

HASLEMERE MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023

As I write, the recent very cold period seems to have ended, the days are slowly getting longer and we can look forward to brighter times.



In the last newsletter, I asked you all to think about possible new Groups and our Groups Coordinator, Lorna Wright, and I are still open to suggestions!

One recent innovation, which I attended in January, was the Basic Life Support course, a

two hour event delivered by David Lee and Anthony Leung, organised by Hilda Russell. It was a very useful reminder of skills first taught some years ago and now updated. Possibly a literal lifesaver. Would you know where to find a Defibrillator in Haslemere? It is hoped that this event will be repeated before too long – watch this space.

Do join us for the first Quiz Night of 2023 on Friday 24th February and there are two new Excursions planned for April and May – scroll down for more details! *Best wishes, Jock*

FEBRUARY SPEAKER – SHARON WRIGHT – “Aeronaut to Her Majesty – The White-Knuckled World of Margaret Graham” – Monday 13th February @ 2.00pm, Haslemere Hall

Fearless balloonist, Margaret Graham, was somewhat of a Victorian superstar! Though the first British woman to fly solo and an accomplished aeronaut, she was more famous for her spectacular accidents and the 19th Century adventures of the accident-prone diva made history, grabbed headlines and astonished the nation! Though she frequently caused havoc, you really could not keep a good woman down....

Hold on tight as Sharon takes you on an unforgettable ride through the life of the indefatigable Mrs. Graham – the self-styled “Aeronaut to

Her Majesty.” Sharon Wright is an experienced speaker, journalist and published author and when not researching her new non-fiction books, she very much enjoys delivering talks.

LET’S GET QUIZZICAL!



The first general knowledge Quiz Night of 2023 will be on Friday 24th February at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, on the corner of Derby Road and Weydown Road in the heart of Haslemere. This popular quiz evening will be run by legendary Quizmaster, Colin Sherlock and there will be prizes for the winning team! Doors open at 7.00pm for a

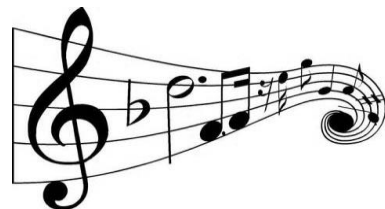
7.30pm start and entry fee is £5.00 per person - cash or card accepted. Teams are up to four and non-Members are very welcome to join in this fun and friendly quiz night!

Please book your place(s) via the u3a website – www.u3asites.org.uk/haslemere – under ‘contact Chairman’ so that we know numbers expected. There will not be a bar available, so please bring your own drinks and snacks – glasses and plates will be provided on request. Parking is available for 25 cars at the back of the Church and in Weydown Road. A highly enjoyable and thought-provoking evening awaits – so Let’s Get Quizzical!

NEW!! THE DESERT ISLAND MUSIC GROUP



Do you have some favourite songs/tunes? Would you like to share them with like-minded u3a Members?



We are planning to start a new group, meeting monthly in person to enjoy a wide variety of music. Each member would join on the basis that they will run a session, presenting their chosen favourite music, which could be mixed or limited to a single type. Help with equipment and technology will be available, if requested! Provisionally, it’s proposed that the sessions will be for two hours from 10.00 am on the fourth Monday of the month, with a coffee break in the middle, starting with

a taster session on Monday 27th February. There will be a £2 admission charge payable in cash, to cover costs.

The Desert Island Music Group plan to meet in the Grayswood Club, which is in Lower Road, Grayswood, on the corner of Grayswood Road, facing Grayswood Green. Free parking is available nearby. Interested? Contact the Group Leader on the u3a website.

New Members!

We extend a very warm u3a welcome to our recent new members:

Philip Hunt
Patricia Ives
Harold Russell
Anne Shelton

Valerie Lyons
Gunilla Pluthero
Jean Martin
Tracy Broderick

David Gareth
Jan Jeffcoat
Roger Abayasekera
Jacqueline Abayasekera



CYCLING FOR FUN - NEW YEAR GET TOGETHER!

Members of the popular Cycling for Fun group enjoyed New Year celebrations at The Grayswood Club in January. The Group meet on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday of the month and have, to date, 23 Members - but not all come out on every ride!

This popular bike ride is a mixture of on-road and off-road rides and Members ride road-bikes, hybrid and e-bikes. The Group usually start in and around Haslemere, but Members also drive to different places to start their rides to add a bit of variety. They always stop for a coffee break and wait for everyone to catch up at the top of hills etc, so nobody ever gets left behind. New members are warmly welcomed and they can have a 1-1 trial ride with one of the Group if requested.

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

We are always very interested to hear about Members' news - perhaps unique memories of their past or occasions to be cherished. If you would like to share your news or a memory of something special in your life, please email publicity@haslemereu3a.co.uk

SAVE OUR SIGNAL BOX!



Following January's talk, given by Tony Furse, in which we learnt about the St. Albans South signal box and the effort of converting it into a working educational museum, u3a Member Ken Griffiths (seen here with u3a Chairman Jock Gardner) thanked Tony for his very interesting and informative talk and went on to tell the intrigued audience about the Signal Box at Haslemere Station, which will sadly become redundant by the Autumn of 2024.

Together with a group of local railway enthusiasts, Ken has been in discussions with Network Rail and, as soon as it becomes redundant, they will have permission to bring the Haslemere Signal Box into Community ownership and open it as a working museum. The Signal Box, which is Grade 2 listed, is part of Haslemere's railway heritage and contains all the internal signalling mechanisms from when it opened way back in 1895.

"We are now looking to set up a charity to manage the Signal Box, together with a small railway museum, also situated at Haslemere Station," said Ken. "If you have skills such as setting up and running a charity, managing finances, fundraising, setting up partnerships, managing volunteers, information technology etc, as well as a knowledge of the railway, we would love to invite you to join us and help us with this exciting and fulfilling project."

If you would like to help and become involved in any way, please contact Ken via publicity@haslemereu3a.co.uk

For full details about the Haslemere Signal Box, please go to <https://railwayworld.net/2018/09/10/a-look-at-haslemeres-listed-signal-box/#more-2280>

MARCH SPEAKER – Philip Caine – Barrow to Baghdad and Back Again – Monday 13th March @ 2.00pm, Haslemere Hall

Philip talks about his various careers, initially as a Chef and Hotel Manager before moving into the North Sea oil industry and latterly moving in the same business to Algeria and Nigeria. Subsequently, he worked in Kazakhstan and Russia and in varying roles in Baghdad and Dubai. He will describe his colourful life in an informative and amusing manner! Born in 1950, in Barrow-in-Furness, Philip's career has taken him to many countries, via a number of different professions. He retired in 2015 and began writing and public speaking. Since then, he has spoken at over 500 venues and written 7 fictional adventure thrillers and 2 crime thrillers.

EXCITING NEW EXCURSIONS!

SAVE THE DATES! Two new u3a excursions have been planned for the Spring. On Thursday 6th April, a trip to the Royal Pavilion & Gardens in Brighton is planned which includes a guided tour followed by lunch (£36pp plus food) and on Monday 22nd May, we're off to Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club exploring the Centre & No 1 Courts, Press Writers Room, the Museum, as well as many others (£32pp) and catering facilities are also available.

Interested? Please contact the Excursions Secretary via the u3a website to book your place. More details concerning these two wonderful trips out will be featured in the March and April Newsletters.

REMINDER OF INCREASE IN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

As stated in the November 2022 newsletter, the Haslemere u3a annual subscription, which currently stands at £6.00 will increase to £10 per annum for all those applying for membership or renewing after April 2023. Despite being a significant increase, the subscription has not changed for some years and is still excellent value for money. The monthly speaker meetings will continue to be free of charge.

GROUP PICTURES NEEDED



We always need Group photos for our Facebook page (and for the Newsletter too!) to promote Members having fun and enjoying u3a activities. Please email these to Judith, our Social Media Co-ordinator, via our website contact page. Thank you.

