

"u3a membership is more than just joining, it is about joining in"

For contact details see the website or, members only, your Programme of Activities

**Coach trip to the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum,
Bournemouth - Tuesday 30 November**

For further details and to book contact Geoff Wadge



**Christmas Lunch - Monday 20 December
at the Unicorn, Heyshott**

We have a provisional booking for this popular event.

Menu and booking details to follow.

Register your interest with Malcolm Hutchings

Opera - Thursday 10 March

"Carmen" at the Theatre Royal, Brighton

This was advertised to members some time ago; there is a waiting list for tickets.

To add your name please contact Bernard Allan

Summer School - 20-23 June

At the University of Chichester. Organised by the South East u3a Forum

Booking and course details will be released in December.

www.u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum

Monthly Talks

We are very much hoping that we can hold our monthly gatherings with speakers in person again soon. See the next page for the details but do also keep an eye out for changes announced in our email news, on our website www.midhurstu3a.org.uk, and on posters around the town.

The expertise of Dave Ratcliffe, Philip Watts, Penny Holland, and our speakers and many members in enabling our talks to be held via Zoom over the past months has been greatly appreciated, especially the recent 'hybrid' version with a screen in the Methodist Church.

The speakers' fees have been paid out of our reserves.

NEW!

A Midhurst u3a poster in Midhurst Library, in the "flip" display case on the wall next to the photocopier.

Please have a look at it every now and again to keep up to date in between issues of "What's on?" particularly if you don't see our emailed news messages. It is updated regularly.

Monthly Talks are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month at 2.30 in the Methodist Church Hall, North Street, Midhurst. We hope the following format will be possible again but please check before coming: Arrive by 2.15 for a cup of tea and a biscuit, buy tickets for events, watch our version of 'Pearl & Dean', browse the noticeboards for information on u3a groups and activities, socialise with other members, find out how to participate in true u3a style, share ideas for u3a activities and enjoy a talk from a visiting speaker. Members £2. Guests £3.

Coming on your own? Think you might not know anyone? Ask the "Meeters and Greeters" at the entrance and in the hall to introduce you to another member at the start of the meeting.

The next six meetings :

16 November - For Valour: the story of the Victoria Cross : Jeremy Prescott. Jeremy served 27 years in the infantry, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel with active service in Northern Ireland and Oman. He also served in Germany, Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Norway.

14 December - The Heritage of Gilbert & Sullivan : Bernard Lockett. Bernard is a life-long G&S enthusiast, a Trustee of the International G&S Festival, and of the Festival's National G&S Opera Company.

18 January - Masters of the Sea: maritime art from the 17th century to the present : James Taylor. James is a former curator of paintings, drawings, and prints at the National Maritime Museum.

15 February - To Eritrea and Ethiopia: retracing a Victorian Expedition : John Pilkington. In 1868 Queen Victoria's government mounted an extraordinary bid to rescue a dozen European hostages in the Ethiopian highlands. This involved a purpose-built port and railway on the Red Sea with 13,000 British and Indian soldiers in the mountains along with 26,000 camp followers and more than 40,000 animals including 44 elephants. John has been following their route, partly on foot with a donkey, and has been comparing Eritrea and Ethiopia then and now. He found today's people spirited and energetic, living in dramatic and extremely challenging lands. This talk is history and adventure combined. A writer and broadcaster, for many years with the BBC World Service and Radio 4, John is returning to us by popular demand.

15 March - Keep Calm – I'm an Air Traffic Controller : Phil Holt. Phil has been an Air Traffic Controller for 30+ years and as he quips "I'll keep at it until I get it right". This is a humorous yet factual talk.

19 April - The Women's Land Army: battle of the fields : Gill Clarke, MBE. The work of the Women's Land Army is something of a forgotten history yet it was often done under terrible conditions, but was vital to the war effort, playing a crucial part in increasing levels of productivity from the land in both World Wars.

Talks are subject to change so do keep an eye out for our email messages, posters around the town, and www.midhurstu3a.org.uk

Midhurst u3a Committee - come and join us!

Three of our long-standing committee members are planning to retire from the committee at the next AGM. We need to find people to take over those roles. So that we can organise an effective handover with some shadowing, we are beginning the process of finding replacements now.

If you feel that you could help with the running of Midhurst u3a by joining the committee as a trustee and taking on one of these roles, please contact Penny Holland.

You would be joining a team who enjoy working together and with Group Leaders to provide a range of activities for third agers in the area. The roles are:

- Speakers Secretary organising our programme of speakers for our monthly talks and liaising with them over costs and equipment requirements.
- Social Secretary organising, in normal times, a programme of social events such as the Christmas lunch, fish and chip suppers with entertainment, AGM lunches and a Summer party. New ideas would be welcomed.
- Website Manager putting up some of the content, including information on monthly talks, news of events, photographs and documents, contact details and links. The website infrastructure is provided via the Third Age Trust so you need to be comfortable with IT but you do not need to use specialist coding languages.

Plus : another, new, way to be involved - we are thinking of forming a group of volunteers (snappy title needed!) to share tasks such as overseeing and operating our presentation equipment for the monthly talks (projectors, laptop, audio systems); organising the refreshments for these talks; delivering envelopes... Contact Penny Holland if you would like to take on at least one of these or set up the group - please!

News from Groups For contact details see your Programme of Activities or our website

Several groups are starting up again, or never stopped! Here are a few examples and updates:

Opera Appreciation - Vanessa Blaber : "We are fortunate in having a very active National Opera Appreciation Co-ordinator who sends out interesting newsletters each month, suggesting operas that are currently free to watch on line and often providing a link to some musical joke or other. Anything to lighten the worried atmosphere around Covid is welcome.

Obviously we have not been able to meet - normally we are in people's private houses - but we have had a small but determined sub-group who have met most months via Zoom during which we discuss which opera to view on line during the following month which we can then talk about at our next Zoom meeting. By the time you read this we hope we will have re-started "real" meetings. If you would like to join the group please contact me. Most of us are not particularly knowledgeable about opera but enjoy listening to the music."

Petworth Coffee - Tricia Stephens : "We tried to maintain contact during lockdown but having coffee on Zoom failed to attract enough people. Later we met a few times at the United Reformed church hall and took our own refreshments. About six or eight of us met on about three occasions in Rosemary Gardens, taking chairs as well. A bit like camping really! When the Angel's courtyard was opened with a gazebo covering most of the area complete with heating, a crowd of us went there (see photo over the page). It had been snowing that morning but dressed up warm and with four big heaters around us we were warm as toast. In September we met at the New Hungry Guest Cafe at Newlands Gallery. All those present thoroughly enjoy it. A lovely ambiance. Probably we will alternate between the Angel and the cafe so it is important I have your contact details if you wish to join us. On that note I would like to give up the role of group leader at the end of the year so would anyone like to take over, please?"

Dog Walking - Jane Butterfield : "We are walkers who walk dogs as well as ourselves. Our walks are designed to be circular and to limit road work so that we can be relaxed while walking with our dogs. We tend to walk slower than other walking groups as our dogs love playing and running around with the others. The walks average 1.5hrs and we take a stop for refreshments of coffee/biscuits and water for the dogs.

We meet every month on the 3rd Monday at 10am and choose walks that start within 30 mins drive from Midhurst. Men and women are members of our group.

Our walks are all about socialising and enjoying each other's company in the wonderful and varied countryside that we have in this part of West Sussex.

Please come and join us, with or without a dog or dogs."

History Two - Christine Musgrove : "We are a small, participatory group presently looking at aspects of the 17th century but interspersing it with occasional discussions on the people, events, or anything else related to history, that attracted us to the subject. Members produce two papers a year which they present to the group although the frequency reduces if the group membership increases! New members are most welcome. We meet 1.00-2.30pm on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Reading Room of the Sanatorium on the King Edward VII Estate."

Boules/Darts - Denise Skinner : "We finished Darts in March 2020 and during lockdown, once we were allowed, we invited groups of four of our members to come for coffee and cake in our house or garden. It was lovely to be able to catch up and to make sure that everyone was coping.

We were unable to play Boules in 2020 but started up again in July this year at the White Horse Easebourne and it has been very enjoyable with a full house most sessions.

We now have a new venue for Darts - The Blue Bell Inn at Cocking."

Discussion - Philip Watts : "The previous two groups have amalgamated but will split again if there is sufficient demand. Currently on zoom but will go live – at a member's home – fairly shortly."

Environment - This new but currently full group are soon to visit the Coultershaw Heritage Site near Petworth.

Computers, Tablets and Smartphones Self-Help - Philip Watts : "This has developed out of the ipad group as all the current problems with ipad have been dealt with! Whilst we will continue to cover the ipad, we also now include Mac and Windows computers and all smartphones and tablets. Group currently full." Could you lead another similar group?

Croquet - The group, run jointly with Arun Valley u3a, started up again in the summer but are now taking a break until April/May next year, weather permitting.

Bus Safaris - Sadly the trip to Haslemere Museum + pub lunch due to take place in September had to be postponed for Covid-related reasons. Let's hope it can happen in the Spring - watch out for more news nearer the time.

Science & Technology - Looking ahead to the Spring, the group are planning a visit to the Weald & Downland Museum with a special tour of the tools and implements in the amazing artefacts store in the Gridshell building. Open to all Midhurst u3a members - look out for further details nearer the time.

Sunday Lunch - Irene Marsh has given up as organiser after several happy years. Would anyone like to take on this sociable role?

Covid-19 Risk Assessments : Group Leaders and event organisers have been sent a check-list and information about procedures to be followed. All members are asked to support them. Personal responsibility: all members are reminded that participants should not attend any u3a events if they are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms even if these symptoms are mild; also not to attend if anyone they live with has symptoms or is feeling unwell or because they have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or are required to isolate after travel. Participants should consider taking a lateral flow test at home prior to attending an event.

What was on? Despite lockdowns many things continued. Indoors, monthly talks, committee meetings and some group activities were held via Zoom with everyone safely and comfortably at home. Meanwhile, outside...



: walkers managed to get out and about. From this photo of a vineyard taken by Mary Gliddon it looks as though the Short Walkers went to France but the lovely view is near Petworth.

: our contribution to the first national u3a day, in June, given the Covid restrictions, went well. One of the aims was to attract new members - we gained at least four. Our thanks are due to Dave Rudwick (right) for leading a history walk around Midhurst, with a small charge going to support Midhurst Museum. We also thank Rosemary's Parlour in North Street for accommodating us with a table and chairs in their garden, where we attracted visitors and told them about Midhurst u3a, and Madeleine's Deli and Garton's café for their hospitality. The 2022 u3a day will be in mid-September. Ideas for activities welcome - a giant cryptic crossword is already a possibility!



: dog walkers relaxed at Halfway Bridge

: Petworth coffee drinkers socially distanced in a gazebo at the Angel on a snowy morning



Change of Contact Details

If anyone has recently changed, or in the future changes, address, phone number or email address please let our **Membership Secretary, Jeannine Murphy** know so that she can keep our Members Database up to date. This will help us to ensure you receive newsletters and other information. Please email her or provide a note for her at the monthly meetings.

u3a beyond Midhurst

Your subscription to Midhurst u3a includes a membership subscription for the Third Age Trust (unless you already belong to another u3a) and affiliation to entitle you to attend the activities of the Sussex u3a Network and the South East u3a Region and Forum:

Sussex u3a Network (SUN) www.u3asites.org.uk/sussexu3anetwork. Events for members of all the u3as in Sussex including Saturday Study Days. Further information on the SUN and Midhurst u3a websites or from Dave Ratcliffe.

South East u3a Forum www.u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum. Runs a popular Summer School based at the University of Chichester.

The Third Age Trust www.u3a.org.uk, tel 020 8466 6139, facebook u3aUK and u3a: Keeping In Touch. The u3a national body for all u3as and their members in the UK, providing educational and administrative support, insurance cover, information including newsletters, learning resources, subject advisors, merchandise, and events including summer schools and a Science Network. The Advice section on the Trust's website is of particular use to group leaders, event organisers, and committee members. The Trust's guidance is especially relevant as charity legislation becomes tighter. Publications include *Third Age Matters*, which Midhurst u3a has arranged to be sent by post to all our group leaders and committee members who are asked to pass on the relevant information to their groups and fellow members.

Midhurst u3a Communication

A Programme of Activities for the year is given to every member when they renew or join. It includes **phone numbers and email addresses** for group leaders and committee members.

Website: midhurstu3a.org.uk Includes **contact page for various enquiries, group leaders, and committee members**. Updated frequently.

"What's on?" : a twice-yearly printed newsletter for members about forthcoming events, updates and news from groups. The next one will be in March with the **Notice of the AGM**. Copies of the **Annual Report and Accounts** are given out at the AGM and are available on request.

Midhurst u3a news emails are issued frequently to members. If you would like to contribute contact Di Ponting.

Notices are given out and **information** is displayed at the Monthly Talks.

Local press and social media: publicity for monthly talks in local free magazines and other places when we can get it.

Posters and leaflets are distributed around the town and local villages.

Privacy Statement (required by General Data Protection law)

Midhurst u3a will store personal details securely for membership and Gift Aid and MailChimp e-news purposes only (where applicable) and will use them to communicate with you as a member and to share with group leaders for those groups of which you become a member and with organisers of u3a events for which you book. You can ask for your data not to be used. We cannot be responsible for other websites to which we may provide links. See the full Privacy Policy on our website or ask for a copy. Photographs of members taking part in u3a activities are used for publicity. **If you do not wish to be included please inform the photographer at the time the photo is taken.**