

Welcome to your **Hurst, Hassocks & Ditchling u3a Newsletter**

In this edition: Groups update
Monthly meetings
Open Day review
Coach trips
Summer school 2024
New tech help

Groups

You can make contact with individual Group Leaders by visiting that group's page on our website.

New Groups



Following the successful Open Morning, we have had some exciting offers to start new groups. A **Ukulele** group including teaching beginners. A **Classic/Vintage Cars and Motorbikes**, and a **Craft** group. A potential new member would like to restart the **Chess Club** which closed some years ago. Please contact the Groups Coordinator if you are interested in any of these activities; if there are enough people we can get the groups going.

In addition, we have significant numbers who have shown interest in the following groups: **Gardening, Scrabble, Tourism, Local History** and **Art**. Existing groups are fully subscribed, but we'd love to start new groups. Leading a group is not arduous. If you are interested in any of the above subjects, and would be willing to start a group, please contact the Groups Coordinator. You will be fully supported until the group is established.

Groups update

Cryptic Crosswords is now back in action on the third Monday morning of the month in a member's home.

Book Group 3 is set up and meets on the third Wednesday in a member's home. Everyone takes turns to choose a book; we are open to all fiction genres.

The new **Shakespeare** group meets on the third Tuesday afternoon in a member's home. They explore key themes of Shakespeare's plays, learning together, reading scenes together and visiting productions where possible.

Groups Coordinator vacancy

From the AGM this month, there will be a vacancy for a Groups Coordinator. This is an Executive Committee role, and mainly involves: keeping information about groups updated and communicated; organising an annual meeting for group leaders; helping new groups to start up; and supporting new group leaders. The current Groups Coordinator will induct and support someone in the new role.

Membership. Your membership renewal fee of £15.00 for 2024/2025 became due on 1st April 2024. **Card collection** - members are asked to collect their membership cards for the subscription year 2024/2025 from the hall at the rear of the United Reform Church, 23 Keymer Road, Hassocks on Saturday 27th April from 9.30am-12.30pm.

Monthly meetings - Doors open 1.30pm for 2.00pm start - entry £2 per person (card payment preferred). Includes refreshments.

Friday 26th April. Adastral Hall, a talk on "100 Seaside Piers" focusing on the south coast. *No entry fee* for this meeting as it is preceded by our AGM (15 minutes).

Friday 24th May. Adastral Hall, a talk on "The Turners of Oldland: Nine Generations of a Keymer Family".

Review Our recent Open Day in Adastral Hall was a great success. The hall was buzzing, and group members and leaders enjoyed showing off their activities. It is clear that there is a demand for further groups, and potential new group members will be contacted in the next few weeks. As mentioned on page 1, we need volunteers to lead groups. Do contact the Groups Coordinator if this is something you can consider. As members of u3a, we are all volunteers, we are all equal, and we each need to contribute to our thriving u3a community.

Coach trips The Arundel trip on 18th April is sold out. Our next trip is on **Thursday 23rd May 2024** to CHARTWELL, Winston Churchill's family home. Pick-up points are Ditchling, Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint. The cost of £36 includes coach fare and driver gratuity (reduced to £18 for NT members). For more information, and to access the online booking form email the Coach Trips team: hhdu3atrips@gmail.com. Details will be issued soon about our trip to **Portsmouth D-Day Museum** on 2nd July.



South East u3a Forum Summer School 2024 - 2nd to 5th September



This is primarily a 4-day residential Summer School held at the University of Chichester, although participants do have the option to be non-residential. This year there are many new subjects, such as Art & Mythology, Photography, Crochet, Living History, Patchwork, Philosophy, Latin Remembered, Bridge, Politics, Illuminated Manuscripts and Science. Also

Cycling, Mah Jong and Mathematics. From **Thursday 11th April 2024 @ 10:00am** the Booking Information Sheet and the Booking Form will be accessible to download.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/events>

2024 AGM. The 2024 AGM of Hurst, Hassocks & Ditchling u3a will be held on Friday 26th April, commencing 2.00pm at Adastral Hall (immediately before the Monthly Meeting). Prior to the meeting, voting on Motions and Elections of Officers and Committee will be conducted by post and email.

Recent National u3a newsletters. Click here to [sign up directly to the Friends newsletter](#).

22/02/2024 - [Your u3a Friends Newsletter - February](#)

21/03/2024 - [Your u3a Friends Newsletter - March](#)

Tech help Occasional workshops will be offered by at local venues for people wanting to learn how to use their smartphones, tablets and laptops. This will include support with networking and communication via Facebook or WhatsApp.