

Mayfield and District Newsletter November 2022

Thank you, to all members who have renewed their membership. We continue to have a membership of around 130 and the committee and group leaders will welcome members who have joined since May, later this month. As you will see below 2 new groups are due to start in January and others are being planned for later in 2023. Madelyn Meredith will be editing the December newsletter so I shall look forward to taking a back seat. Group leaders please keep sending in your contributions as it is good to hear what is happening in the groups. If you have anything for the next edition please send it to me to forward to Madelyn. Mary Brentnall marybrentnallu3a@gmail.com

Answer to last month's photo.



Scallop by Maggie Hambling, Aldeburgh Beach, Suffolk

News from the Groups

Book Club Chapter 1

This fairly recently formed group meets on the second Monday of each month at 2pm, generally at the home of the person who has chosen the book. Discussions are lively and fun. As is often the case in book groups, members read material that they otherwise may not have considered and the diverse range of viewpoints makes for interesting debate.

Books chosen so far:

While Paris Slept by Ruth Druard
The Big Sky by Kate Atkinson
Circe by Madeline Miller
Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell

Choices for next few months:

The Girl with 7 names by Hyeonseoo Lee
The Rose Code by Kate Quinn
Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson
The Prosecutor by Nazir Afzal

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about Chapter 1

Bruna Hinchliff brunellavolante@gmail.com

If you are interested in joining a book group contact Mary Brentnall, who is currently setting up Chapter 3, due to the demand for reading groups among our members. The initial meeting will be on this Tuesday (8 November at 4.00pm at Fingal House East St Mayfield). Don't worry if you cannot make this meeting, you can join at a later date.



SWAP Short Walk and Pub

We had five members for the walk over the downs at Firle led by Anna. Beautiful views, but as you can see in the photos, ferocious wind. At one point it delved into my coat pocket removed three items and strewed them over the grass. A bit weird!

Lunch at The Ram was good. There were queues to get in while we were eating so if you want to go there book a table.

Michael Chapman

Painting and Poetry –Coming in January 2023

This group is aimed at people who enjoy both looking at paintings and reading poetry, and discussing them. Poems written about paintings and other forms of art are surprisingly common and go by the name of ‘Ekphrastic Poetry’. In this group we will look at the ways in which poets have responded over time to works of art, both famous and unknown.

Initially the group will meet three times over three months and, if there is sufficient interest we can take it a stage further and do some writing ourselves. As an experienced teacher of creative writing, I would enjoy introducing this exciting combination of art forms.

Christine Roberts chj.self@gmail.com 01435 873672

THE CHAILEY HERITAGE FOUNDATION ‘Where Amazing Things Happen’

Our talk in October was given by Joy Dyson, a community fundraiser for the Chailey Heritage Foundation. She gave us a fascinating insight to the history and ethos of this wonderful place, and by the end of her talk had a lot of us close to tears.

It was started in 1903 by Dame Grace Kimmins, who had been working in London with children with lost limbs, rickets and TB. She became worried about their future, and bought an old workhouse just outside Chailey, in which she settled 7 boys, “one for each day of the week”. A spartan soul herself, (she slept outside on a balcony) she gave the children a strict education, based on crafts such as carpentry, and a life spent outside, whatever the weather. In fact it was known as an ‘Open Air Hospital.’ Girls were introduced in 1912, and learnt housewifery, and later the skills of seamstresses, which gave them better prospects. During both wars Chailey helped the wounded soldiers, who recuperated and learnt alongside the children.

In 2022 life is very different. Rickets and TB gave way to Thalidomide and Polio, and now it has evolved again, helping children and young people with extremely complex needs. The philosophy of Chailey Heritage is that every individual should be able to reach their full

potential, and a combination of skilled and dedicated staff and the most incredible technologies make that possible. Hearing one particular story about a family who was finally able to communicate with their son after he had been to Chailey showed just how life-changing this work is.

It is possible to arrange a visit. There is a farm, a pool, a new £3 million Dream Centre, and a riding centre. Like all similar organisations, they always need money. Although each child arrives with local authority funding, the extras are all funded through donations and corporate fund-raising.

Anna Thompson

Extract from Joy Dyson's 'Thank you' letter

"I am writing on behalf of Chailey Heritage Foundation to thank you for allowing me to talk at the Mayfield u3a about the work of Chailey Heritage Foundation. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting and talking to everyone. Thank you for making me feel so welcome. Thank you so much for your kind donation of £90. Plus, we received another £139.03 in donations from your members on the day in the collection tin, taking the total to £229.03! This is very generous, and we can't thank you enough!"

Dates for the Diary

Unfortunately the Sunday Lunch at The Abergavenny Arms had to be cancelled.

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 15 November Heathfield Monthly Meeting 2.30pm (doors open 2.00pm) at Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, TN21 0XG
Shackleton, The Man and The Myths with Michael Smith.

Thursday 17 November

The Goose is Getting Fat Christmas Traditions with Imogen Corrigan
Imogen is one of our most popular speakers so make sure you don't miss this one.

Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week - 21-27 November

We are all aware of the need for smoke alarms but do you have a Carbon Monoxide alarm?

Some useful websites:

> <https://www.sgn.co.uk/help-and-advice/keeping-gas-safe/carbon-monoxide>

> <https://www.hetas.co.uk/co-awareness-week/>

DECEMBER

Thursday 15 December U3A Christmas Lunch

Our final event in the Memorial Hall before our meetings move to Five Ashes Village Hall in January.

You should have already received an invitation and order form.