

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

### Many thanks

.... to outgoing Newsletter Editors for all their work over the last several years.  
.... and to all members of the comms team for their long service, now that the comms sub-committee is merging with the executive committee.

## Groups

**Hurst, Hassocks & Ditchling u3a** now has almost 400 members. Your u3a website provides details of our 51 interest groups. You can make contact with individual Group Leaders by clicking on the 'Groups' tab on our website.

## New Groups

Our new **Beginners' Italian** is already full but we have two more people wanting to learn Italian so a further group is likely to be set up. We are also starting **Book Group 3** because our other two book groups are full.



The **Cryptic Crossword Group** is being revived - please contact [hhdu3a@gmail.com](mailto:hhdu3a@gmail.com).

Groups recently formed include **Social Cycling** and **Tourism**. An invitation to join a new **Shakespeare** group has attracted great interest, and is in the process of being set up.



## Groups Coordinator

From the AGM in April, there will be a vacancy for a member who will act as the 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 (who hardly ever need much support!). The current Groups Coordinator will induct and support someone in the new role. If you are interested, please contact our Secretary.

**A reminder** Your membership renewal fee of £15.00 for 2024/2025 will be due on 1st April 2024. You will receive an email from our Treasurer, advising payment options. You will, if you pay by cheque or BACS, be able to set up a direct debit should you wish to do so and details will be in the email you receive. If you are paying by BACS please ensure that payment is made **AFTER** the 1st April 2024.

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

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



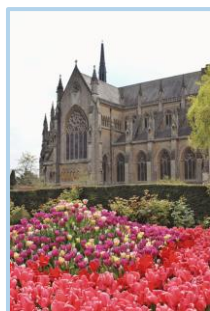
**Friday 26th April.** Adastra Hall, a talk by Paul Tracey on "100 Seaside Piers" focusing on the south coast.

*No entry fee* for this meeting as it is preceded by our AGM (15 minutes).

**Friday 24th May.** Adastra Hall, a talk by Richard Ware: "The Turners of Oldland: Nine Generations of a Keymer Family".



**Open Day Saturday 23rd March 2024** Our Open Day will take place from 10.00am to 12.30pm in Adastra Hall in Hassocks. We hope you will come and bring interested friends and family members. Entry is free and refreshments will be served. In preparation, please help your Group Leader to prepare promotional material. We know that with the recent influx of new members some groups are presently unable to accommodate new members. However, if your group is full, please keep a list of those who are interested so that we can help them to form a new group.



**Coach trips** A coach trip is arranged for **Thursday 18th April 2024** to ARUNDEL TULIP FESTIVAL. Pick-up points are Ditchling, Hassocks, and Hurstpierpoint (times on booking form). We will leave Arundel at 3.00pm and the cost of £31 includes coach fare, and driver gratuity. Only a few places left; please email [hhdu3a@gmail.com](mailto:hhdu3a@gmail.com). Full payment is required at the time of booking (no refunds). Another coach trip is planned to CHARTWELL on **Thursday 23rd May**. Details will be emailed to members.

## **Review - HHD u3a Public Meeting - Where There's a Will There's a Way - 12 January 2024**

When a local award-winning solicitor spoke to a packed meeting at the URC Hall in Hassocks, it wasn't just about Wills but also Power of Attorney. The informative talk was concluded with three choices: to do nothing, to do it oneself and to know when or if to consult a professional. The meeting was organised by our **Future Lives** group which although still new, had already had lively discussions on issues such as downsizing, living alone, making safe our environment both within and outside the home and across the three villages. The group will continue developing ideas that are committed to the concept of 'ageing better'. Contact the leader of Future Lives via the Groups page on our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/HHD>.



## **Links to recent National u3a newsletters**

25/01/2024 – [Your u3a Friends Newsletter – January](#) 🌧️

22/02/2024 – [Your u3a Friends Newsletter – February](#) (new look!)

## **Local facilities**

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