



## HASLEMERE MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

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Hopefully, we can celebrate Summer now that the rain seems to have eased up! The good news is that there are several new u3a groups, details of which are described later in this Newsletter and there may be others on the way. As a follow on to last month's article, the latest Third Age Matters magazine features a piece on avoiding cyber-crime scams. I recommend it.

*Yours ever, Jock*

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### DON'T MISS THE LAST TARGET SHOOTING SESSION!

The Target Shooting group will be running its last session at 2pm on Wednesday 7th June, taking place at the National Small-bore Rifle Association, Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley Camp, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NP.

So that sufficient instructors can be booked to run our session, please email the Group Leader via Target Shooting on the u3a website by tomorrow, Friday 2nd June to book your place. You will receive tuition, safety advice and the chance to try both 10m air rifles and 25m rim fire .22 rifles. The price includes instructors, insurance, membership of the NSRA for the day, pellets, bullets and paper targets. Haslemere u3a has been able to negotiate a deal with the NSRA, at a cost of £35 for a 90-minute session; this is £20 cheaper than the normal group price.

### NEW BASIC LIFE SUPPORT GROUP

Another Basic Life Support Training course is planned for Thursday June 8th. This very popular FREE course is held in the Methodist Church Hall, Weyhill, Haslemere between 2.00 p.m and 4.00 p.m. If you are interested, please go to the U3A website and click on First Aid where you will be able to find full details and register your intention to attend. Thank you.

**NEWS OF MEMBERS!** *A very warm u3a welcome to:*

**Hilary Major, Michael Bawtree, Gwyn Nicholls, Rosemary and Neil Rowan, Carolanne Robertson, Letizia Mason and Shirley Taverner**



## INTRIGUING LECTURE

The Haslemere u3a's May Speaker was Francis Dickinson (far right), whose grandfather was Lieutenant Commander Edward Tomkinson DSO RN, the commanding officer of submarine HMS Urge during World War II, which was lost in 1942, shortly after sailing from Malta and was not relocated until many decades later. Francis was joined by Haslemere resident, Michael Tibbs (far left) who, at the age of over 100, is the *only* living WW2 submarine officer and Norman Hodgson, a Haslemere u3a Member, who enjoyed a long career in the Royal Navy, commanding several submarines.

**U3A JUNE SPEAKER – MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - HASLEMERE HALL @ 2.00pm. Simon Keable-Elliott - *Utterly Immoral* - Robert Keable and his scandalous novel!**

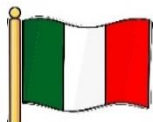
**Slated by critics and mocked in *The Great Gatsby*, Robert Keable's WW1 novel *Simon Called Peter* became a worldwide bestseller and transformed its author, a Cambridge-educated priest, into an international celebrity.**

**The June speaker, Simon Keable-Elliott, is Robert Keable's grandson. After studying Politics and Economics at Durham University, Simon managed a number of London restaurants, before opening his own. He then re-trained as a teacher and spent 25 years as Head of Politics and Director of MUN at a secondary school. Now working as a writer and speaker, *Utterly Immoral* is his first book and it traces Robert Keable's experiences from Croydon to Basutoland and on to France as a WW1 chaplain to mistreated black labourers. It examines Robert Keable's own novel's success, his loss of faith, his escape to Tahiti with his secret lover and his final relationship with an island princess!**

**U3a Members and guests/non-Members are very welcome at these free of charge monthly talks and non-Members can come to any two meetings before joining the Haslemere u3a. Tea and biscuits are also provided!**

## TWO NEW GROUPS!

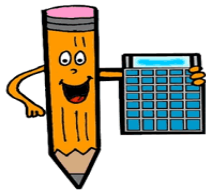
### *ITALIAN CONVERSATION – with Letizia Mason*



This is a group for people interested in practising their Italian Conversation at intermediate and advanced levels. It is also for those who have studied Italian in the past and love the language - but feel they have forgotten it all - you may be surprised at how much you remember!

I was born and grew up in Rome, although I have been living in the UK. for the last 43 years. Being in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere will help you to develop from where you are in your learning and for this reason the group will be held in my home in Haslemere. We will meet at 10.30 to 12.00 on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, commencing at a date to be agreed. The aim of the group

will be to share a common interest and have an enjoyable time; we will establish the format together at our first meeting. To find out more please contact the Groups Co-ordinator on the u3a website.



### **MATHS FOR FUN – with Michael Bawtree**

For many of us, once we have left school, life becomes so busy we give very little thought to this intriguing subject. Mathematics is (first and foremost) a language, and, like music, a truly beautiful and elegant one!

This new group – excluding school holidays - will meet in the Bay Room at the Methodist Church Hall in Haslemere on alternate Thursdays from 10.30-12.00. Some months will have three classes but most will have two and the first session will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September. You will need to bring – a pad of A4 1cm or 7mm squared paper, a pencil, rubber, biro, protractor, ruler, compass(es) and a Scientific Calculator (Casio fx-85GTX, Amazon £12)  
So, if you would like to extend or revisit Mathematics or have some fun with numbers, please contact the Groups Co-ordinator



### **DON'S LAST CONCERT!**

Don Stacey's last outing as Excursions Secretary is very fitting as it is a return to the Albert Hall for the John Rutter concert on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – which ironically was the first ever trip Don organised for the Haslemere u3a many moons ago! The coach leaves Haslemere at 11.00am for the 3.00pm performance with lunch in between and Don already has 25 reserved places. Tickets are £56pp. Interested? Contact the Excursions Secretary via the website.



### **HISTORIC LION LANE**

Haslemere U3A Local History group were pleased to escape the rain when they went on a walking tour of Lion Lane for their May meeting. On foot the group were able to study the small Victorian cottages happily lying cheek by jowl with modern terraces, all squeezed into every possible bit of available land. They formed a charming patchwork of different sizes, styles and materials.

The Group was led by Fay Foster and the first place of interest was White Lodge, a superb building

from 1840 which was likely to have been a brewery at one time. It is also believed to have had a friendly ghost who used to tidy up after the owners went to bed and even completed bits of sewing left around! This ordinary looking road offered intriguing glimpses of life from the middle 1800s to the present day and members enjoyed discovering how life had been lived in past decades.



## GARDEN VISITS GROUP OUTING



Group Members enjoyed a very pleasant outing recently to the glorious garden of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Thatched Cottage in Upper Farringdon. The borders simply burst with cottage garden plants and a lovely pond provided the soothing sound of water. A pergola of roses, clematis and honeysuckle led the way to fine specimen trees, a productive garden with fruit trees and raised vegetable beds, a wildflower area, animal sculptures and a gypsy caravan!

## THE WONDERS OF WIMBLEDON!



Members enjoyed a recent 90-minute tour of Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club where they visited all the iconic spots such as Centre Court, the Press Writers Room, Members Tea Lawn, the No 1 Court and other well-known areas. A lovely day out and a match made in Heaven!

## ANYONE FOR MAHJONG?

Mahjong is a highly social, tile-based game involving 4 players and is very popular amongst the Chinese community all over the world. The game involves strategy and memory and some governments in the Far East such as Singapore, encourage their senior citizens to take up this game. The basic game is not difficult to learn and Diana Monger is willing to teach and host the game sessions at her home in Fernhurst. Interested? Please contact the Groups Co-ordinator.

## DESERT ISLAND FUN!



Julian Ellis presented the third session of the Desert Island Music Group and his eclectic choice included Ashanti music from West Africa ( where he grew up), Gilbert and Sullivan, Ravel's Bolero, Pink Floyd, Genesis, Zorba's Dance (which prompted several members to get on their feet and perform as you can see!), Zadok the Priest (Coronation Music) and the sound of Bramshott Church bells, which were rung shortly afterwards on Coronation Day. A hugely enjoyable morning

was had by all. The Group meets for 90 minutes from 10.00am on the fourth Monday of the month at the Grayswood Club with a tea/coffee and biscuits break in the middle. Come and join the fun and enjoy a morning of music!



## HASLEMERE u3a IN THE COMMUNITY

Haslemere u3a has been represented recently at the Brook Fete and the Fernhurst Revels and our organisers and volunteers have enjoyed chatting with members of the public and telling them all about the many different groups on offer for anyone no longer full time working and with spare time on their hands.

Brook fete started well in dry sunny weather, but almost turned into a “fete worse than death” when a torrential downpour, followed by another torrential downpour and a mini hurricane lifted our borrowed gazebo into the ether and bent its front legs.

Rescued by some kind gentlemen, we tied it down with some decent tent pegs borrowed from the organisers. One of the helpers then got a soaking from the water that had gathered on the roof and suddenly exploded over him. Another of our helpers had to have her car towed out from a mudbath - but apart from that it was a GREAT event and we attracted a lot of interest from Fete goers!

With a spanking new gazebo, we attended the Fernhurst Revels and the weather was sunny and dry. However, understandably paranoid about floating/escaping gazebos, we anchored it down with water-filled weights and were able to relax and enjoy the day. A lot of people visited the stall and the time passed quickly as we chatted to members and non-members throughout the afternoon.

If you would like to join our friendly events team just get in touch with Judith Forde, the Membership Secretary via the u3a website.





## **CYCLING FOR FUN AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE**

Members of the Cycling for Fun group enjoyed an invigorating 21 mile cycle ride, starting in Richmond Park and including the Thames Riverside from Hampton Court down to the Mortlake Brewery.

## **AMBLING BY THURSLEY BOG**

The 3-4 mile Ambling Group, who meet once a month on the fourth Wednesday, enjoyed a lovely sunny morning walking around Thursley Bog, followed by a yummy pub lunch, lively conversation and u3a Membership Secretary, Mandy Blanks' birthday celebrations!



## **TINA CALLS TIME ON TEA – YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

We are still looking for someone to replace the lovely Tina who has headed up our lovely refreshments team for the past six years and is stepping down shortly. If you would like to join this friendly team and help with the teas/coffee/biscuits after our monthly Speaker's Meetings and other occasional events, then please contact Membership Secretary, Judith Forde via the u3a website

## **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](mailto:publicity@haslemereu3a.co.uk)

## **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. 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



