

## Accommodation Officers *Neil and Jennie McWalter* talk about their connections with Lewes and the u3a.

We were both born in Lewes – a relative rarity – although we didn't meet until our early twenties. Apart from brief times away for education, we have lived here all our lives.

### *Before the days of computer aids*

Jennie joined the U3A and became membership secretary quite a while ago, before the days of computer aids, and carried on this role for about 5 years, with computerisation gradually being introduced. It was a very long-winded job at that time and Neil gradually got involved helping.

Neil had a good career as an architect based in Hove, where he worked for 40 years, moving from junior architect to senior partner, working on a variety of projects, including many ancillary buildings at Glyndebourne (not the opera house itself!), a children's hospice and many developments in the education sector.

### *Founding the New Sussex Opera*

Jennie stayed home for some years raising their 3 sons, and completing a degree with the Open University. Then she had various jobs, including pudding chef at Kenward's Good Food Guide restaurant in the town, helping a friend make copies of medieval ceramic tiles, founding with others New Sussex Opera and stage managing a number of their productions, which moved from All Saints' newly deconsecrated church to becoming part of Brighton Festival. One of these was Peter Grimes, directed by a young Nicholas Hytner.



*Lewes RFC*

Our interests include rugby (Neil was captain of Lewes RFC, and we met at the rugby club), travel, particularly in Europe, gardening and our children and grandchildren, who we are lucky enough to have living nearby, allowing us to develop a good relationship with them.

The U3A has provided opportunities to pursue interests in Italian, jazz, travel, art history, science, and literature amongst other things.

## Sussex Police Awards Lewes u3a £500 towards Zoom licences.

We have just been informed that the Police Property Act Fund has awarded Lewes u3a £500

towards Zoom licences. This means that we are able to purchase additional licences to enable more of our courses to run during lockdown and beyond, using the online technology.

This grant also means that we can delay, or maybe even avoid, charging for Zoom courses in the future and so keep more people involved with the u3a during lockdown.



## Chris Roach is optimistically making plans for the Geology Group

In March 2020, the Geology Group, like much else, came to a grinding halt. The expected summer term outings, including our long-awaited field trip to the Lake District were all cancelled.

### Autumn Term



A local Geology Field Trip in 'normal' times

We had to get used to having sessions on Zoom. I indulged my love of Chemistry and ran five sessions explaining the basics as they relate to Geological phenomena.

My friend Jane followed up with Geographical applications – water, ice, deserts and limestone weathering. By the final two weeks of the Autumn term, we were onto the Ice Ages and Mary, a member of the group, presented her own extensive research, on Zoom, all of us learning the new way of sharing our interests.

### Spring Term

This term we are drawing on the expertise of group members and are visiting 'Spectacular Landscapes' from around the world – Iceland, Galapagos, Utah, the Grand Canyon, Vietnam and Cambodia.

### Summer Term

I am optimistically planning a series of local landscape walks for the Summer Term. I live in hope of the resumption of our usual meetings, to handling rocks and fossils and sharing anecdotes over a cup of coffee.

## Terry Metheringham has been dreaming about his Soviet Music.....

'START

Via some inexplicable wormhole in spacetime, Bulletin has received a press release from [Russian Broadsheet] *Pravda*:

## ПРАВДА

Along with the general cultural development of Lewes u3a there has been a growth in demand for Soviet Music. At no other time and in no other place have Soviet composers had a more appreciative audience. The grey retired masses yearn for good symphonies, good instrumental music, and good opera.

Now, as a novelty, Soviet Music @ Lewes u3a is presenting a great new technological achievement...

### **Box Set Binging!**

Anyone

Anytime

Anywhere in the world

can now read session notes on the Soviet Music Group webpage.

You will see for yourselves comrades, at

<https://u3asites.org.uk/lewes/page/51074>

Settle down with a glass of red wine and discover the impact of exiled composers on Soviet Music.

Explore in depth the quacks, grunts, growls, and gasps of Shostakovich's startling opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*.

And from April – as a departure from tradition – Soviet Music will present a Summer Season of programme notes and hyperlinks to performances of music from the 1930s.

END (not before time?)'

## ALL THAT JAZZ



**John Bain, Group Leader for Blues & Roots and Jazz Club, talks about the Groups**

Lewes U3A Jazz Club met monthly in the pre-Covid era with a talk or video and a theme for members to bring tracks to share.

The Blues and Roots course, new in Spring 2021 and fortnightly on Monday mornings alternated with a Jazz Lives course.

As all three courses depended on recorded performances it was comparatively easy to convert to Zoom and members were invited to the first such venture on April 6<sup>th</sup> 2020, a session on Chicago Blues. Jazz Club has an occasional Desert Island Choices feature for members brave enough to share the jazz



Miles Davis

soundtrack to their lives. Member Ted Reece, who had prepared for the February, then

March meetings, became the pioneer presenter of the first Zoom Tuesday Jazz Club in April.

Since then, both groups have met more or less fortnightly. The Jazz Club has sessions planned on different versions of some jazz standards and audio and video studies of great cities in the development of jazz.

Blues and Roots will range across US roots music, Blues Harmonica players, and biographies and discographies of some Blues Greats.

All welcome with no limit on numbers.

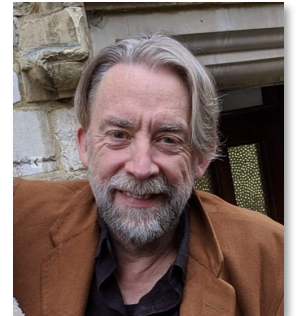
## Lewes Public Lecture

**Climate Change:**

**Heading for Extinction (and what to do about it)**

**Wednesday, March 3rd, 7.30pm on Zoom**

In the run up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference - or COP 26 - we will hear an increasing chorus of reassuring voices on climate change. In this most consequential of decades for human



civilisation in the history of our planet, can we trust our politicians to protect our children's future? There is a stark mismatch between the research findings of climate scientists and political policy. Why is this? What is really happening and what can we do about it?

**Dr Mark Slater** (pictured) is the Extinction Rebellion UK Speaker Training coordinator. He trains speakers nationally and internationally and works on the scriptwriting teams for Extinction Rebellion Talks and Trainings. He is the director of the Creative Writing Programme in Brighton. He lives in Hamsey, near Lewes.

Booking details will be circulated to everyone in due course.



**WEBSITE WATCH:** [u3asites.org.uk/lewes/home](https://u3asites.org.uk/lewes/home)

We regularly post a link to the monthly U3A newsletter from the Third Age Trust on the *Welcome page*, which is particularly useful for news about online events. On the *Local Community page*, we provide a weekly update on the prevalence of Covid in the Lewes area along with a graph of infection trends. These are provided by Tom Crossett.

## VENUE VISIT

*Pre lockdown, you could be forgiven for thinking most u3a courses were held at Lewes Town Hall. But there are some 15 other venues that are used, apart from member's own homes. Bulletin will be visiting some of them.*



### QUAKERS MEETING HOUSE

Friar's Walk, Lewes

The present Meeting House dates from 1784, when it was purpose-built as a Quaker meeting house with detailing such as mathematical tiling, pedimented porch on four pilasters and a panelled meeting room.

It was built on an unused part of what was the Quaker burial ground. Quakers had been meeting in Lewes since 1655, but their old meeting house was proving unsuitable; they spent £229.43 on the new building.

During the nineteenth century some alterations were made and then in 1978 a further extension was built. Care was taken to make the new building match the old part.

The beautiful garden includes simple gravestones of early Friends buried on the site.

*Although the meeting house is closed at this time everyone is welcome to enter the meeting house garden, sit and enjoy this space for quiet contemplation.*

The garden has lime, walnut, quince, pear and ginkgo trees, a myrtle bush and a wildflower section.

The building has been enjoyed as a venue by the u3a Hands on Art course and other occasional art courses.

***Tech savvy and itching to get stuck into something worthwhile? Take a look:***

### Video Editor

We are uploading videos to YouTube, making them available for group members and anyone else.

The recordings often benefit from at least a minimum of editing to remove unnecessary material.

We are looking for a volunteer Video Editor with experience of video editing.

Ideally, they would already have a suitable combination of hardware and software that makes the job of trimming Zoom recordings a simple and fairly quick task. If necessary, a suitable computer could be acquired by the u3a for the use of the video editor. An understanding of copyright issues would also be helpful.

### ***And when we get back to normal:***

we will need an Equipment Officer. To learn more about this role, visit

[equipmentofficerjobdescription.pdf](#)

### ***We have begun planning u3a Day on 2 June 2021.***

*This will be online with the addition of a live event if restrictions allow.*

***But we need to draw on the skills and experience of our members.*** We would like to hear from anyone with Graphic Design knowledge, to assist with the production of publicity materials. Please contact Bulletin at the email below, if you think you could help.

*Apart from Bulletin, we will be posting updates of our progress on our Facebook page and website.*

*Of course, anyone else who wants to get involved in the planning or execution will be enthusiastically welcomed! Just email Bulletin.*