

Heathfield & District u3a



APRIL 2024 NEWS

Next Monthly Meeting – Tuesday 16th April 2024

Venue: Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield, TN21 0XG

Doors open 2.00pm

**“Secrets, Scandal and Salacious Gossip in the Royal Court
1660-1830”**



Sarah Slater from Hampton Court will be wearing one of the beautiful costumes of the era while she gives an illustrated talk about the naughty bits of history which you probably did not learn at school. She will introduce royal mistresses and the various complications that this led to.

Sarah previously talked to us (via Zoom) about the ghosts of Hampton Court which was well received.

The meeting will be chaired by Barbara Hibbart as I will be drifting down the Danube.

Also in our calendar is our monthly coffee morning at the Co-op.

Venue: Co-op Café, 110 High Street, Heathfield, TN21 8JD

Next session: Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 10.30am till midday



Coffee mornings take place on the first Wednesday in the month, from 10.30am until 12.00 noon. Come and have a chat with our members, both old and new, meet some of our Committee members and find out about Heathfield & District u3a and our 40+ groups. If you are not yet a member, discover how to join, or just come along and enjoy a cuppa and a chat! For further information, please contact Jamie at: jamienicholls215@aol.com or Kay at: kaynicholls@aol.com.

u3a Membership renewal.

On 14th February you will have received your invitation to renew your membership of Heathfield & District u3a for the forthcoming year from April 1st 2024. About three quarters of you have already done so. Hopefully the rest will renew soon.

If you do not intend continuing your membership it would be helpful if you could drop me a brief email to this effect so that we can avoid bothering you with further reminders.

(jamienicholls215@aol.com)

Forthcoming meetings

Barbara Hibbart is our Speaker Co-ordinator, together with Val Hodgson who is assisting her. If you have any ideas regarding future speakers, or indeed, if you would like to give a talk, do please get in touch with Barbara at: barbara@barbarahibbartcoaching.co.uk or Val at: groupsu3a@outlook.com.

Speakers coming up...

Tuesday 21st May – The Development of Pick & Mix Cocktails with Simon Jackowski (with AGM)

Tuesday 18th June – First Aid at Home with Leo Parfitt

Tuesday 16th July - The History of Spoons with Mousie Murray

Plant swap/sale



At our April meeting we will be holding our annual Plant Swap and Sell. If you are a gardener and have any spare plants, seedlings or seeds please label them and bring them to our April meeting as soon after 1.30pm as possible. You will be able to swap your donations for tokens for new plants or buy them in aid of Help the Aged. Bring a bag, box or other container to carry your goods in.

The Annual General Meeting 2024



This is to give you notice that the **8th Annual General Meeting of Heathfield & District u3a** will take place on **Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 2.30pm** as part of our normal monthly meeting in the Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

I will be sending out the agenda, previous minutes and chairman's report with the next newsletter in early May.

The purpose of the AGM is to appoint the officers for the forthcoming year. Many of the current post holders have agreed to continue for another year. Maybe there could be competition (I can dream!). We will definitely be looking to appoint a new secretary as Moira is standing down after several years. The job involves taking minutes of monthly committee meetings, and a little correspondence. Can you help? I hope that some of our group leaders will come along and give a short report on what your group has been up to this year (nothing elaborate, just so that the other members can see what is going on).



Visit to Hampton Court Garden Festival



Details of the show here -

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-hampton-court-palace-garden-festival>

Jan Riddle (jan_riddle@yahoo.co.uk) is organising an outing to this event on **Friday 5th July 2024**.

This visit will be by coach leaving from Heathfield at 8.30am and returning about 7.00pm.

The cost of entry and coach travel is £58 each (£53 for RHS members). Several members have already signed up and paid. Places will be preferentially given to our members, but *there are now places available for guests and members of other u3as also*. **As tickets have to be booked in advance, your place can be secured by payment.** Please contact Jan for further details.

Other group news....

Garden visits group by Lynda Swan



On Wednesday 27th March, I went with the Garden Visits group, to Hever Castle. I hadn't been there for many years and had forgotten what a beautiful place it is!

I am not one for "formal" gardens usually, but the Italian garden at Hever took my breath away.

It was pouring with rain most of the day, but Jan and I, and some others, braved the rain, and explored the rock gardens, and woodland areas, and they were worth getting soaked for!

We also went into the castle - home to the Boleyns for many years and generations, -and using the audio guides, found it all very interesting.

The coffee and snacks on arrival and also before leaving, we're pretty good too! Thank you so much Jan Riddle, for arranging our trip.

Cookalong group by Lesley Negus



The Cookalong group had the theme of British regional dishes this month.

We had Canterbury tart, Tottenham cake, Eccles cakes, Bakewell tart and Sussex smokies amongst other things

We all waddled home after everyone tried everything! Next month it's It Freezes Well

.....on Facebook

Crafting4Fun, Cooking up a Storm, Birdwatching, Art & Painting, Craft & Natter, Poetry, Garden Visits, Gardening4Fun, Creative Writing4Fun.

These groups have all recently posted reports, with some cracking pictures, on our Facebook page. Have a look.

Information is regularly posted on our Facebook page and I would strongly suggest you sign up to the Heathfield & District u3a Facebook group. 123 of our members already have. Even if you are otherwise averse to Facebook you should find it useful, and it cures FOMO (fear of missing out).

Southeast u3a Forum Summer School

Members interested in this 4-day residential course in Chichester in early September 2024, covering at least 14 different topic areas should look at the link below.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/s/southeastu3aforum/docs/ss24regionnetworkflyermarch24.pdf>

National Newsletter – April Edition

If you would like a copy of the most recent edition of the u3a National Newsletter, you can apply for a copy via: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter>. Or sign up to receive it regularly.

Some legal stuff

In order to comply with General Data Protection Regulations this is to inform you that any personal information you give to u3a will only be used for purposes of membership and communication within the organisation, and will not be shared without your consent to any other outside body. We may also take photographs at certain u3a events. If you do not wish to appear in such photos, it is your responsibility to ensure that the photographer is made aware of your objection.

Have a good April.

Best wishes,

Jamie Nicholls. Chairman.