

See your Programme of Activities or [www.midhurstu3a.org.uk](http://www.midhurstu3a.org.uk)  
for contact details if they don't appear here

"u3a membership is more than just joining, it is about joining in"  
"By the members, for the members"

## **Outing - Houghton Lodge & Gardens via Winchester Cathedral Wednesday 11 May**

"Houghton Lodge is one of the finest and earliest surviving examples of a cottage ornée – a style of 'picturesque' Gothic architecture that flourished for about 25 years from 1790. It is a charming and quirky house, and undoubtedly one of the most beautiful privately owned historic houses and gardens to visit in Hampshire."

There, we will have lunch (optional extra) and a tour led by one of the members of the family. There will also be free time to explore the gardens. Tickets - to include coach, short guided tour of Winchester Cathedral on the way, and admission to Houghton Lodge - £60. Contact Geoff Wadge or buy at a Monthly Talks gathering.



## **Monthly Talks - See next page for more detail and dates**

**Tuesday 19 April**

**The Women's Land Army : battle of the fields**

**Gill Clarke, MBE**

**Tuesday 21 June**

**Sarah Wells: the worst housekeeper**

**Dr Bob France**



## **Ideas for a Summer Barbecue Party are Sizzling**

Watch out for more details or contact committee member Ian Woodhams

## **u3a 40th Anniversary and our Open Day**

The u3a movement is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, with an emphasis on national u3a days in September. All sorts of activities are planned around the country.

See [www.u3a.org.uk/events/40th-anniversary](http://www.u3a.org.uk/events/40th-anniversary) and [www.u3a.org.uk/events/u3a-day/u3a-day-about](http://www.u3a.org.uk/events/u3a-day/u3a-day-about)

Help needed for ours please, planned for Saturday 24 September! Contact Philip Watts

**Monthly Talks** are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month at 2.30 in the Methodist Church Hall, North Street, Midhurst. Arrive from 2pm for a cup of tea, and to watch our version of 'Pearl & Dean', browse the noticeboards for information on u3a groups and activities, buy tickets, 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 any of the "Welcome" team (they wear badges) at the entrance and in the hall to introduce you to another member at the start of the meeting.

*Talks are subject to change so do keep an eye out for our email messages, posters around the town, and [www.midhurstu3a.org.uk](http://www.midhurstu3a.org.uk)*

**19 April - The Women's Land Army: battle of the fields : Gill Clarke, MBE**

**(17 May - AGM** Members only for this meeting, free entry)

**21 June - Sarah Wells: the worst housekeeper : Dr Bob France.** Mother of H.G.Wells. Why did she take on the role of housekeeper at Uppark when almost 60? Was she really as bad as HG suggests or just an "exhausted little woman" coping with insurmountable difficulties?

**19 July - Sussex Industrial History: a different perspective : Dr Geoffrey Mead**

**16 August - Escape of Charles II through Sussex in 1651 : Helen Poole**

**20 September - Close Walks, South Pond & King Edward VII Sanatorium: Midhurst's links to royalty & Gertrude Jekyll : David Bridges**

**18 October - 'Cancellation' of the Matabele people from UDI to Independence under Robert Mugabe (1965-80) : Jill Baker.** The second part of *The Horns* trilogy following her excellent talk last September.

## Important messages and good news...

### Making Midhurst u3a happen is fun - please join in!

It's managed entirely by volunteers. Malcolm Hutchings, David Barlow, and Dave Ratcliffe are retiring from the committee at the AGM - they have put in many years of service! We are delighted that Ian Woodhams has offered to become our Social Events Organiser in Malcolm's place.

Despite previous pleas we still have the role of **Speakers Secretary** to fill. Without this there will be no talks at our monthly meetings.

We also need people to help with **publicity**, directed at members and the wider world.

They are very enjoyable roles and not too onerous but the present Committee already have their hands full, so please do come forward to find out what is involved.

**Payments** : it helps if members pay for everything on line if possible please. Cheques make so much work for several people!

**Covid** : please follow guidance and take all precautions at all meetings.

**Facebook** : we are now appearing in various local facebook pages, thanks to some of our members.

**E-news** : We are planning to change the way we send out regular information by email. We hope it will all go smoothly and you will barely notice, except they look slightly different.

**Discount offer** : Closs & Hamblin, a haberdashery shop in Chichester, offer a 10% discount to Midhurst u3a members on presentation of a current u3a membership card. Please ask our Membership Secretary, Jeannine Murphy, for your card.

**Bonuses** : recently we were fortunate to receive :

: a grant of £475 from Midhurst Town Council to enable the 'Computers, iPads and Phones' group to buy a smartphone and a tablet. **More members welcome for this group.** Contact the Group Leader Philip Watts.

: £457.02 from Riviera Travel as part of their scheme: "Book a holiday and we will give 10% of the cost back to your u3a". Thanks to one of our members who enjoyed a trip with them. If you book with Riviera Travel please mention Midhurst u3a.

**Art and Heritage of Northumbria** : following the successful trip to Liverpool last August, Bernard Allan has arranged another tour, in June. It booked up very quickly.

**Haslemere Town Band** : a message from Sandra Margetts



- Haslemere u3a: "Are you a rusty brass player who has often thought about returning to playing? Haslemere Town Band invite you to their rehearsals. We have brass instruments to borrow.

Contact : [sandra14hurst@hotmail.com](mailto:sandra14hurst@hotmail.com)".

## News from some of our groups (there are over forty)

More information and contact details are in the Programme of Activities - sent to everyone who joins and renews - and on our website [midhurstu3a.org.uk](http://midhurstu3a.org.uk)



Gentle reminder : when groups meet at members' homes it is our policy that 50p per person is contributed for refreshments if they are provided. The hosts might like to put a pot out to receive the money.

**Midhurst Coffee Mornings** : Di Ponting writes: "During the summer of 2021 a series of outdoor coffee mornings were held in members' gardens. We then met in conservatories and finally in members' homes. Many thanks to those members who acted as hosts. It was a great way for new members to meet others and to ask questions about Midhurst U3A. We were able to resume at The Midhurst Museum Tea Rooms in the autumn. I would like to organise outdoor coffee mornings again this summer". Could you offer to be a host or would you like to attend? Di would love to hear from you.

**Garden** : Jacqui Earley writes: "We cover a wide range of plant subjects, and visit gardens and some garden centres. In February we looked at snowdrops. Members bought some from their gardens to compare. There are over 1,000 types of snowdrops and we are visiting some good sites. We also talked about our gardens and what we found when we moved into our houses and new gardens". Group full at the moment.

**Petworth Coffee Mornings** : Janet Barriskill has taken over the organisation of these popular gatherings. Many thanks to Tricia Stephens for starting them, and carrying them through Covid. Members of Midhurst u3a and Arun Valley u3a meet at the Angel in Petworth just for a chat and coffee. More members welcome!

**Opera Appreciation** : Vanessa Blaber writes: "We are now meeting each month by kind invitation of Nel and Michael de Jong Smith at their house, where there is up-to-date IT equipment so we can watch dvds and/or listen to cds. We are very low-key and welcoming to new members. All that is needed to join is an interest in opera".

**Music Appreciation** : Mary Knight says: "We have now returned to meeting together instead of the many Zoom sessions which we have enjoyed. New members very welcome".

**Handbell Ringing** : Geraldine Thomson writes: "We are planning to resume meetings from late April. In order to start again we require a 6th player but any new members will be made welcome. Some knowledge of reading music is useful but not essential. We invite you to join us in this interesting and enjoyable way of making music. Please contact me".

**Environment** : New members very welcome. Contact Philip Watts.

**Croquet** : from Anne Sugarman : "I have set up a Croquet group of u3a members. We use a croquet lawn at Rother Valley Croquet Club by Dunton Village Hall. Croquet is a sport that promotes health and well-being; Croquet will get you thinking; Croquet is a game of strategy and skill, where men and women play on equal terms. Tuition and all equipment will be provided. There is a nominal charge of £5 per session. Please contact me.

**Milland Valley Railway Modellers** : from Tony Bettger: Originally formed as the 'Building a Model Railway Group', members are drawn from Liphook u3a and Midhurst u3a. Email Tony or see the website [millandvalleyrailway.co.uk](http://millandvalleyrailway.co.uk)

**Dog Walking** : Jane Butterfield says "This is a very social group of men and women, and one member who does not have a dog but likes that they walk at a slower pace". Contact Jane and look out for them in local facebook pages.



**Book Reading** : Jacqui Earley writes: "We have been running for about 9 years. The books are wide-ranging from Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* to Celeste Ng's *Everything I Never Told You*. We look at characterisation, plot themes, and language. This usually leads to more discussion about relevant subjects. The group is limited to 8 people and is full at the moment".

**French - Film and Scrabble** : Gisele Page says: "Our friendly group is still going strong. Newcomers will be on a waiting list for when I feel it is safe to have more people indoors. It is learning new words in French but having fun at the same time and encouraging speaking in French". They meet in a private house to watch and discuss films and at either the Blue Bell at Cocking or the Grange in Midhurst for Scrabble.

**History 2** : Christine Musgrove writes: "Why does the past matter and how might it shape our lives today? Members share a topic of their choice and present it on a rotational basis amid plenty of lively discussion. We are currently looking at diverse 17<sup>th</sup> century topics (including climate change) but we enjoy general informal discussions". New members very welcome.

**New group?** : Several members in Midhurst u3a seem to have classic or interesting cars. Would you be interested in joining like-minded others to form a group? Let Geoff Wadge know.



**Midhurst u3a Christmas Crossword** : This was sent out with our Christmas message. How did you get on? Has it tempted you to join our Cryptic Crosswords group to understand more and practise? Here, as promised, are the answers, thanks to Barry Freedman for compiling it:

Across 1 The Three Wise Men 9 Detention 10 Elves 12 Re-energises 13 On the shelf 15 Snowman 18 Sums 20 Ill-starred 23 Radioactive 25 Din 26 Panto 27 Installed 28 Star of Bethlehem. Down 2 Extinct 3 Hungrier 4 Elite 5 Wenceslas 6 Sleigh 7 Moves on 8 Noses 9 Damsons 14 Hill Climb 16 Widened 17 Baseball 19 Madonna 21 Rudolph 22 Ho Ho Ho 23 Ropes 24 Inset



## What was on?

A lovely visit to the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum in Bournemouth in November - such variety : paintings, strange objects, sea views, an interesting building and an intriguing family history brought to life by our colourful guide, and a small but friendly group of 18 members. Thank you to the Outings team for organising it. More to come - see the front page for the next one.



Our walking groups kept going when they could throughout Covid. They welcomed new members and can take more:



The Short Walks group enjoyed a break in the February sunshine ... Having paused here in Carron Lane they resisted the temptation to play on the slides and to skateboard and continued on to the beautiful Midhurst Common. Thanks to Gisele for leading.

...and the more energetic Walking group contemplated sitting down.



## 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 (please ask for information if you cannot access these websites):

**Sussex u3a Network (SUN)** : [www.u3asites.org.uk/sussexu3anetwork](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/sussexu3anetwork)

**South East u3a Region** : [www.u3asites.org.uk/south-east/home](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/south-east/home). Includes a new **West Sussex u3a Network**

**South East u3a Forum** : runs a popular **Summer School** based at the University of Chichester. **This year's dates are 20-23 June** [www.u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum)

**The Third Age Trust** : the u3a national body for all u3as and their members in the UK, providing educational and administrative support, insurance cover, information including **newsletters (sign up for them here: [u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter](http://u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter))**, learning resources, subject advisors, merchandise, events including summer schools, a Science Network, radio podcasts and YouTube videos. 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.

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk), tel 020 8466 6139, facebook: u3aUK, u3a:Keeping In Touch, and u3a 40th Anniversary and u3a week.

## Midhurst u3a Communication

A **printed 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](http://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 October.

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.

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

**Local press and facebook pages** : publicity in local free magazines and other places when we can get it.

**Posters and leaflets** are distributed around the town including in Midhurst Library, The Grange, and in local villages.

## Privacy Statement (required by General Data Protection law)

Midhurst u3a will store personal details securely for membership and Gift Aid and 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.**