



Science Matters?

Yes it does!



The Lewes u3a Group, Science Matters has been in existence since 2012, when it was set up by Gordon Bull and Malcolm Cornwall. It is now run by Gordon and Clare Hurworth.

The Group meets once a month throughout the year at the Linklater Pavilion. The format is discussion-centred around questions set by the Group Leaders. Links are sent out so that members can do their own research and come to the meeting informed and primed for an interesting discussion.

Topics have ranged from 'Dealing with Space Junk', 'Human use of Animal Organs', and 'Personalised Diets' —there is no one area where discussions predominate, although some are revisited.

Issues in the news

Topics are suggested by the members themselves, and often make a reference to issues in the news. Occasionally, there may be a presentation, as there was this month, when member John Evans

demonstrated one of his drones, much to the delight of those assembled. Usually, however, the questions posed are enough to ignite a lively and informed debate.

Library

Background reading matter is essential to this group, and while much can be done online, there is no substitute for the library that has been built up over time, overseen by a member of the group and which can be accessed by group members. Books are suggested and donated by members.

At the moment, this group has enough members but if you are interested in joining, contact Gordon or Clare who may add you to the waiting list. Alternatively, you may be interested in joining Ecology for the South Downs or the Engineering and Technology series, which begins again in September. Look out, too, for the Science Series, which is a series of talks over Zoom, usually taking place in January over 10 weeks.

Even better, why not start your own Science Group? There is a lot of support available. Contact Michael Austin, our Course Facilitator for information on how to go about this.



Wildlife enthusiasts explored and enjoyed nature in Lewes town centre, as Jackie Ralph describes the first meeting of the

Ecology of the South Downs course

The regular summer course, Ecology of the South Downs made a welcome return early this month, having been understandably absent during the last two years.

We gathered around a large table at the Linklater pavilion with our tutor, Mary Benjamin, retired Biology teacher and schools leader for Sussex Wildlife Trust at Seven Sisters Country Park. Mary now volunteers locally for all things wildlife, including Wildflower Lewes, The Railway Land Wildlife Trust and Lewes Priory Trust. She began by explaining the meaning of Ecology and how it applies to our local area, including the River Ouse. The word 'Ham' for example, means river basin.

Talk and walk

Mary then led us for an educational talk and walk around The Railway Land woodland, where she gave us context for some of the trees and shrubs.

Trees not native to the area had been planted in the mid nineteenth century by Burwood Godlee, the owner of Leighside Manor, which once stood at the north side of the woodlands, for his large ornamental swamp gardens. That explains the bamboo, we thought.

We were also shown how to get a good estimate of a tree's age using a tape measure, which immediately put the woodland into a kind of timeline.

Considerable excavation

We identified some birdsong, acknowledged Priscilla (The Stork) and tried to imagine how different the area would be if it had not been rescued from development.



Pictures taken from the Railway Land, Lewes

All the same, Mary pointed out, considerable excavation work needed to be done to decontaminate some parts from the oils and silt left by the rail industry. This is evident in part of the meadows close to the viewing mound, now thankfully abundant with wildlife.

Topics

Topics for the next few weeks include the geology and chemistry of chalky soil, including a walk on the Downs, more meadow observations and freshwater pond dipping.

There are a few spaces available for the remaining few weeks. Just let Mary know if you would like to join in. Dates and times can be found under the Groups tab on the u3a Lewes website.

Climate Change Group: Steering Committee proposed

The Climate Change Group is getting into gear.

Tom Crossett and Tony Wheeler have agreed to convene the Group and develop a programme of activities. There are plans for the Group to start in October this year.

A steering group is being set up. These members would help structure the group's activities and hopefully assist in bringing together and identifying a few expert speakers, who might contribute to the programme alongside our own members.

So if you are interested in joining a Climate Change Group and have not already expressed an interest, please contact Tom at tom.crossett@gmail.com or on 01273 473565.

Similarly if you are interested in being a member of the proposed Steering Group, also please contact Tom at tom.crossett@gmail.com or

IN THE MEANTIME, TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT THE THIRD AGE TRUST IS OFFERING:

What will it take to really deal with Climate Change?

Talk and Q&A

by

Mike Berners Lee

June 24th

10.00—11.30am



Join best-selling author and carbon footprinting expert, Mike Berners-Lee, to discuss the climate crisis and what we, as individuals, can do to help solve it. Mike will take us through the science and solutions and explain why there really IS No Planet B.

Register for free [here](#)

Fancy a turn as 'guest editor?'

If you would like to contribute or commission one or more stories relevant to a Group or Lewes u3a in general please get in touch. We are not looking for anything particularly accomplished, just real ideas and thoughts.

Email: Bulletin@lewesu3a.uk

Don't forget Lewes u3a Open Day—September 7th at the Town Hall. A perfect opportunity to showcase your Group! News of more developments in forthcoming issues of Bulletin. In the meantime: comments, suggestions of enquiries to: Bulletin@lewesu3a.uk

Extreme Knitting and Crochet

(Yes, really)

Are you a crocheter or a knitter looking for a challenge?

Every month the Third Age Trust will be setting a new challenge to inspire you to create something unusual. Where possible TAT will be inviting you to workshops and sharing YouTube clips to help you along the way. Then they will showcase your creations in their gallery!

In addition, they want to see your most ambitious crochet creations and your most unusual knits. So feel free to send in photos of your miscellaneous items too and they will do their best to showcase them here. Who knows, you might inspire the next challenge theme!

Further information [here](#)



Still looking.....

For committee members!

Please get in touch with Susan Murray or any other committee member if you are interested in joining us.

VENUE VISIT



CHAPTER HOUSE, SOUTHOVER CHURCH, SOUTHOVER STREET

The church of Southover originated as a guest house to serve the nearby Priory of Saint Pancras. When a new guest house was built around 1330, the first guest house was available for the lay parish that had been growing outside the gates of the Priory, in the new 'suburb' of Lewes, south of the Winterbourne stream, which separated Southover from Lewes.

After the dissolution, with the savage demolition of the Priory itself, Southover Church became the only building in the parish to retain its purpose. By 1560 the parishioners had started to rebuild. A new tower (1714), the Gundreda Chapel (1847) a vestry and Chancel (1884) have been added over the centuries. Recent additions include the building of the Chapter House at the south of the tower in 2009.

Now, The Chapter House at Southover Church is home to the Lewes u3a [Writing Workshop](#), which meets fortnightly.