



HASLEMERE MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

Now as always, we inhabit a perilous world. In previous times we have endured war and famine and, rather more recently, pestilence. Now we gain great benefits from the digital age, but there are pitfalls too and you can read more about these on **page 3** of the Newsletter. The key messages are: be **Aware**, be **Alert**, seek **Assistance**, if in doubt **Do Nothing**. And lastly in the words of Douglas Adams, **Don't Panic**. And **Don't Spread Panic** either, especially by means of un-tested information.

Yours ever, Jock

JOIN THE TARGET SHOOTING GROUP! Fancy giving target shooting a go for the first time? Wonder if you can still shoot when the last time you held a gun was decades ago? Come along and try a shoot with our group as Haslemere u3a has been able to negotiate a deal with the National Small Rifle Association, based at the Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley. At £35 for a 90-minute session, this is £20 cheaper than the normal group price. 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. Our next session is on 10th May starting at 2pm. Interested? Go to the Target Shooting page on the u3a website for more information.

INTRIGUING U3A MAY SPEAKER – A BRITISH SUBMARINE AT WAR
Monday 15th May at 2.00pm. Haslemere Hall.

The May Speaker is Francis Dickinson, whose grandfather was Lieutenant Commander Edward Tomkinson DSO RN, the commanding officer of submarine HMS Urge, which left the UK for Malta during the Second World War. Following 20 successful war patrols against the enemy under Lieutenant-Commander Tomkinson, the submarine was sadly lost on active service in 1942.

Francis Dickinson was also one of the leaders of Project Spur, a maritime archaeology search project formed with the University of Malta in 2017 to search for the wreck of HMS Urge. In 2019, the submarine's wreck was discovered, enabling the full story of a gallant ship's company to be told. Francis subsequently commissioned a memorial to HMS Urge which was unveiled in 2022. He has a background in the legal profession and is a Trustee of the Friends of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum.

We do need some more 5-minute promotional group talks before the Speaker Meetings after June. Contributions from groups with vacancies would be particularly welcome. Please send your names/details to the Chairman or the Groups Coordinator via the website. Thank you.

HELP NEEDED FOR MAY u3a STALLS: The Haslemere u3a welcomes as many opportunities as possible to raise the profile of our wonderful organisation in the wider Community and are planning to set up stalls at local events to help recruit more Members. Could you please lend a hand by devoting just one hour of your time - between 1.00-4.00pm - to one of the following local events in Fernhurst and Haslemere... which you may, of course, already be attending!

Sunday 21st May – Fernhurst Revels & Sunday 28th May – Classic Car Show

Interested? Please contact our Membership Secretary, Judith Forde, via the website – she would be very pleased to hear from you! Thank you.

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

John Casey, Alison and Mark Walters, Vanessa and Anthony Johnson, Jeannette Hatcher, Kay Davies, Ruth Depreter, Therese Robinson and Morgan Andrews.



THERESA'S CHARITY CYCLETHON

On 28th May, one of the Cycling for Fun members, Theresa Kennedy, is cycling an amazing 100 miles through London and Essex to raise funds for the charity "Maggie's Centres." This fantastic charity offers practical and emotional support to people and families suffering with the effects of cancer. They offer this through 1-1 support or group sessions and there are 24 centres in the UK, which welcome 100+ visitors into each centre every day.

If you would like to kindly support Theresa, her Just Giving page is:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Theresa-Kennedy9>



TINA CALLS TIME ON TEA!

We have Tina to thank for providing our lovely refreshments after the monthly Speaker's Meetings for the past six years but sadly, she will be relinquishing her role at the end of the u3a Summer term. So, we are looking for more volunteers to join this friendly team and help with organising tea, coffee and yummy biscuits after our monthly Speaker's Meetings as well as other occasional events throughout the year. We also need someone to organise the roster of volunteers with regard to serving the refreshments et al.

Interested? Please contact our Membership Secretary, Judith Forde via the website

HAPPY SILVER ANNIVERSARY TO THE GOURMET GEEZERS!



Incredible as it may seem, the uber popular u3a Cooking for Men group has been in existence for almost as long as the Haslemere u3a itself and recently celebrated 25 years of Cooking for Fun! As the name suggests, this is just for gentlemen who take it in turns to bring their favourite recipes to the cookery sessions, together with multiple ingredients to feed the group interesting and tasty two course lunches, whilst “directing” them in its preparation and cooking. The secret to its success is the fact that whilst this enthusiastic group of amateur chefs – also known affectionately as *The Gourmet Geezers* – are truly serious about cooking good food.... they don’t take themselves too seriously at all! They meet every other Monday in the Annexe at Haslemere Hall and friendly banter is rife at every session as you can imagine!

The Cooking for Men tab on Haslemere’s u3a home page will also take you to their own website which provides a brief description of how the group works, with links to some of their fund-raising exploits - such as their fabulous Gourmet Geezers cookbook, packed full of gorgeous recipes. The Geezers recently held a fantastic three course Dinner Dance for over 100 people, complete with Opera Singers and a live Band, at Haslewey Community Centre to celebrate St. George’s Day. All the delicious food was cooked and served by the Cooking for Men team and the event raised much needed funds for Haslewey, a registered charity. A fabulous evening was had by all – thank you Geezers!

HELP STOP THE SCAMMERS!

A heads-up from Chairman, Jock Gardner.

Whether we like it or not, we live in a digital age which has undeniably brought us multiple benefits, but to many this may also seem fraught with difficulty and danger. Fraud and deception have always existed, but today’s modern systems seem to have multiplied the opportunities for these dubious activities. We should all be wary of this be it for financial affairs or our email accounts, but a few simple rules will help us all.

Let us look firstly at how we may be approached. On the doorstep or by post are both relatively rare these days, so it is more likely by telephone - an example being a recorded message saying that some suspicious payments have been made from your bank account (or from a computer company) and asking you to contact the Bank's security department, usually by pushing a button on your phone, which is best ignored. A dead giveaway being the American-accented voice of the call! However, please check your bank account, just in case.

Your bank and your computer company would never ring you or ask you to log onto your computer and they would never ask you to move money to a new account to protect it from fraudsters. So don't call the number initially given to you but look on the back of your bank card for a contact number instead. In short, assume **everyone is a scammer** no matter how convincing they are and **trust no one** who rings you and starts talking about bank accounts or computers.

Email has spawned many deceptions, one of which may be asking you to check a utility bill that you did not expect or saying that you are about to lose your internet connection. Just look at who has sent it and it might be an ordinary email address or even one from Japan or China – which is not a normal piece of outsourcing for, say, BT or British Gas.

So, what to do about it? Be aware and cautious. Advice is available from banks, on the internet more generally and from more local sources such the Surrey Police. <https://www.surrey.police.uk/police-forces/surrey-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/2023/fraud-newsletter--february-edition/fraud-newsletter---march-2023/>

You can also ask someone else who is more knowledgeable about these things. A further case, which has been used for some years, consists of an apparently innocent email from someone you know asking you to make contact. This usually indicates that the person concerned has been hacked and their email or computer compromised. Should you answer the invitation you will apparently be asked to send money in some form, such as Amazon vouchers.

Here it moves from HACK to SCAM!

TRIP TO WIMBLEDON LAWN TENNIS CLUB – Monday 22nd May



There are just a few tickets left for this excursion, so why not enjoy a 90-minute tour taking you to all the iconic spots such as Centre and No 1 Courts, the behind the scenes Press Writers Room, Members Tea Lawn and other well-known areas. After the tour, you can explore the Museum at your leisure and catering facilities are available on site for lunch. The coach will leave Haslemere circa 10.00am and Wimbledon at around 3.00pm for the journey back. Cost: £32pp. To book your place, contact the Excursions Secretary via the website.

JOHN RUTTER CAROL CONCERT – ROYAL ALBERT HALL Wednesday 6th December

Yes, it's only May - but these tickets get snapped up quickly! Do join us for this wonderful precursor for Christmas celebrations – we have 50 excellent seats in the Arena of the Hall. Leaving Haslemere at 11.00am, we arrive in London in time for lunch prior to the concert at 3.00pm. The concert finishes at 5.30pm, so we should be back in Haslemere around 7.30pm. Tickets are £56pp and must be paid in full by the end of September, so contact the Excursions Secretary via the u3a website.



A FABULOUS TRIP TO THE BRIGHTON PAVILION



U3a Members recently enjoyed a coach trip to Brighton to visit the spectacular seaside palace of the Prince Regent (George IV) which was transformed by John Nash between 1815 and 1823 into one of the most dazzling and exotic buildings in the British Isles. The Royal Pavilion combines Regency grandeur with Indian architecture and Chinese inspired interiors. We visited Queen Victoria's Bedroom where the original elegant 19th Century Chinese Export wallpaper had been reinstated and had a lovely walk around the beautifully restored Regency Garden. Sadly, the gorgeous table above was not set for **our** lunch! However, there was a wonderful selection of restaurants to choose from including fish & chips on Brighton Pier together with traditional ice cream cornets - Yum!

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

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 An independent registered charity no: 1053049

