for Medicine'**. **Graham Harrison** will give us a darkly humorous look at medicines in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The reign of Victoria saw the development of chemical medicine from medieval alchemy to modern pharmacy. Chemists lent their ingenuity to provide anything customers wanted. Some made fortunes, some made disastrous mistakes.

## **PLEASE CAN YOU HELP? TREASURER STILL NEEDED**

At our next AGM in October, our Treasure has to retire. Graham has done a brilliant job over the past six years but our Constitution says that he must stand down after this period. Could you take over from him? If you think you may have the time and the skills necessary, could you please contact either Viv or Graham to discuss what is involved. Please think about this seriously as without a Treasurer we would be unable to continue and would have to close down.

## **Group News**

**History Group** – Roger Thompson writes: The next meeting of the History Group will be on Tuesday, 14 March at 2.30 in the Randall Room at the Harpenden Trust Hall. The presentation will be made by Malcolm Rainbow, and his subject is 'Was Charles 1 Rightly Executed'?

As usual, there will be a payment of £1 to cover the cost of the room hire.

**Singing for Pleasure** – the last two sessions of this term of this most enjoyable group are on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 2pm in the Trust Hall. We have always been very short of men but this term it's been wonderful to see some dare to join us; it makes such a difference. Dates for the summer term will be circulated shortly.

Details of all our 21 groups can be found on our website.

## **NEW GROUPS?**

As you know, we are always keen to start up new interest groups. Recently members have suggested a **Science** group and a **German** group. If any member might possibly be interested in either of these, please contact me.

Any more suggestions for new groups?

## **Harpenden Seniors' Fair**

This very popular annual event is taking place this year on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30-1.30 at the Eric Morecambe Centre. We had a very successful stall there last year and we will be there again. For any of our members who have only recently moved to Harpenden, this event is an excellent source of information about local amenities, groups, services, organisations and tradespeople relevant to the older community in Harpenden. There will be representatives of over 30 organisations there.

## **Policy Documents**

'Every 12 months, the committee of the u3a is formally required to review standing policy documents, and should agree to any amendments, should they be required. The policies in question are the u3a's Equality, Diversity & Inclusion policy; the u3a's Data Protection policy; the u3a's Safeguarding policies and procedures; and the u3a's Privacy policy.

The committee has not made changes to any of the above policies on this occasion. It has however considered them and agreed that all members, and in particular all new or recently joined members should be made aware of the existence of these policies, which are important, if rarely required to be used.

**Roger Thompson**, Vice Chairman, Harpenden u3a