

## HASLEMERE MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

### DECEMBER 2023

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May I start by congratulating you all on the amazing turn out at our AGM on Monday, 13th November – thank you. One thing that I will take away from it is that our membership currently stands at 777. Apart from the pleasing symmetry it is also worthwhile noting that this is significantly above our pre-pandemic level.

Christmas is fast approaching, as is our Annual Christmas Party on 11th December at Haslemere Hall - more information below and hope to see you there!

In the New Year we should turn our thoughts to new groups in two forms. Some current groups are over-subscribed, so perhaps existing or potential members could consider forming a further group for the same activity? Similarly, ideas for new groups are always welcome so if this interests you, please contact the Groups Coordinator for further information.

Lastly, I would like to welcome Julian Ellis as Treasurer, Kim Bergamasco as temporary Secretary and Lucy Krawczyk as Tea and Coffee Coordinator.

A very Merry Christmas to you all.

***Yours ever, Jock***

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### **HO! HO! HO! IT'S THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!**

Do come and join us at Haslemere Hall on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 1.30pm – 3.30pm and enjoy an afternoon of festive fun, good company, Prosecco/wine, delicious nibbles and entertainment from the Desert Island Music group.

Plus: a special Yuletide General Knowledge Quiz from our popular Quizmaster to exercise your little grey cells and win the 2023 team trophy!

**An event not to be missed!**



## **A VISIT FROM THE MAYOR!**

The annual Charities Fayre, organised by The Rotary Club, is the only multi-charity event in Haslemere's pre-Christmas calendar and the Haslemere u3a has always been proud to be a part of it by taking a stall. We very much welcomed Jerome Davidson, u3a Member and Haslemere Town Mayor, pictured here with Chairman, Jock Gardner and Membership Secretary, Judith Forde and a great day was had by all!



## **HASLEMERE HOSPITAL CELEBRATES ITS CENTENARY!**

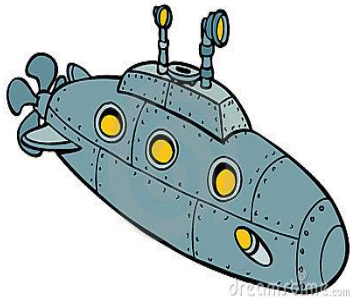
Published in time for Christmas, is a fascinating book celebrating the centenary of Haslemere Hospital, with much help and input from the u3a Local History Group. Starting with a timeline on the Hospital's 100 years, written by Rose Parry, a long-serving Clinical Manager at the Hospital, there then follows a history of medicine in Haslemere, going back to the mid-1600s. This is the work of the u3a Local History Group Leader, Fay Foster who, having written much of the

book already, encouraged u3a Members to add their own personal anecdotes and memories of the Hospital. Members also helpfully researched the Internet and managed to find interesting facts with regard to official documents and wartime records, which has thus enhanced Haslemere Hospital's history.

Among the subjects covered are organisations and individuals who have contributed to the health of Haslemere over the years. These include other Hospitals such as Haslemere's Holy Cross, King Edward VII at Midhurst, various temporary hospitals set up in both World Wars and, of course, Haslemere's first Cottage Hospital on Shepherd's Hill, established in 1898. There are also chapters on Haslemere Health Centre, The Hunter Centre, St. John's Ambulance and the Macmillan Service. More information is included on health visitors, district nurses, lady almoners and many other medical personnel.

The final chapter deals with local residents who made their mark in a wider sphere achieving fame nationally or even internationally. This includes our very own u3a Member, Jean Evans, who was the poster girl for Macmillan when it was introduced in the South of England. She was interviewed by radio, TV and magazines and even went to America to promote the service! This intriguing and historic book is priced at just £10.00 and is available directly from Fay – [fayfoster@gmail.com](mailto:fayfoster@gmail.com) or via The Haslemere Bookshop and every penny from the

sales of the book will go to The League of Friends charity to benefit patients and staff at our wonderful Haslemere Hospital.



**U3A JANUARY SPEAKER – 2.00PM, MONDAY,  
8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024 @ HASLEMERE HALL.**

**DAVID PARRY – PERISHER: 100 YEARS OF  
HOW TO BE A SUBMARINE CAPTAIN.**

PERISHER, is the nickname given to the Royal Navy's Submarine Command Course, which has stood the test of time for over 100 years and developed a reputation as being the most demanding command course in the Military and Dr David Parry has researched its history and written about the course in his book 'Perisher'.

Dr Parry comes from a Liverpool Merchant Navy family and was trained for the Merchant Navy, but instead opted for the Royal Navy in which he specialised in navigation and submarines. He too, took the Perisher course in 1978 and went on to command submarines, although his naval career was curtailed by medical issues. In retirement, Dr Parry substantiated his hobby of naval history with first, an MA in Maritime History at the University of Greenwich and then, in his 70s, a PhD at Kings College London.

Haslemere u3a Members and guests/non-Members are very welcome at these monthly meetings and non-Members can come to any two meetings before joining the Haslemere u3a. Tea, coffee and biscuits are also provided!



**AMBLING BY THE CANAL!**

Diana Serman and Heather Ogborn led the November 3-4 mile Ambling group who enjoyed a delightful walk along the Wey and Arun Canal, followed by a delicious lunch at The Onslow Arms in Loxwood. Half the walk was north along the canal on a wide earth/sand footpath next to the canal, with some information boards on the canal's history - past and present – and on the various

locks. After a short coffee break, the group then made their way over the canal and then back through woods and fields to Loxwood Village.



## **FROM TANZANIA TO PETWORTH – ALLEN'S EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEERING JOURNEY!**



Apart from a two-year absence when he was Chairman of Haslemere u3a, Allen Chubb has been a volunteer at Petworth House since 2012, working as a Room Guide and speaker. Having attended evening History of Art classes as retirement approached, his main focus has been on Turner, whom he has studied in depth. There are 21 Turner oil paintings at Petworth House, believed to be more than anywhere else apart from Tate Britain, and Allen has enjoyed

speaking to staff and volunteers (and the u3a) on Turner's art.

Allen has embraced volunteering for most of his busy life, beginning in 1961 when he was selected by Voluntary Services Overseas at the age of 18, to teach for one year in an African secondary school in Tanzania (then Tanganyika) at the time when that country became independent. In 1974, having studied law and practicing as a solicitor in Belgravia, Allen felt he needed a fresh challenge, so he became a Special Constable in London in his spare time. He made many arrests, the first involving a flying rugby tackle, when he broke up a homophobic assault at pub closing time - just after he had received his uniform and started training!

After a decade, he retired from the Specials with the equivalent rank of Inspector and, along with his wife Jeanne, started a branch of Save the Children in Barnes, roping in their four children and local friends to help - this raised an incredible £250,000 in the first ten years. He then took on the challenging experience of sailing annually on square riggers with the Jubilee Sailing Trust, the owners of two ships purpose built for disabled people, going on 16 voyages, mainly as a Watchleader, with some journeys as far away as the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean. Everyone helped to sail and run the ships, including the severely disabled.

Being of a naturally curious nature with an enquiring mind, Allen says his experience at Petworth House has been just as stimulating as his other volunteering duties. He has much enjoyed meeting visitors from all over the world and hearing their stories. One visitor said that she had not been there for 80 years, adding "Yes, I was a baby then - my mother worked in the kitchens and kept me under the table!"

## **LATEST U3A ZOOM NEWS!**

The following National Events are now available to u3a Members on Zoom:

*The Art of William Morris – 6<sup>th</sup> December @ 2.00pm*

*Live Christmas Cookery Demonstration – 7<sup>th</sup> December @ 10.30am*

*Exploring World Faiths – Christmas – 11<sup>th</sup> December @ 10.00am*

*Advice for Yoga Group Leaders – 13<sup>th</sup> December @ 11.00am*

**Interested to find out more?....go to: u3a – Online Learning Events**

## **ENJOY A MONTHLY TRIP TO A DESERT ISLAND!**



Formed in early 2023, the popular Desert Island Music Group meets at The Grayswood Club on the fourth Monday of the month, in which a member presents their own personal choice of favourite music, often marking memorable or important moments in their life. The music could be limited to a single type but is usually a mixed variation and help with equipment and technology is readily available if needed! The sessions are for two hours from

9.30am, starting with a friendly chat and complimentary coffee/tea and biscuits before the music starts at 10.00am and the cost is £3pp. Such has been the popularity of this new group that the membership has almost doubled since July and is expected to grow further. The next session will be on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January – hope to see you there!

## **INTERESTING STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR OF THIRD AGE TRUST**

Haslemere u3a are often asked at promotional stalls and events what exactly is the criteria for joining the u3a age-wise. Here is an enlightening response to this much asked question from Liz Thackray, Chair of the Third Age Trust.....

*“At the recent Third Age Trust AGM, I made it clear that we do not have – and never have had – any lower age limit and that the u3a is open to all that have the time to fully participate. The decision not to have a lower age limit was taken by an AGM of the Trust in the 1980s and has never been formally discussed since. Legal advice has been taken on how to interpret the relevant part of our objects clause, which is also the objects clause of u3as that use the model constitution.*

*The clause says that our objects are: the advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development. The lawyers – and also the Charity Commission - view our primary objective as being “the advancement of education by all means.” Although there is a focus on “older people and those retired from full time work,” this is not a restriction, as is made clear by the words “in particular.”*

*In plain English, this means that as long as the activities we undertake are educational (in the broadest sense), our objects do not limit who can participate. The only limitation to this would be if our Membership were to change so that most Members were, for example, under 30. In that case, the objects clause would need to be revisited as the focus would no longer be on “older people and those who are retired from full time work.” Perhaps the most important element, which does not form part of our legal documentation, is that the u3a is a self-help, mutual aid organisation. It is important that those joining the u3a need to be*

*aware that their participation involves them contributing to the life of the u3a. Overall, we do not expect the age profile of our membership to change in any significant way - but it is an opportunity to keep our door open to all those that want to be part of the u3a movement and to benefit from their skills and experience, in the same way as we do from all our current members."*

## **NEWS OF MEMBERS**

**NEW MEMBERS!** A very warm u3a welcome to: Jane McMichael, Tom Brown, Rita McLellan, Derek Childs, Alan English, Glyn Goulty, Angela Parrott, Barry Sweetman, Pauline Palmer, John Tysoe, Angie Stanbury, Susan Hornby, Peter Sherratt, Isobel Mann, Isobel Ward, Valerie McNeill, Isabel Sharma, Simon Wilden and David Round.

**Aldo Di Marzio:** We were saddened to hear about the recent death of one of our Members, Aldo Di Marzio, who was a well-liked and very helpful member of the Haslemere u3a. A true gentleman, with a zest for life who always made people smile, Aldo worked for a while at Arco Felice Restaurant in Haslemere. Being a good singer, he would suddenly burst into song on many occasions with his powerful rendition of "O sole mio", followed by huge rounds of applause. He also provided the food for the Group Co-ordinator's annual party in the past. He will be deeply missed by all his friends in the u3a. The funeral will be held on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Derby Road, Haslemere.

**Christine Ewing:** Sadly, we have also just heard of the sudden death of long standing u3a Member, Christine Ewing. Christine was well known by u3a Members – particularly the Bridge Group - and will be very much missed. We understand that her husband was one of the founders of the u3a. The funeral will be held at Guildford Crematorium on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 11.15am. Please wear a colour that helps you remember Christine.

**SOCIAL CLIP BADGES FOR MEMBERS** - Some Members will have seen or received a small social clip badge at various Group meetings or events. They are for any Member who wants one and wearing one is, of course, *completely optional!* The idea is for Members to wear them at Group meetings where they might not know everyone, as well as events such as the AGM, Speakers Meetings, Quizzes, Enrolment Day, the Christmas Prosecco Party etc.

They are very effective icebreakers, making it easier to recognise and welcome other Members, Diana Serman, the Accommodation Secretary, has a file with badges already made up and she will bring them to all such meetings. She hopes Members will tell her, ideally by email via the website, if they would like a badge for themselves and it should be ready for them to collect at the next u3a event they attend.

This newsletter was published by Haslemere u3a, Haslemere Hall, Bridge Road, Haslemere GU27 2AS. Website: [www.u3a.org.uk/haslemere](http://www.u3a.org.uk/haslemere) An independent registered charity no: 1053049



