



Welcome to the May 2023 edition of Mayfield and District u3a Newsletter

Forthcoming Events

Mayfield and District - Five Ashes Village Hall - TN20 6JA - 2pm

Thursday May 18th: Anthony Wood talks about Gertrude Bell

Friday May 19th: 10-11.30am - Coffee at the Mark Cross Garden Centre

Wednesday May 24th: SWAP (Short Walk and Lunch) Venue TBC to group members

Thursday June 15th: Ian Gledhill presents Offenbach

Sunday June 18th: 12 midday - Lunch at The Gun at Chiddingly (Book with Mary)

**Heathfield and District - The Community Centre - TN21 0XG - 2pm.
(We have reciprocal visiting arrangements with Heathfield u3a)**

Tuesday May 16th : Barbara Hibbart - “Loose Ends - The Creation of the 20 Word Story”

Tuesday June 20th : Margaret Watson - Life on a Harp-string” from its history to the intricate mechanics, plus live playing.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS



Exploring London on Foot Looking for New Members!

Are you looking for an interesting Group to join? Do you enjoy walking? Do you like History? Architecture? Food? Geography? Travelling by Train? Researching interesting facts?

Do you like London? Then ***Exploring London on Foot*** could be the group for you!

We meet five times a year to explore an area of London chosen by one of the group members.

The walk is approximately 3 - 4 miles long and is taken at a slow pace so that we can enjoy, discuss and assess the area around us. We stop for coffee and we stop for lunch.

Jointly run between Heathfield and Mayfield U3A groups we meet at a London Terminus or similar at 11am to join the group.

We aim to catch the 4pm train home but you can stay on in London to do your own thing if you wish.

Some walk leaders extend the walk for those who wish to stay on. We aim to take advantage of concessionary rail tickets.
We stop for coffee and we stop for lunch.

Every member is expected to offer a walk (jointly with a friend from the group if you wish) so you should be prepared to do this at some stage. Doing the planning can be great fun.

You can use guide books or devise your own walks. Contact me for further information or an informal chat:

Convenor: Kathryn Dewhurst dewdropk@mac.com Mobile number: 07598 229731

The first walk by the group this year is going to be led by John Neal on Wednesday 17th May, and we will be visiting the Rotherhithe and Deptford areas.

We shall be meeting beside the ticket office at London Bridge Station at 11.00am and then taking a short bus ride to the start of the walk.

Please can anyone who wishes to come on this walk please let Kathryn know, either by e-mailing her at kew7491@gmail.com or dewdropk@mac.com or alternatively by ringing Kathryn on 07598229731.

Book Club Chapter 3 recently read **Notes At An Exhibition by Patrick Gale**. The book, about a family in Cornwall coming to terms with the life and death of their artist mother, was much appreciated by our members so it was great to hear him speak recently at the Lewes Literary Society about his latest and twentieth novel, **Mother's Boy**, a fictionalised account of the life of the Cornish poet, Charles Causley.

Well worth the trip down!

Christine Roberts

Sunday Lunch at The Neville Crest and Gun, where we enjoyed an excellent roast beef, and also a delicious nut roast. Not to mention various delectable puddings.....



Chairman's Report

As I write this report, the Coronation weekend approaches and I look forward to the celebrations both locally and nationally.

Our monthly meetings continue to be well attended in Five Ashes Village Hall.

I realise parking is an issue and even with the overflow parking there are not enough spaces. I think there is a mother and toddler group in the other room which is why the car park is so full. If you can, please car share, as this would help.

If you like baking and could occasionally make a cake for the meeting please contact Sue Sabine, suesabine@hotmail.com, so that the few who bake can have a month off occasionally.

We now have a committee of eight:

Mary Brentnall: Chairman and Membership Secretary

Trevor Devon: Vice Chairman

Anna Thompson: Secretary

Carol Bossom: Treasurer

Sue Sabine: Speakers

Jenny Kendall: Website manager

Madelyn Meredith: Newsletter Editor

Pauline McIlldowie

As you can see Trevor could do with some male support!

So, men, especially, please consider nomination when you receive the papers in August.

Mary Brentnall



Churchill's Special Army by Gilly Halcrow

Any of us who had heard Gilly Halcrow speak via Zoom during lockdown had been looking forward to meeting her in person.

The Special Operations Executive was established by Churchill during World War 2 to conduct espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance in occupied Europe. Gilly's lecture was designed as tribute to the brave men and women who parachuted behind enemy lines. With its headquarters in Baker Street and much of the training in Arisaig in Scotland, the SOE employed or controlled over 13,000 people, about a quarter of whom were women. The main qualification for an agent was to have an intimate knowledge of the country in which they would operate, especially its language.

Gilly gave us a vivid account of several successful missions, including the blowing up of a viaduct in Greece, which disrupted the movement of German supplies to Africa and the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the sadistic Nazi leader, in Prague in June 1942. She highlighted some of the particularly brave and resourceful agents including Nancy Wake. She became a leading figure in the Maquis groups of the French Resistance and was one of the Allies' most highly decorated servicewomen of the war.

In conclusion Gilly paid tribute to all the agents who undertook highly perilous missions and in doing so helped to shorten the war significantly. She revealed why she had been inspired to research and prepare this talk. Her father, Colonel Ernest van Murik was an SOE veteran. His distinguished career included a period as an instructor in Arisaig, being parachuted into France and missions in Malta. On one occasion he was taking two Russian agents to London in a car driven by a young woman in FANY. To his irritation the car kept breaking down and the two had a heated argument. This young woman later became his wife and Gilly's mother. A personal ending to a captivating talk.

Mary Brentnall

[Please do email me with any ideas/ requests/ criticisms/ general comments.](#)

Madelyn Meredith : 01435-872487 :

maz74m@snapeclockhouse.co.uk



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AND A LIBRARY, YOU HAVE EVERYTHING
YOU NEED. CICERO

