

HASLEMERE MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

A very Happy New Year to you all!

We begin 2024 with two Speaker's Meetings on a maritime theme. The first in January is on the training of British submarine captains and there will be some rather special visitors that day. In February, we will be turning backwards in time to Life in Nelson's Navy. This will provide an excellent introduction for our March outing to the National Maritime Museum – more details on the u3a website.

Yours ever, Jock

CONGRATULATIONS TO MILFORD U3A!



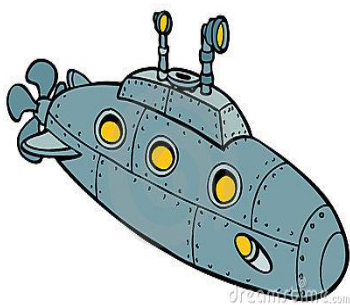
Haslemere u3a hosted an inter-society General Knowledge Quiz at the beginning of December at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall in the heart of Haslemere. Our Quizmaster was the legendary Colin Sherlock and the competing teams were Milford, Haslemere, Liphook, Midhurst and Woolmer Forest. Teams brought their own snacks and drinks and a good night was had by all with Milford winning the Quiz after a close call and tense tie breaker with Liphook!

NEW MEMBERS! A very warm u3a welcome to:
Susan Kent, Alison Thurston and Russ Taylor

FESTIVE FUN AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!



Around 70 Members enjoyed a very jolly afternoon at the u3a Christmas Party with Prosecco and wine, delicious nibbles, delightful background music from Allen Chubb, Group Leader of the Desert Island Music Group and, of course, the highly competitive Christmas Quiz, led by Colin Sherlock, to exercise our little grey cells! Congratulations to this year's winners who won the Annual trophy.



U3A JANUARY SPEAKER – 2.00PM, MONDAY, 8TH 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.

Michael Bawtree, who has been leading a new Group called Maths 4 Fun since September, will provide us with a short introduction to the Group at the start of January's Speakers Meeting. Maths 4 Fun is for anyone who is fascinated by mathematics but probably hasn't engaged in its mysteries for some time – prepare to be amazed!

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!

SPOTLIGHT ON GROUPS



WORLD HISTORY GROUP: This popular Group now has two vacancies for its next term, which will be focussing on South America. The Group meets on the second Monday morning of the month, from 10.00-12.00 at the organiser's house and discussion is always very lively. In 2023, the Group looked at the history of China, the USA, the USSR and Russia. Interested? Contact the Group Leader, via the Group Co-ordinator, on the u3a website contacts page.

TWO NEW DANCE GROUPS!



DANCING FOR FUN & FITNESS: Colin Sherlock, the u3a's renowned Quiz Master is also rather nimble on his feet! Formerly a ballet/modern dancer at the Bel Aires dance school in Guildford, Colin is looking to launch a new class for u3a Members, potentially on a Friday morning, for an hour of Dancing for Fun & Fitness which would involve dance moves from total beginners to all levels - to disco and popular music. There will only be a small fee to cover the hire of the chosen venue, but we do need people to register their interest and fill the class. Interested? Contact the Groups Co-ordinator and let's get healthy and moving to music!

GENTLE JIVERS GROUP: Some u3a Members would like to set up a new Gentle Jivers Group. The key features of the group will be:

- Emphasis on fun/enjoyment – don't worry if you have "two left feet!!"
- Basic Jive step instructions will be given

- Total beginners are most welcome
- There is no need to bring a partner – but you can, of course, if you want to!
- Music will be provided but we will also be open to requests

Before a venue, day/time and price per class can be confirmed, we will need to see if Haslemere u3a Members are keen to try this out and create a class. If you are interested, please get in touch with the Groups Coordinator – and hopefully we will get Gentle Jiving in Haslemere!

FEELING CREATIVE? WHY NOT ENTER THE U3A ANNUAL NATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION!

The u3a National Poetry Competition is back for its fourth year and the judges are looking forward to seeing what talents its lovely Members have to offer! The theme for this year's competition is "What If" and the deadline for submission is 12pm on Friday 26th January 2024. In summary, your story must be your own, individual, original work with a maximum of 16 lines and not submitted anywhere else. For more information and to source the competition rules, please go to u3a.org.uk/learning/poetry-competition Good luck Haslemere Poet Laureates!!

COOKING FOR MEN "REVEALED"!

At the Cooking for Men Christmas lunch in the Haslemere Hall Annexe, u3a Chairman, Jock Gardner, was invited as the Group's honoured guest. After a truly delicious lunch cooked from scratch and served by CFM members, Jock gave quite a memorable address where he recounted his first contact with the Cooking for Men group. He had arrived during one of their sessions when they were in the middle of a photoshoot to publicise their fabulous Gourmet Geezers cookbook which was shortly to be published. What he saw – and said he had never forgotten – was the group being photographed imitating one of the classic poses from the film *The Calendar Girls* – except the group's moniker was **The Colander Boys** as depicted here! A lovely, fun-filled afternoon was enjoyed by all.



TRULY SCRUMPTIOUS!



The Food of the Moment Group meet in a home kitchen on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 10.00am-12.30pm. Each month has a particular foodie theme and the December session was a Yuletide triumph! Group Leader, Jill Bancroft deliciously demonstrated how to make Blue Cheese & Chestnut Wellington, Roast Celeriac Bites, Pork Meatballs, Thai Fish Cakes, Artichoke Risotto and Beetroot & Salmon Canapes, which the six u3a attendant Members had the gastronomic joy of tasting after the session!

The aim of this Group is to bring like-minded people together and increase the understanding of current food trends through demonstration and discussion – including the trendy use of an air fryer! – and is open to both men and women u3a members. There is an attendance fee of £5.00 per session to contribute towards the cost of ingredients and, like the December session, you get the chance to taste the dishes produced at the session.

The Group will meet again in February. For more information, please go to Food of the Moment on the u3a website and contact Jill.

THE NEW BANKING HUB IS OPEN!



It was a good day for Haslemere in mid-December as five new banks have taken up a shared residence in the old Lloyd's Bank building at the top of the High Street. MP and Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt officially cut the ribbon at the launch which was widely attended.

"This is excellent news for Haslemere and for older people in particular, as many of whom don't have access to online banking," said Mr. Hunt. "Face to face banking still has a role to play and the Hub is

the answer. Haslemere is blazing a trail and I expect more and more towns will follow its example.”

A spokesman for Haslemere Town Council said: “The council is delighted that Haslemere’s Banking Hub is now fully operational. We are especially pleased to be the first Hub with a separate, external cash machine. We are acutely aware of the issues the lack of access to banking and cash in the town centre has caused our residents and have lobbied hard to get this much needed facility provided.”

The Hub will be operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major banks and building societies can carry out regular cash transactions – from personal banking to business banking and bill payments. It will also offer a community banker service so customers can talk to their bank about more complicated issues. The community bankers will work on rotation, with a different bank or building society available on each day of the week, 9.00am – 5.00pm:

Monday – Barclays

Tuesday – Nat West

Wednesday – Lloyds

Thursday – HSBC

Friday – Santander – (am only)

Mayor Jerome Davidson said, “The opening of this Banking Hub has been seriously fought for and the council have worked incredibly hard to get to this day, so I really do implore everyone to use this facility as much as they can to ensure we keep it.” For more information, please go to

<https://www.cashaccess.co.uk/hubs/haslemere-surrey/>

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.

SHARE YOUR NEWS AND GROUP PHOTOS! We are always very interested to hear Members news. If you would like to share your news, please email publicity@haslemereu3a.co.uk We also need Group photos for our Facebook page and indeed for the monthly Newsletter! Please email these to Judith, our Social Media Co-ordinator via our website page – Thank you!

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

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