



Sussex Prairie Gardens

Hello everyone

I heard someone say the other day that life is about experiences, and the best thing anyone can do is give other people a reason to be together. Well, we are certainly doing that here at u3a! First of all, we have our **Summer Social** on 23rd June, an informal get-together for members and guests over a glass or two of Pimm's. Don't worry if the weather is less than kind, we now have our very own u3a gazebo that can be erected on the deck!! Then, on Friday 11th August, we are arranging an outing to Sussex Prairie Gardens, where you can see the offerings from Bazaar, a kaleidoscope of Indian colours in textiles, jewellery, clothes etc. Jo from Bazaar will be our January Speaker, and has kindly offered our members **FREE** entry (worth £10), so you can see her amazing collection and/or explore the stunning gardens.

## Monthly Meeting - Tuesday 20th June - 2.30pm

### 'Life on a Harpstring' with Margaret Watson

Take a trip with Margaret as she delves into the 5000-year history, development, design, and music of this fascinating instrument. With light anecdotes and lots of harp playing, Margaret shows how surprisingly versatile, fun and modern this ancient instrument, boasting 1400 parts, can be

**As usual our meeting will be at the Community Centre,  
Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield TN21 0XG. Doors open 2.00pm.**

**Visitors are welcome**



## u3a Summer Social - Friday 23rd June

**You (plus guest) are invited for 'Pimm's & Prosecco on the Deck'. We do hope you can join us for this informal get together, anytime from 6.30pm**

**Venue:** 3 Wealdview Road, Heathfield, TN21 0XA (opposite Community Centre). For more information contact annie Schofield:

[publicityu3a@outlook.com](mailto:publicityu3a@outlook.com)

P.S. I'm sure you'd agree that me carrying jugs of Pimm's is probably not a good idea, so could I please request a bit of help Just an hour, sometime prior to the start would be great

## Sussex Prairie Gardens - Friday 11th August

We are organising a coach trip to Sussex Prairie Gardens for all our u3a members - with **FREE** entrance for our members (worth £10) In January, our Speaker will be Jo Hall from Bazaar. Bazaar sells through a network of amazing shows and festivals, mainly in the South East. Jo has worked in India for 29 years with crafts people, ensuring the quality of Bazaar's products, and fair deals to manufacturers. Gorgeous items for sale include handmade gifts, textiles and jewellery and clothes. Bazaar will be at the Sussex Prairie

Gardens for the month of August, with an outdoor spectacle in marquees in the glorious gardens and Jo has extended a very special invitation to us - **FREE** entrance for our members (worth £10)! You get to see what Bazaar has to offer as well as the stunning gardens. The cost of the coach should be no more than £15 per person. N.B. we cannot book a coach until we know numbers, so please indicate your interest by **Thursday 20th June latest**. Full payment will then be required by 30th June to secure your place. To book, please email Jan Riddle at [jan\\_riddle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jan_riddle@yahoo.co.uk).

## Le Marche

The next date for your diary is Le Marche on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August**. u3a will be there - this time with our own gazebo! Not only is this a great day out, but thanks to our wonderful 'sales team', each year we have signed up a large number of new members, So, we are once again looking for volunteers to give just an hour or so of their time to hand out leaflets, talk to people, and hopefully sign them up. Some of you reading this will have been 'signed up' there, so maybe you would like to tell people what a great lot we are!

## News from the Groups

Our featured group this month is **ART APPRECIATION**

Our newly formed Heathfield Art Appreciation group met for the first time in March at a 'meet and greet' at Noakes Cafe in Heathfield. Following on from this, we set monthly meetings starting in April, when we all spoke briefly about a favourite piece of art. It was a really interesting meeting with so much variety, for example, a personal miniature painted by an artistic friend to pottery. We continued this theme for our May meeting and in June we decided to focus on a famous artist and chose Pablo Picasso. Each member presented different aspects of his life, for example, his early years, his stage designs and his sculptures. There is always lots of discussion and comments and we are all learning so much. These two pictures show the art we have discussed so far:



## Group News - Vacancies

One of the problems we have is people joining u3a expressly for the purpose of joining a particular group, only to be told it's full. We do ask them to check regularly, but how are you to know when the situation has changed? So, from now on, each month we will list the groups that have vacancies (Group Leaders please note, you will need to let me know if you have places)

**Mahjong** Beginners and Intermediate groups have merged and now have a new home - the Union Church, High Street, Heathfield. 2pm until 4pm. A session costs £2, with tea and biscuits provided! The next meeting will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. From JULY, sessions will take place on the THIRD Friday afternoon in the month, 21st JULY, 18th AUGUST, 15th SEPT. For more information, please contact Jenny: [jsbryan72@gmail.com](mailto:jsbryan72@gmail.com) or telephone 01435 661486

**Art and Painting Group** No special expertise required, just supply your own materials and enjoy painting/drawing with fellow enthusiasts. All mediums welcome - oil, acrylic, watercolour, pencil, ink, pastel..... We currently have twelve members with plenty of space for more.) For more details please contact Chris, on: [cmegayer@gmail.com](mailto:cmegayer@gmail.com).

**Gardening for Fun Group** Our first of several garden outings of the year will be to Borde Hill Gardens, Haywards Heath on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June. If you are interested in gardening and gardens, why not come and join us?

Contact : Barbara Hibbart [barbara@barbarahibbartcoaching.co.uk](mailto:barbara@barbarahibbartcoaching.co.uk)

**The new Creative Writing 4 Fun group** is flourishing and we are welcoming new members each month. Would you like to write a creative piece about a 'Spotty Dotty' plant? We meet on the first Wednesday of the month and take turns in choosing the subject to write about, and also hosting the meeting. Contact : Barbara Hibbart [barbara@barbarahibbartcoaching.co.uk](mailto:barbara@barbarahibbartcoaching.co.uk)

**New Craft Group:** We are looking to begin a third craft group. If you would be interested in meeting with other members to form a new group please email Karen on: [groupsu3a@outlook.com](mailto:groupsu3a@outlook.com) The plan is to have an initial meeting to discuss ideas, venue, dates and which direction members would like to take the group. This is open to new crafters and also current craft members looking for an additional group. Please see the Craft4fun group website page for ideas about the activities that could be undertaken. PContact : Barbara Hibbart [barbara@barbarahibbartcoaching.co.uk](mailto:barbara@barbarahibbartcoaching.co.uk)

**The Cookalong Group** Each month the theme is chosen by the meeting host. Savoury tarts, soups, 1970s throw back, cooking with grains, comfort food, Spanish tapas etc. If you would be interested in joining the Cookalong Group or starting a companion group, please contact Jane Jones via the website.

**Book Club Chapter 1:** A recent book was The Great Circle by Maggie Shipstead, which was thoroughly enjoyed for its varied topics from Geography to History and beyond. We currently have two spaces, so contact Lin - [linplant2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:linplant2002@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like to join us. We have two men in our group, so if you are a man, don't be shy and come and join us - lady members also welcome!

**Book Group Chapter 3:** Our next meeting is on June 19th at 3pm. Book under discussion is Dunbar by Edward St Aubyn. A story based on King Lear. New members welcome! Please contact Wendy; [wendyannefox@icloud.com](mailto:wendyannefox@icloud.com)

**Photography Group:** The group meets monthly (3rd Thursday of the month am) and take it in turns to host in member's homes. The aim of the group is to meet fellow enthusiasts and discuss our images and stories and swap any tips and techniques. We have space to include new members, who would be warmly welcomed. Please contact Mark for details: [mark\\_pattison@btinternet.com](mailto:mark_pattison@btinternet.com)

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## Monthly Meeting - Tuesday 18th July 2.30pm

### **An Illustrated History of Herstmonceux Castle with Melinda Stone**

This brick-built castle, dating from the 15th century, is one of the oldest significant brick buildings still standing in England. This illustrated talk outlines the lengthy history of the site and its wide-ranging variety of occupants, including aspects of the splendid castle which are mainly no longer visible to the visitor.

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## Coffee Mornings

### **The Cafe in the Co-op, High Street, Heathfield**

You're guaranteed a morning of chat and laughter. Great for members to meet others (new and old) and visitors who want to know more about what we have to offer. Everyone is welcome, so do join us, we'd love to see you.

**1st Wednesday** of the month, any time between 10.30am and 12 noon



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I much look forward to meeting you all on the 23rd - assuming you're not off to Glastonbury of course...

Kind regards

Annie  
[publicityu3a@outlook.com](mailto:publicityu3a@outlook.com)