



# Hurst, Hassocks and Ditchling

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

## February 2024 Newsletter

A new membership year starts on 1st April. Time to renew in March!

### General

Beware of spam emails! Hopefully we're all aware of spam emails coming from strangers – telling us that there is a package awaiting delivery (when we haven't ordered one) or our Amazon account is due for paying (but we don't use Amazon!). However, it has been brought to our attention that several u3as around the country are currently being targeted by scammers. These scammers are using the u3a's Exec Committee, and send emails that pretend to be from one of them. So a little more care needs to be taken now. These emails often just ask you to reply to acknowledge that you have received the email. If you respond, the spammer will then email you again, posing as the person you think they are, asking you for some sort of money. Most often they will ask you to buy a digital voucher on their behalf (e.g. Amazon or Apple) to be delivered to them. **NEVER DO THIS!!!**

Things to look out for are –

The email doesn't address you by name

It contains language that you know that person wouldn't use – e.g. "Hey!"

It contains American spelling or words or is poorly written

When in doubt, don't respond and never click on a link. If you think the email may be genuinely from the u3a member, contact them separately and check with them.

The Executive Committee (EC) would like to thank all of you who responded to the voting request concerning the method of issuing the HHD Handbook. 239 members voted in total.

The result was that 69% of members voting were happy to receive future Handbooks by email attachment. 31% said they preferred to collect a printed copy. The EC will therefore distribute the next Handbook by email attachment to all members, apart from the few members who do not have email.

This is expected to be in late April/early May.

**Monthly meetings** Doors open 1.30 for 2pm start on a Friday unless stated otherwise. There will be an entry fee of £2 per person, which includes refreshments.

**Friday 23rd February, Court Bushes.** "Auks and Orcas", a journey round the British Isles by *Michael Blencowe*.

**Friday 22nd March, Adastra Hall.** "Behind the Scenes at Centre Court" by *Ian Chalmers*.

**Friday 26th April, Adastra Hall.** "100 Seaside Piers" by *Paul Tracey*.



Registered charity 1166194  
[www.u3asites.org.uk/hhd](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/hhd) [hhdu3a@gmail.com](mailto:hhdu3a@gmail.com)

## Groups )

**Italian Beginners** (new group) meets in members' homes on 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons for those who want to revisit or be introduced to the basics of Italian.

**Italian Conversation 1** Remains as in current list.

**Italian Conversation 2** meet on second and 4th Tuesdays pm in a member's home. They choose a topic in advance to discuss in Italian at the following meeting, using a range of materials and resources.

**Ciao Italia** remains the same

**Creative writing 2** has a new leader. The group meets monthly on the 2nd Friday afternoon.

## Potential new group

**Shakespeare Group** The leader writes " I'm sure we all did Shakespeare in school. We probably only read half a dozen or so plays leaving another 30 or so to explore. If anyone is interested in meeting once a month to fill in the gaps or to reignite your love of Shakespeare, please contact via the website.

A **Cryptic Crossword Group** was run successfully before the pandemic. If you would like to learn or practice doing cryptic crosswords.

Our Groups Co-Ordinator is also trying to keep waiting lists for people who want to join a group which is currently full. This would help her to see where a second or third group on a particular subject is needed so everyone can participate. If you are on a waiting list for a group, please let her know.

## Burgess Hill

The **Flower Arranging Group** meets in Hassocks at St. Francis Church Hall, Priory Road Hassocks and is looking for new members.

## Coach Trips.

Assistance from our members is required to help establish and run our programme of coach trips for next year. Suggestions for venues are welcome. The sort of tasks involved would be recording interested attendees, booking forms and issuing payment reminders and pick-up details. We can reduce the work of email issue by using our Beacon system – but you do not have to worry about learning about that – help will be at hand. Just the preparation of the messages etc will help enormously. I am very pleased to advise that Gillian Hardwick will serve on the team to provide some of the ideas, and on relevant trips will act as our guide, with her entertaining commentary en-route as we have enjoyed this year. If you can help in any way please contact our secretary.

## Local Facilities

**IT support One to One.** IT support is available from Hurst College.

## Newsletter

