



The River Ouse

Hello Everyone

Normally I would refrain from mentioning the cost of living crisis, but I have some very good news. There is something that hasn't increased in price – and that's your u3a membership. Yes, it stays at exactly the same for the year 23/24!!! For just £15 you get a variety of professional Speakers (and judging by the record attendances at our monthly meetings, much enjoyed). We also have more than 30 interest groups from Art and Painting to Writing for Pleasure, and everything in between. And, having just completed the programme of Speakers we think you will be just as entertained by the range of subjects we will be covering for the next 12 months.

In January 2024 we will be welcoming Joanna Hall from 'Bazaar'. Jo, the founder, is a Textile and Fashion Designer who has been working alongside crafts people in India for more than 20 years.

She works mainly in Rajasthan where her designs are manufactured through a web of trusted craftspeople she has befriended in that time.

The culmination of all these efforts is a beautiful range of clothing, textiles, jewellery, sarongs, rugs, gifts and exotic home furnishings which Joanna sells at her extraordinary shows throughout the year.

She is keen to ensure that not only does Bazaar embrace rigorous Fairtrade principles but also that a part of everything she does should go back into local communities.'

In August she will be exhibiting at the Sussex Prairie

Gardens www.bazaarshop.co.uk/events and has invited us to go along and meet her, and see her work. AND... she is offering our group complimentary entry (it should be £10). We have chosen **Friday 11th August** for this outing, which is open to all our members, whether you want to try your hand at block printing, or simply wander round the gardens. We will be organising a coach, so let me know if you are interested in going

Monthly Meeting Tuesday 21st March 2.30pm **The Ouse Valley with Ian Everest**

Old photographs and cine film will offer a glimpse of some of the less well-known aspects of life in the Ouse valley between Lewes and the sea. Areas of interest will include the agricultural, industrial, aviation, sporting and artistic heritage of the area.

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

Membership Renewal

As you are probably aware, the U3A membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March.

The basic fee is £15 for an individual and £28 for a couple, although some discounts apply

There are several ways to pay your subscription

- If you'd like to pay online, our banking details are **Lloyds Bank Payee: Heathfield & District U3A, Sort Code 30 – 98 – 90, Account Number 15209060**

For your reference please enter your membership number, or numbers followed by as much of your surname as the box allows.

- You can send a cheque with your membership number(s) on the reverse to the Membership Secretary, Lesley Negus at Willow Down, Street End Lane, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8RZ
- Bring a cheque, with your membership number on the reverse to a meeting. We would like to avoid payment by cash if at all possible

Membership cards will be sent via email once you have renewed, which you can then print out if you would like to.

Please make any cheques payable to Heathfield & District U3A.

If you do not intend to rejoin, could you please let us know to save us bothering you further

Group News

Art and Painting Group held their inaugural meeting. Eleven artists of all abilities attended and began drawing/painting either a Spring themed piece or a picture of their own choice. Watercolour paints and pencils, gouache, sketching pencils and acrylics were among the medium chosen. A varied selection of outdoor venues is currently being planned. If you have an interesting garden or know about an outdoor venue that would welcome (a maximum of) twelve artists, please offer your suggestions, these would be most appreciated.

(Parking and Toilets a priority) Please contact Chris: cmegaymer@gmail.com

Book Club Chapter 1 has space and would welcome new members, they meet on the 2nd Thursday in the month, 10am until 12pm their next session is 16th March. For details contact Lin: linplant2002@yahoo.co.uk

The Garden Visits group continues to be very popular. Future dates: Scotney Castle arranged for 20th March, 12th April to Arundel to see the tulips, and Wisley on 24th April (fully booked but has a waiting list) Please email Jan for details: jan_riddle@yahoo.co.uk

We now have **TWO Rummikub groups**. It is always exciting to hear that our groups have expanded please contact Alistair

(beginners): margnali@gmail.com or Sue: susanpalmera25@msn.com

Cooking up a Storm have a lot of fun gathered around Lesley's kitchen island, cooking 3 or 4 recipes each month.! The brief of the group is that they would like to make unusual things. Lesley enjoys scouring through her extensive cook book collection each month searching out something she thinks they will

enjoy. They haven't had a failure yet! For details contact: lesleynegus@outlook.com

The Play Readers, have begun, 'hitting' the boards, with Alan Ayckbourn's 'Season's Greetings' their first meeting being a great success. A second group is under consideration email Susanne to express an interest: hellosusanneuk@gmail.com

French Group is thriving; with twelve members enjoying their monthly Rendezvous.

New groups that have had initial meetings or are in the process of forming include: **Art Appreciation, Music Appreciation and Crib (Card game)**. Please see our website which has all the information and contact details for our groups, <https://u3asites.org.uk/heathfield/groups> or email groupsu3a@outlook.com

There is also lots of information on our Facebook page, and photographs as well: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/heathfieldu3a>

Do you have an idea for a group, one that is not yet have formed or would you like to start a second group? This could be based on the same idea as a current group or have a twist of its own? **Backgammon, Book/jigsaw/plant Swaps, Card games, Pétanque, a.n.other ideas?** Please email me and we can make the suggestion to our whole u3a community.

Email: groupsu3a@outlook.com Thank you to all of our group co-ordinators/facilitators for your continued hard work and enthusiasm. Best wishes to all, Karen.

Coming Up

Monthly Meeting Tuesday 18th April 2.30pm

'A Curious Tale' with Producer/Director Leigh Tarrant

Following the invasion by the Spanish Armada in 1588, legend has it that the Anglian coast and the East Sussex heritage would protect further invading of their coastlines by burying three significant crowns. Move on nearly four hundred years and that legend leads us into the story of the family 'Hagar' and of that final crown hidden somewhere around the woodland area of Bodiam. Local film maker Leigh Tarrant has made an old fashioned ghost story which uses the sweeping shores of the Sussex coast, and its dense woodland areas, as its backdrop

Stop Press

Sunday 7th May, 2-7pm We have taken a stall (or rather, we will be erecting our gazebo) at the Family Fun Day, taking place in the Community Centre grounds on Sunday 7th May to commemorate the Coronation of Kings Charles. **We will need volunteers to hand out leaflets, please email me if you can spare an hour to help.** And we do hope members will come by to say hello - and sit down to join us in a glass of bubbly!

Monthly Coffee Mornings at the Co-Op



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

1st Wednesday of the month

Any time between 10.30am and 12 noon

Kind regards

Annie

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