



WELCOME TO THE JULY 2023 EDITION of MAYFIELD and DISTRICT u3a NEWSLETTER.

Forthcoming Events:

Mayfield and District u3a at Five Ashes Village Hall - TN20 6JA - 2pm

Thursday July 20th : Paul Robbins introduces us to Great British Eccentrics

Monday July 31st : Exploring London on Foot, Kings Cross Area
contact Kathryn Dewhurst 07598 229731 or dewdropk@mac.com

August: No Meeting - and no newsletter - next one in September.....

Thursday 21st September : Pat Bryer as Choice Joyce (Grenfell)

Heathfield and District u3a at The Community Centre - TN21 0XG - 2pm

Tuesday July 18th : Melinda Stone presents the history of C15th
Herstmonceaux Castle.

August: No Meeting

Tuesday September 19th : Hailsham Pavilion Cinema - 100 years, by Katie
Richards.

Chairman's Report

As our membership year ends on 31st August and the AGM is on Thursday 21st September you will be receiving your annual papers soon. We are sending them, as usual, by post but I would be interested to know whether the majority of members would prefer this mailing to come via email in future?

As the subscription remains unchanged it is not necessary to fill in a new membership form unless your personal details have changed.

We shall once again offer a delicious cream tea following the AGM.

Mary Brentnall

Anna Thompson's review of our June Meeting

We all learnt a lot and heard some lovely music at our regular meeting this month. The subject was Offenbach and His Rivals, and was given by Ian Gledhill.

Offenbach (1819 - 1880) was born into a family of professional musicians, and was himself a cellist of some note. However he had always wanted to write for the musical theatre, and he was an important part of the development of the operetta in France.

Originally Opera Comique, which was opera with dialogue, it segued into plays with music, with often ridiculous plots. This was partly due to the licensing strictures of the time, which limited the cast to three players, although this was relaxed later on.

Offenbach was a prolific composer, although only Tales of Hoffmann and Orpheus in the Underworld are well known, but he was also a great influence on his contemporaries. One of these was Bizet, although he only produced one operetta by himself, Dr Miracle.

With the coming of war with Russia in 1870, Offenbach himself went out of fashion, with Lecoq, who had been joined by two of his rival's best librettists, taking over his mantle.

In the 20th century operetta took a different direction, influenced by the jazz movement, although some of the original style remained. With casts of actors who could sing as opposed to just professional singers, operetta was always popular, and is still produced all over the world today.

It even had an impact on commercial design. If you want to know why every jar of Marmite has a cooking pot on the label, you need to watch an operetta or two and learn some French.



The History Group at
St.Dunstan's for a tutored visit
with Tim Cornish.

and as promised we continue.....

A COMEDY WITH NOT TOO MANY ERRORS

or u3a AS WE LIKE IT

SIR B

Indeed, good Mistress Janet, and I say
that since our last deliberations,
none have come forth nor any left and so
the total number stays the very same,
two hundred and a score and one. Behold!
the chest which stands here on the festive board
Pray handle it with care for in it do reside
the documents of authenticity
by which each man and maid advised shall be
of all our happenings. What think ye of the hue?

MRS JULIET

Thy choice was good, Sir Brian, if 'twas thy choice.
Or did some other eye resolve
On that sweet shade so like the tender flower
Which at this time adorns our banks and glades?

SIR B

Alas, good madam, few of us can claim
the skill which thou displayeth every day
in matters horticultural,
to recognise with that consummate ease
the colour of our gentle English bloom.
In other years the coloured card was pink,
or blue or violet or even green
as vibrant as the grass which even now
springs fresh beneath the merry gardener's scythe.

MRS P

Aye Sir. Thou speaks't aright. Indeed
the grass doth spring too fast in gardens now
and lacking some good swain to husband them
must needs grow rampant to my great despair.

MRS J

Let us return to things of great import.
Pray Mistress Juliet what can you say
of progresses to scenes of beauty and of interest?

MRS JULIET

Alas. If you have tears prepare to shed them now.
For though I have endeavoured much to tempt
our friends with promises of happy days
in gladsome company, there are but few
who care to come. So with a heavy heart
I lay aside my task, but keep my bond
And on two further days this year we few
We happy few, will to our glorious capital set forth
and sport ourselves with wine and merriment.
That done, I will withdraw and to the National Trust
Henceforth devote my time and energies.

MRS J

And with our blessing take thou to new fields
for though it grieve our hearts to part with thee
we comprehend the chagrin that thou feels't
that all thy struggling should come to nought.
What ails this company of ours that they
should choose to bide at home when Juliet calls them forth?

SIR B

I fear the hand of time doth touch us all.

And travelling be not easy as it was
when blood ran quicker through our veins and joints.
The horse's saddle comforts not the seats
of ageing folk, while walking with the stick's support
even in the jocund air doth weary most.

MRS P

Tis true. And many find in their declining years
the comfort of the home and pasturage
far more to be desired than venturing forth.
So fret thee not, good dame, that thou must go.

If folk will not support, then be it so.

.....TO BE CONTINUED IN SEPTEMBER.....

**Summer afternoon, Summer afternoon
- to me those have always been the two
most beautiful words in the English
language.**

Henry James



Visit our developing website and let Jenny Kendall have your ideas
please.

u3asites.org.uk/mayfield em : jennykendall@ymail.com

Please do email me with any ideas/ requests/ criticisms/ general
comments.

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.....and if you have reached thus far...please send me a smiley emoji !

