

Mayfield and District Newsletter September 2022

I hope you have had a relaxing summer and that you are now ready to resume your U3A interests and activities.

We had a very well attended AGM earlier this month. Nearly 50 members were attracted by the excellent cream tea, catered by Sue Wright and Alexandra Loske's talk on Turner and Constable.



Alexandra Loske stayed to enjoy a cream tea.

Turner and Constable in Sussex review by Anna Thompson

The talk was given by Alexandra Loske, She is curator at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton and deservedly has a reputation as an excellent speaker. Her talk was superbly illustrated and gave a real insight into the lives and work of these much loved painters. We were told about their early years and work, and how they had different styles and techniques.

Constable, who never left England, preferred straightforward depictions of scenery and landscapes, whereas Turner often included literary and historical allusions into his more dramatic paintings. Turner's work is more spiritual and full of light, whereas Constable's paintings were more 'observed' rather than imagined. Both of their works were also influenced by the development of sold watercolour paints, which were then easily portable, and the changing fashions of the time, which led from portraiture to landscapes. The newly developed science of meteorology and the study of clouds and weather patterns are also evident in their works.

Sussex, and Brighton in particular, features in many of their paintings, as they both spent time there and some of their most famous paintings have either the Brighton beaches or the surrounding landscapes as their theme.

It is not the place here to describe or discuss all the truly wonderful paintings Turner and Constable have left us. They are exhibited all over the world, however there is a large sketch of The Chain Pier at the Royal Pavilion. Recently bought by a dealer with a connection to Brighton and lent to the Royal Pavilion, it will be there for two years. What a wonderful opportunity to see it.

News from the Groups

Pauline McIldowie, as you know, has been Groups co-ordinator in recent years and before that she was Speakers' co-ordinator. Both these roles take a considerable time and effort and Pauline has given many hours to fulfil them in her quiet efficient manner. Pauline is someone who thinks outside the box and she has given the committee many excellent ideas. I am really grateful to her and I am very relieved that she has agreed to stay on the committee. The other bit of good news is that Anna Thompson has agreed to take over from Pauline as Groups co-ordinator.

Robi Willig, who has been a member for many years and ran the Italian Conversation group on a pop-up basis, has resigned so I want to thank Robi for giving many members the chance to improve their Italian.

The new groups which have been suggested by members include: Petanque, Writing for Pleasure and a Quiz Team. If any of these appeal to you please let Anna know. annathompson54@gmail.com or 872643

Poetry Group

As from this month (September) the Poetry Group are about to explore a new format. Until now we have gone forward chronologically taking one poet a month, and over 15 years have studied the major British, Irish and American poets. We've just finished studying the Romantic poets a second time.

Now the group will take it in turns to choose poets and discuss their work. In the read-round that follows each member will read a poem they've chosen by the same poet or, to illustrate the wider context, from the same period. We start with John Donne.

Chris Lyle and Pat Robson chrislyle@btinternet.com



**Come and have some fun with
the Table Tennis Group**

Open morning

10.00-12.00

Wednesday 5 October

Colkins Mill Church
Station Road, Mayfield, TN20 6BT

Bats provided.

OLGA'S FAMILY,

GREAT GRANNY, GRANNY, MOTHER, TWO CHILDREN, (one at school and one baby):

Just before we moved from the Warren to the Glade, Rosie Bayliss phoned me to ask if we could offer work to Olga staying in Mayfield from Ukraine. We were delighted. We needed help and quickly realised what good luck this was. Our move was swiftly followed by a bout of Covid and then, things seem to come in threes, I tripped over a hosepipe and ended up with a pubic bone fracture. How we could have managed without Olga's support is impossible to imagine.

Her family has been fortunate to find a home at a local farm, but were told from the start it could only be for six months. "We expected to be back in Ukraine for Christmas," says Olga. Now it seems likely the war will go on and others will find themselves homeless too. If you can offer Olga an alternative home please let her know. A home for three adults and two children is a big ask, but they could be split into two if necessary. Olga's number is 07466 122983. She will be very pleased to hear from you. She tells me that she thinks Mayfield is a generous and welcoming community. Pat Robson

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 18 October 2.30pm

Heathfield U3A Monthly Meeting Sleep Disorders - Peter Venn, retired anaesthetist who ran the sleep investigation unit at East Grinstead Hospital.

Thursday 20 October

Jo Dyson speaking about Chailey Heritage, a special school for children with neurodisabilities, high health needs and associated learning difficulties.

Friday 21 October

Rotherfield Players present **Curtain Call** (a comedy) by Bettine Manktelow

A few of us will be going to the performance at 7.30 on **Friday 21 October**. If you would like to join us please buy your own tickets and let me know so that we can look out for you. marybrentnallu3a@gmail.com

The next Pub Lunch will be on

Sunday 23 October 2022 - 12.00 at The Abergavenny Arms, Frant TN3 9DB

Our Sunday Lunches have proved popular and if you would like to join this one please contact, carol.bossom@btinternet.com or 872571