

Malling U3A

Celebrating our 10th Anniversary

Anne Sargent



It was a sunny Saturday afternoon at the beginning of September when nearly 100 people sat down to a celebratory tea at Ryarsh Village Hall.

Malling District U3A was 10 years old this month and a small committee had been planning the afternoon for nearly a year.

We had a caterer who supplied the sandwiches, cakes, scones and tea and a company who supplied the vintage crockery and another to supply the blue and yellow balloons.

Two members of the committee made the cake and a friend iced it perfectly.

After a welcome from Mike Rowe, our Chairman, we had our tea while Margaret Watson played her harp.

After tea the celebration cake was cut by Mike, Gillian Golding and Magda Sweetland who were all part of the original group that set up our U3A.

It was then that the winner and runners-up of the poetry competition were announced by Lenna Burrows who had judged the poems. Jackie Fowle won first prize while Rosemary Lea and Valerie Willsher were runners up.

Four members, who are also members



Clockwise from main: She'll never get that under her chin: Margaret Watson enthralls with her harp ; Friends, Romans, countrymen: lend me your bedclothes; Guide to growing older: What do we want? Why did we come here? What were we saying? ..with apologies to Matt; Many hands make light work: Mike Rowe, Magda Sweetland & Gillian Golding slice and dice; Poetry Corner: winner & runners-up with adjudicator, Lenna Burrows.

of 'New Allington Players', then performed two sketches from 'The Beginners Guide to Growing Older' and this was followed by a short play by the members of the Latin groups. All most entertaining. Thank you all for taking the time to provide us with entertainment.

Margaret Watson then played a variety of great tunes while telling us all about the harp. Magic.

It was a lovely afternoon and many people there said how much they'd enjoyed themselves.

I would like to thank the rest of the sub-committee for all their hard work, because at times we were tearing our hair out! So we are very thankful that in the end it all went so well.



Tea Rota September

Shelagh Jones, Mike Jones & Kay Lawson

Advance warning for October

Bryan Lloyd Williams, Alan Lorton, Aileen Marchant, Patricia & Richard Meehan

Brenda Hurd

Poets Corner: Anniversary verse

The adjudicator, Lenna Burrows, was impressed by all the entries and remarked that the poets should continue to practise their skills, *writes Dianne White*, however, she felt there was one clear winner on the anniversary theme, by looking back and looking forward with touches of humour. Congratulations and first prize were awarded to Jackie Fowle. The two sonnet entries by Valerie Willsher and Rosemary Lea were highly commended for tackling a difficult verse form so successfully.

Lenna was thanked for her time and effort in adjudicating the entries and presented with flowers. Thank you, everyone, who took part in the competition. The three winning entries are follows: *Overall Winner - Now We Are Ten* by Jackie Fowle. The two *Runners-up* were - *10th Anniversary* by Rosemary Lea and *The University of the Third Age* by Valerie Willsher.

Now We Are Ten

Remember when we had scabs on our knees
And runny noses, we climbed rough trees
Played cowboys and Indians, fought with girls
Stole their sweets and pulled their curls?

Now we are ten I'm pleased to say
We put such childish things away
We kiss the girls, we tease the dog
At the groaning tea table we go the whole hog.

Now we are ten years married with kids,
Wipe runny noses, it's Ellie's, now Sid's,
Take out the dog armed with a poop scoop
Work, work, work til our eyelids droop.

Now we are ten years retired and seek
To find fulfilment and aim to keep
The brain alive, just like a sage
So hello to University of the Third Age.

Now our branch is ten and long may it last
Art, ambling, books, opera – it's all a blast
Chance to make friends, to go out to dinner,
Even refresh German, Ich bin ein Berliner!

We are ten years successful, singing for pleasure,
Cycling and walking, fun beyond measure
Spanish for holidays, Scrabble and Mahjong
Makers of History, you just can't go wrong.

So much to choose from, where will it end –
And suddenly we find we've made a new friend.
Not just the one either, social life's a pleasure;
Like-minded people delight our leisure.

Now we celebrate a very special day:
Happy anniversary Malling U3A!

Jackie Fowle

10th Anniversary

Not only marble, but the plastic chairs
In Ryarsh hall will outlive this rhyme.
I can't immortalize this U3A, your groups
Will lie unnoticed in the vault of time!
When David Cameron has been cast in bronze
And his administration is a page
In some old text book, when our groups
Have analyzed the story of our age.

When U3As have spread to outer space
And members travel through the galaxies
And Snodland has become a trendy place
And Dartford's a resort beside the seas,
Your genius and my rhyme will be forgotten.
My support is true, but all my verse is rotten.

Rosemary Lea With apologies to Wendy Cope

U3A - a Sonnet

Retirement beckons bringing empty days.
No stimulating tasks to fill my time.
No sense of purpose. Am I past my prime?
Life seems to reach a challenging new phase.
How can I fill my time in other ways?
To waste my idle hours would seem a crime
And make a mournful ditty of this rhyme.
What new diversion could my spirits raise?

And see! The U3A has open doors
With many schemes to stimulate my mind.
Computing, music, French and walks are here
To prove that older folk need not be bores
But can engage in lively groups designed
To bring fresh knowledge, friendship and good cheer.

Valerie Willsher

The sun shone, having no alternative, on the nothing new



"Lock up your libraries if you like; but there is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind." *Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own, 1929*

"We were the people who were not in the papers. We lived in the blank white spaces at the edges of print. It gave us more freedom. We lived in the gaps between the stories."

Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid's Tale, 1985



Malling Monthly Meeting Signing Up Day

26 September, 2pm-3.30pm
Jenny Tomlin
Groups Co-ordinator

I am very much looking forward to seeing lots of members at the Open Meeting for Signing Up to Groups.

Please also note that renewal of U3A membership does not automatically renew your group membership and you will need to sign up again with your Group Convenor either at your next group meeting or at the Open Meeting.

It is important therefore that you bring your **current** membership cards with you that expire at the end of August 2018, which you should have already received, as Group Convenors will need to make a note of your membership number.

Spanish for Beginners

Lilia Frietman has kindly offered to run a new group – Spanish for Beginners. If you are interested in joining, please see Lilia at the Signing Up Afternoon or email her at: mayoli@frietman.co.uk

Wine Appreciation Group

I have had an enquiry about starting up a Wine Appreciation Group. Several members expressed an interest at the August monthly meeting. If you interested in such a group please get in touch. My details are in the Handbook.

Malling Handbook 2017-18 ERRATA

Jenny Tomlin & Anne Sargent

With apologies to Angela Lovegrove, Carole & Ray Lawrence, please note as follows; p20 - the Convenor for Walk London 2 is **Carole Lawrence**

p22 - Italian Improvers should be Italian for **Beginners**

p22 - Learning to Look at a Painting incorrectly titled

There are a few minor errors such as apostrophes in the wrong place which we hope you will be kind enough to overlook!

Malling U3A Events

Christmas Lunch

Thursday 7 December
12.30 for 1pm, Hadlow Manor Hotel
Angela Storey

Nestled in beautiful Kentish countryside, this Grade II listed, early 19th century Georgian manor house located amidst beautiful countryside in the heart of Kent, offers the ideal setting for our Christmas Lunch. We do hope you will come along to enjoy a 3 course festive meal complete with mini mince pies and Christmas crackers in convivial company. Please complete the attached booking form with your choices and return with a cheque as soon as possible to Angela. Book early to avoid disappointment!



Malling U3A

International Links

Chrys Short

The committee has been thinking about the possibility of us twinning with another U3A branch. This twinning could take a number of forms. We could twin as a whole branch with the potential for exchange visits. Or individual groups could develop links with groups with similar interests in different countries. Another option could be to link with a U3A type organisation in a developing country and support its growth in practical ways as well as twinning. If there are enough people who would be interested in taking this forward we can arrange a meeting to look at next steps. If you are interested please email me at:



Malling U3A

Computer Group

Chris Daly, Group Convenor

October 2nd - *Windows 10 photo storage and basic editing.* Unfortunately due to holidays I am unable to be at the sign on event in September nor can I chair the first meeting in October of our new session. Ken Chatters has kindly volunteered to chair the first meeting and give the presentation.

Mon 7th November - *"What gadgets do I want for Christmas - Ideas for presents"*

Monday 4th December - *"Internet Banking and mobile payment systems"*

NO MEETING JANUARY

All meetings are open to all Malling U3A members and start at 14.00hrs at Ryarsh Village Hall. Cost is £1.00 each including tea & Biscuits. Just turn up if interested.



Pensioners' Fair

Malling U3A has again been invited to have a stand at Tracey Crouch's (MP) Pensioners' Fair on **Friday 27th October** from 10am until 2pm at The Holmesdale School, Malling Road, Snodland. If you are able to help for a couple of hours, please contact Derek Carpenter.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Copy deadline for the next issue is Sunday, 15 October. Please email contributions together with pics, if possible, to the Editor, S Sangha at: dumbodds@gmail.com

