

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



SHEPWAY AND DISTRICT

www.u3asites.org.uk/shepway

Registered Charity No. 1149472

Newsletter

April 2024

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Our new year is just beginning, 1st April, and we are looking forward to another successful year with a full range of group subjects and events calendar. This is thanks to yourselves as members, group leaders for volunteering to run the group subjects, members of the committee for their individual contributions and our members who volunteer to help.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for Wednesday 8th May at the Tin Tabernacle from 2pm. We hope you will be attending, what is always an important event, where your committee review the past year and present plans for the new year. This year is very important, as you will be aware, I am standing down as Chair and from the committee, after a long time. Please read my note that follows.

April will see our first 'days out' of the year with a trip to the Historic Chatham Dockyard by coach on 29th April. This should be an enjoyable day with a guided tour of the dockyard, an optional walking tour of the 'Call the Midwife' TV set and a chance to visit the many sites in the dockyard. Places are limited to 30. More details and booking form are in the newsletter.

Our Swing band have organised a Spring Concert at the Tin Tabernacle for a Sunday afternoon on April 28th. This should make an enjoyable afternoon. We hope you can support them. Booking form in newsletter.

Your annual membership subscription is due by April 1st to cover the year to 31st March 2025. We have kept your subscription unchanged at £35, less than a £1 per week. If have yet to renew your subscription, please do so at your earliest opportunity. We do not want to lose you. If you are unable to renew now for whatever reason, please let us know and we can sort something out for you. Just email: shepwaymembership@gmail.com

John Hubbard shepwaybeacon@gmail.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - A message from John Hubbard, U3A Chair.

Our AGM is due to be held on Wednesday 8th May at 2.00 pm in the Tin Tabernacle. As you know, it will be my last as Chair of this wonderful organisation, and it will be an opportunity to thank you all in person for the work you do – often unseen – and the support you have given me personally over the last year. Please do your best to come. This is your chance to elect members to the Committee, hear about what's been happening, and have your say in the running of the U3A. Refreshments will be provided at the end of the meeting

The three officer posts of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are up for election. In addition, the term of office of three of our ordinary Committee members comes to an end, and another is also standing down. So, there are four ordinary Committee posts to fill. In addition, after the AGM, the Committee may co-opt up to two members for a year.

We are grateful that some of our retiring members are willing to stand again, and that one of our coopted members is also willing to stand, but we always want to encourage new people to become Committee members. If you would like to come along simply as an observer to see what it is like, you will also be very welcome. Indeed, this can be a good introduction to becoming a full Committee member in due course.

We are particularly looking for people for the following areas: setting up and managing our groups and sites; ensuring that the process for joining them and being registered runs smoothly; encouraging and coordinating our volunteers and helpers; organising our monthly members meetings; and supporting prospective new members and follow up support. We are very grateful that Katherine Robinson our Treasurer is willing to stand as Chair in the elections, provided that someone can take over her duties as Treasurer. These are both essential posts if our U3A is to continue running in its present form. Is there anyone out there who is willing to become our Treasurer – or indeed would like to put themselves forward for the position of Chair?

Please feel free to talk to me or other Committee members about joining the Committee. You need to be nominated and seconded, and get the nomination form back to Steve O'Neill, our Secretary, by 24 th April. Committee members can, of course, resign at any time if they find themselves unable to carry on for any reason, but we hope this won't happen! The Notice of meeting and agenda, the minutes of the 2023 AGM, and the nomination form for those wishing to stand for the Committee, are all attached to this newsletter.

One final point – if you have questions you would like to raise at the AGM it is always helpful to have them in advance, though this is by no means essential. If you can, please email them to Steve O'Neill on u3asecretarysteve@hotmail.co.uk.

Thank you.

John

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The time to renew your membership of Shepway & District u3a is nearly upon us.

The membership fee has been kept the same as last year i.e. £35.

Included in this Newsletter is a renewal form. Renewal forms can also be downloaded from our website: www.u3asites.org.uk/shepway.

You can renew by BACS, by cash or cheque at coffee mornings or by cheque posted to the Membership Secretary (address is on the form).

If you renew by bank transfer it is important you let the membership secretary know by emailing him at shepwaymembership@gmail.com. Also include your membership number or postcode in the transfer identification field to help identifying the payee.

You can renew from now and your subscription will run until March 31st 2025.

Please tick the Gift Aid box if you are eligible. The aid contribution kept our membership fee about £5 less than it would otherwise be.

If you can't access the form you can send your details to the membership secretary by email or post or, if nothing has changed, you can simply say that no details have changed. Don't forget to include your emergency contact details if you haven't already done so and also remember that if you signed up for Gift Aid this continues until you inform us that it is no longer valid.

Our details for BACS are: Bank: CAF Bank; Sort Code: 40-52-40; Acct no. 00031591; Acct name: U3A Shepway Main.

Use reference 'Subs' followed by your initials and your post code or membership number (some members share the same name and initials).

COFFEE MORNINGS

Dates for the next month are

Wednesday 17th April – Clifton Hotel, Folkestone 10.30am

Friday 26th April– Tin Tabernacle, Hythe 11am

You will be able to register for groups, book for events, and discuss anything with the committee. If you have friends interested in joining, please bring them along. New members are always welcome. Remember if you haven't yet renewed your membership subscription you can renew at any coffee morning.

MONTHLY MEMBER'S MEETING

I do hope that you are all well. The last meeting was well attended (thanks) and we had two more rounds of this year's quiz which went well.

The next Members meeting is on **10 April at 2pm at the Tin Tabernacle**. Our speaker for this meeting is **Neil Nixon** who will be entertaining us with a presentation on ***"Ten Mysteries which aren't really mysteries at all!"***. He has presented to us before and is well liked so please come along as this will be the first outing for this talk and should be great fun.

We will, of course, have another round of the year's progressive quiz which will have a number of themes this month.

There will also be a lot more on the upcoming Annual General Meeting as well as an update on membership, so please come along.

Nick Taylor



Shepway and District

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of Shepway & District U3A will be held on Wednesday 8 May 2024 at the Tin Tabernacle at 2.00 pm.

Agenda

1.	Welcome	John Hubbard
2.	Apologies	John Hubbard
3.	Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 May 2023	John Hubbard
4.	Matters arising	John Hubbard
5.	Chair's report	John Hubbard
6.	Treasurer's report	Katherine Robinson
7.	Membership Secretary's report	Tony Scofield
8.	Election of Chair and new Committee members New Chair takes over	John Hubbard / Steve O'Neill
9.	Group Coordinators' report	David Warren
10.	Members meetings report	Nick Taylor
11.	Film matinees report	Eileen and John Hubbard
12.	Events and Visits Report	Jacqueline Mack
13.	AOB	Chair
14.	Meeting Close	Chair
15.	Tea	Jacqui Bray

SON 21.02.24

Shepway and District

AGM WEDNESDAY 8 MAY 2024 2.00 pm

Nominations for the Committee

There are vacancies for three of the officer posts – Chair, Treasurer, and Business Secretary – and four vacancies for ordinary Committee members. Those nominated must agree to their name being put forward, and be proposed and seconded. One form per nominee please. All positions are voluntary and unpaid.

Officers – brief summary of main duties

Chair Ultimately responsible for the smooth, effective, and lawful running of the Shepway and District U3A. Liaison with the Third Age Trust and regional and local U3A networks. Works with and chairs the U3A Committee

Treasurer Responsible for the finance of the U3A and for keeping monthly accounts. Produces the annual accounts. Handles the banking.

Business Secretary Prepares agendas and takes minutes of management meetings, and other general meetings. Central office contact.

Ordinary Committee member

Expected to attend monthly committee meetings and assist at members' events, eg coffee mornings. Each committee member accepts specific responsibilities, agreed at the first committee meeting after the AGM.

We are looking for people for the following areas: setting up and managing our groups and sites; ensuring that the process for joining them and being registered runs smoothly; encouraging and coordinating our volunteers and helpers; organising our monthly members meetings; and supporting prospective new members and follow up support'.

To be completed by the person standing for election

Which vacancy are you standing for? (delete as appropriate)

- Chair
- Treasurer
- Business Secretary
- Ordinary committee member

Your name Signature (if returning this by post)

To be completed by the two members proposing and seconding you

Proposed by

Signature (if returning this by post) (Print Name)

Seconded by

Signature (if returning this by post) (Print Name)

The closing date for nominations is 24 April 2024. Return to: The Secretary, 7 St John's Way, Densole, Folkestone CT18 7DW, or email to: u3asecretarysteve@hotmail.co.uk

EVENTS

A full programme of events has been drawn up for 2024, which I hope you will enjoy. These will require advance bookings and, in view of that, it has been decided that we should have an expressions of interest notice in the Tin Tabernacle and at coffee mornings. Please do send me an email and thank you to those who have already done so.

Upcoming events

April

- The visit to Chatham Dockyard by coach outing is scheduled for Monday 29th April. The price will be £43.00 per person. Tickets include admission to the Dockyard and a guided tour of the Call the Midwife sets, which is optional, this is a walking tour, featuring material from the latest series, as well as props, costumes, set and of course a costumed Midwife. It lasts 60 minutes for a maximum of 25 people. Also included is a Royal Dockyard Tour in the coach with a guide to direct our driver and give us an overview of the history of the site, lasting 45 minutes.
- There are 2 places to eat. Food is not included in the price.
 - o You can visit the wagon stop at your own leisure. Serving sandwiches, potato wedges, pizza, hot and cold drinks, cakes and ice-creams. You can enjoy your snack either as a takeaway in the indoors or outdoors in the picnic areas available across the site.
 - o There is also The Mess Deck offering a great selection of tempting meals and snacks and hot and cold drinks.

There is also a shopping precinct within walking distance.

- The booking form is below.

May

- On 31st May in time, hopefully to see the rhododendrons at their best we can take a coach to National Trust –Sevenoaks Emmets Garden
- Charming Emmetts Garden is an Edwardian estate that was owned by Frederic Lubbock, becoming both a plantsman's passion and a much-loved family home. The garden was laid out in the late 19th century, and was influenced by William Robinson. It contains many exotic and rare trees and shrubs from across the world. Standing on one of the highest spots in Kent, Emmetts Garden offers panoramic views over the unspoilt Weald as well as some great walking opportunities. However this is a fairly rugged site and may be too challenging for some. Entrance will be free for National Trust members. The cost for the coach will be about £20.
- Booking form in this newsletter on page 9.

June

- Visit the Queen's house Greenwich on 28th June, with art architecture and sublime views: discover Greenwich's hidden gem today. But also history making discoveries and cutting astronomy at the home of Greenwich meantime. This will be coach only and will cost about £20

July

- Bella Vita Dover. This is an Italian restaurant which seats up to 120. The food is excellent and we can take over the restaurant if there is enough interest. The evening will include a performances by musicians and an opera singer between courses Approx. £50 pp. Parking is easy outside the restaurant and travel will be independent, or, by sharing cars

August

- On the 30th of August which is a Friday we are planning to provide a trip on the river Medway from Maidstone with Fish and Chips. The price for this is not available yet

September

- Chagall Windows All Saints' Church, Tudeley, Tonbridge TN11 0NZ 1 hour 15 from Folkestone. Then

Lunch and shopping in Tunbridge Wells. Leave 11.00 Return 16.30. This will cost about £20.00.

October

- British Museum. Visit the Museum and the Great Court Restaurant, you can enjoy a refined dining experience with a casual feel. This atmospheric restaurant is perfect for marking a special occasion or treating yourself when you visit the British Museum. Or, Enjoy afternoon tea including cream tea, a selection of sandwiches and delicate cakes. £35.00. Or, have a three-course lunch? Coach hire will be about £25.00.

November

- Thursday 21st November is Beaujolais Nouveau day and time to party in the Tin Tabernacle. The plan is to enjoy Beaujolais Nouveau with a buffet and French cheeses. We will be self-catering this time.

December

- Festive Lunch
- Trip to the Brick Lane Theatre and Panto.

Jacqueline Mack

Contact – jacqueline.mack@blueyonder.co.uk



BOOKING FORM – HISTORIC CHATHAM DOCKYARD

29TH April 2024

I/we wish to attend the visit to Chatham Dockyard

Name/s

.....
.....

Please choose

- Optional walking tour (duration 60mins) – Call the Midwife yes /no
- Coach Pickup – Folkestone Bus station 10.30am / Hythe Red Lion 10.45am

Payment and booking (Cheques payable to 'Shepway & District U3A')

- £43 per person
- By cheque or cash at coffee morning
- By post: send booking form and cheque to 'The Organiser, 14 Radnor Cliff, Folkstone, CT20 2JJ'
- Online: Pay through your bank, to 'Shepway & District U3A', Sort code: 40-52-40, account number: 00031591 and clearly state in the reference field 'Chatham 'your name/s'.

Separately email names and dates to shepwayevents@gmail.com

- Bookings close Friday 12th April.

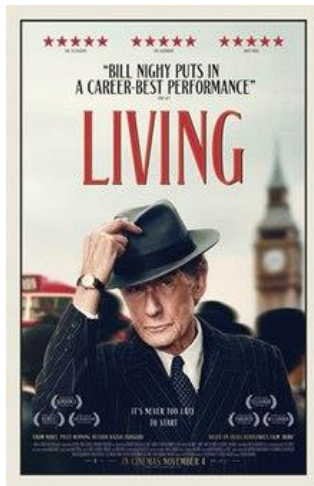
Members Afternoon Film Matinee

We mix the latest films with some golden oldies, dramas, musicals, and good entertainment are important ingredients, and your requests and suggestions are always appreciated.

We meet on the first Wednesday through to July 2024 at the Tin Tabernacle, Hythe usually starting at 2pm.

The format for the afternoon is the showing a feature film preceded by tea and cake, allowing us all time for some chat with our friends. It will be necessary to book your place in advance. Each session will cost just £6.

You can book at coffee mornings, online or by post. Details on the booking form in the newsletter and on our website. Closing date for bookings is Friday before the Matinee date. Cancellations also accepted up to the Friday before.



Wednesday 3rd April – Living

London 1953. Mr Williams (Bill Nighy), a civil servant, life takes a heartbreaking turn when a medical diagnosis tells him his time is short. Bureaucracy at work and loneliness at home, influenced by a local decadent and a vibrant woman, he continues to search for meaning until a simple revelation gives him a purpose to create a legacy for the next generation. A heart warming story.

Future Films

A number of films are being scheduled for future months. These include

- I Daniel Blake
- Priscilla
- Oppenheimer

Further details shortly

BOOKING FORM - MEMBERS AFTERNOON FILM MATINEE

1st Wednesday starting at 2pm

I / we wish to attend the Afternoon Film Matinee

- April 3rd - Living

Name/s

.....
.....

Payment and booking (Cheques payable to 'Shepway & District U3A')

- £6 per person per film
 - By cheque or cash at coffee morning
 - By post: send booking form and cheque to 'The Organiser, 52 Lower Corniche, Hythe, CT21 5TP'
 - Online: Pay through your bank, to 'Shepway & District U3A', Sort code: 40-52-40, account number: 00031591 and clearly state in the reference field 'Matinee 'your name/s'.
- Separately email names and dates to shepwaybeacon@gmail.com.

Bookings close on the Friday before each matinee.

Shepway & District u3a

BOOKING FORM

Friday 31st May - Emmetts Garden

Name/s

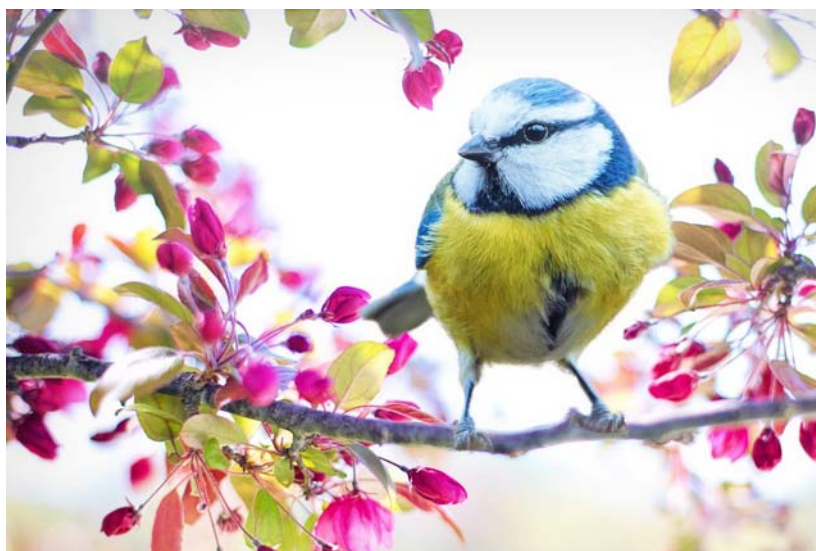
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Are you a National Trust Member? Yes / No. Please indicate whichever of these applies to you and each of your party.

Coach Pickup – Folkestone Bus station 10.30am / Hythe Red Lion 10.45am

Payment and booking (Cheques payable to 'Shepway & District U3A')

- Tickets are £37.50 for those who are not National Trust members and £24.50 for NT members.
- By cheque or cash at coffee morning
- By post: send booking form and cheque to 'The Organiser, 14 Radnor Cliff, Sandgate, CT20 2JJ'
- Online: Pay through your bank, to 'Shepway & District U3A', Sort code: 40-52-40, account number: 00031591 and clearly state in the reference field 'Emmetts 'your name/s'. Separately email names to Jacqueline.mack@blueyonder.co.uk



Shepway u3a Swing Band

invite you to join them and

Swing into Spring

with a delightful selection of music from our
fantastic Swing Band repertoire

This all takes place in **HYTHE'S TIN TABERNACLE** on
SUNDAY 28 APRIL from 3-5.30pm

Tickets only £8 to include refreshments

Booking Essential

Booking form is included in this newsletter



BOOKING FORM

Shepway u3a Swing Band - Swing into Spring Concert

Sunday 28th April 3-5.30pm at Tin tabernacle, Hythe

Name/s:
.....

Payment and booking (Cheques payable to 'Shepway & District U3A')

- £8 per person
- By cheque or cash at coffee morning
- By post: send booking form and cheque to 'The Organiser, 52 Lower Corniche, Hythe, CT21 5TP'
- Online: Pay through your bank, to 'Shepway & District U3A', Sort code: 40-52-40, account number: 00031591 and clearly state in the reference field 'Band 'your name/s'. Separately email names and dates to shepwaybeacon@gmail.com.

Bookings close on the Friday 26th April or earlier if fully booked.

CONTACT DETAILS

Membership and General Enquiries

Telephone/Text: 07871 774 831

Email: shepwaymembership@gmail.com

Events and Trips – Booking and Enquiries

Telephone/Text: 07938 999017

Email: shepwayevents@gmail.com

Joining Groups and Enquiries

Telephone/Text: 07938 999 015

Email: shepwaygroups@gmail.com

Disability Contacts:

Telephone/ Text: 07871 774 831

Email: shepwaymembership@gmail.com

Member Contact Details

If you change your address, telephone number or email address please let the Membership Secretary know as you may not get notifications, the Bulletin or the U3A news.

shepwaymembership@gmail.com

May Newsletter

If you have any material about group activities or other pieces that may interest members, including poems, quizzes etc, please send them to Tony at shepwaymembership@gmail.com by the **21st April**.

VOLUNTEER LIST

We are looking for more members to join our Volunteers List. Volunteers help us out at u3a functions when we need extra pairs of hands, but only when it is convenient for them to do so, i.e there is no compulsion. Join us and enjoy making new friends around our u3a when you have the time. Thank you to all our existing members who have already helped us out. Contact Linda Fellows on linda.fellows1@ntlworld.com or leave message on 07976 512 332.

GROUP NEWS

CALENDAR OF GROUP ACTIVITIES

Download the April group calendar here: [April Calendar](#)

Group Information

A reminder that for insurance and administration purposes members of each Group need to be registered as such on our Beacon system.

If you are interested in a particular Group, you can, with the Group Leader's permission, attend a meeting as a guest, on a single occasion but if you wish to continue you must register your interest by contacting shepwaygroups@gmail.com or leave a message on 07938 999015 or register at a coffee morning.

The Group Leader will be informed and add you to the list or put you on the waiting list if the Group is already over-subscribed. Either way they will let you know.

If you are unable to attend a meeting, please always let the group leader know in advance as it helps them with arrangements

If you belong to a Group which you are no longer able to attend please inform the Group Leader so that your place can be given to someone else.

When you apply to join a group make it clear which group you wish to attend by giving the **exact** name and the timing.

Establishing a new group

Our u3a has always been proactive in assisting with new group subjects. If you would like to start up a new group, we can offer help with materials, venue and publicising the group to the membership as a whole. Just email Christine Hughes on hughesc1@hotmail.co.uk or speak to a committee member at a coffee morning. We will be pleased to help.

DVD Courses currently available in our Library

The High Middle Ages

Joy of Science

Philosophy of Science

Great Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt

Utopia and Terror in the 20th Century

The Aging Brain

Must History repeat the Great Conflicts of the 20th Century

Life and Writings of Geoffrey Chaucer

Effective Communication Skills

The Everyday Gourmet – four separate courses

Short Walks (West)

The short walks will take place on the second Tuesday of each month, commencing April, meeting at 10.45am for setting off at 11am. They will end with refreshments at a suitable pub or cafe whenever possible. The walks will be approximately 2 miles long and should take around an hour.

The walks are mostly on the Romney Marsh, which is an excellent place to explore on foot, given its flat and unique landscape. There will be walks in the countryside, along the coast and maybe even in some of the towns and villages which have a rich history dating back to Medieval times.

If you would like to register for this group, please send an email to: shepwaygroups@gmail.com or text 07938 999 015. For any other information contact Bryony Taylor-Youell at bryonytee@outlook.com

Bryony

Ten Pin Bowling

The meetings of the Ten Pin Bowling groups for April and May at the AMB Hollywood Bowling Centre, Station Road, Ashford are as follows:

APRIL

Friday 12th NA
Tuesday 23rd 11.00am

MAY

Friday 10th 10.30am
Tuesday 28th NA

Any member/s of Shepway U3A wishing to join one, or both, of the Ten Pin Bowling groups and for more information please contact:- shepwaygroups@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming new members to the group

I very much appreciate the continued support received from members of both groups.

Doreen Bishop

Science, Philosophy and Spirituality

Sadly, the March meeting of the group, due to have taken place on 20th March, had to be cancelled because of the funeral of a friend of mine in Bourton-on-the-Water on the same day.

The meeting for April will take place at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, 17th April at the Tin Tabernacle. This meeting will be discussing the topic that was originally scheduled for March, which is the

Hellenistic World - the world that was shaped by Alexander the Great and paved the way for the Roman Empire. This topic raises interesting questions about cultural integration, which are highly relevant to our situation in the UK today, particularly considering the Rochdale bye-election result and the Government's recent re-definition of extremism.

I'm looking forward to seeing you.

Terry Cooke-Davies

Email: terry@insearchofwisdom.online

Tel: 01303 470 971

Mob: 07917 818 917

Classical Music

Last month we listened to piano trios and At our March meeting we widened our focus to cover two examples of contemporary Indian Classical Music, one of which is going out to schools very shortly as part of a new list of 'Ten Pieces for Schools' an initiative promoted by BBC Radio 3. The contemporary theme continued with an extract from the score by Ludwig Goransson to the film *Oppenheimer*, winner at the recent Oscars for Best Original Score.

We listened also to a short overture by Germaine Tailleferre the only female in the group of influential early 20thC French composers known as 'Les Six'. Our 200th anniversary composers were represented by one of Smetana's tone poems from the cycle 'Ma Vlast' (My Country) and two movements from Bruckner's massive 7th Symphony.

Next month's programme will be just as varied, with more music by Smetana and Bruckner and probably also by Fanny Mendelssohn (Felix's talented sister!), on Thursday 11th April 2pm at the Tin Tabernacle.

Michael (Group Leader)

Current Affairs (Folkestone)

Folkestone Current Affairs Group has space for a few new members. We meet at the Folkestone Museum in Guildhall Street on the second Friday of each month at 10.30am. If you would like to join us please apply either via Shepwaygroups or at a coffee morning.

Jean Hatton

Current Affairs (New Romney)

Although our Group is titled New Romney Current Affairs, we currently meet in the TinTab. Topics we have recently discussed include the Post Office Horizon system, bankers' bonuses and the Lower Thames Crossing. The planning application for the crossing is 350,000 pages. Members have suggested recently that we should also discuss some "Good News" items. We would welcome new members to attend our lively but friendly discussions.

John Holloway

Earth Science

Our March meeting was dominated by water, just like our weather. We were stimulated and fascinated by Ian Stewart, who over the course of 1 hr discussed water, where it is and where it was in ancient times, and how it was managed by previous civilisations. There have been a lot of changes! After the break we saw another film about two seas, the Caribbean and the Philippine. Next month, on 22 April, more water will be investigated, and we will concentrate on 'The deep', another presentation by Ian Stewart, followed by short films on three more seas – the Aegean, Norumbega and Beaufort Seas.

Do join us, we are really enjoying our move away from Meteorology, which had been the main theme of our group since the summer.

Gillian Bond

England: From the Fall of Rome to the Norman Conquest

We are progressing through this period in our history with the Anglo Saxons firmly integrated into British life, a united England being established, and now facing the new threat of the Vikings. The lectures continue to help understand what happened.

We meet each month at the Tin Tabernacle on the 4th Wednesday starting at 10.30am. There will be no meeting in April. The next scheduled meeting is May 22nd

You can still join us, just please register at coffee mornings or email shepwaygroups@gmail.com

John Hubbard

Book Circle 3 – Romney Marsh

This group meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month to discuss our current reading. Members take it in turns to suggest either a genre or maybe a particular author for us to read. During March, the suggestion was to read a story set in sunnier climes than those we were experiencing in the UK!

If you would like to register for this group, please send an email to: shepwaygroups@gmail.com or text 07938 999 015. For any other information contact Bryony Taylor-Youell at bryonytee@outlook.com

Bryony

Line-Dancing Group

There have been a few enquires recently from Members, with no experience of Line-Dancing, to join our Line-Dancing Group on a Monday morning at Newington Village Hall. This is great news, but it is clearly not ideal nor easy to enjoy the class if you do not know the steps required in order to keep up.

So our lovely teacher Sue Culling has agreed to add on a Beginners class, at the beginning of our Monday morning session of Line-Dancing now that there are enough new people to make it viable. To that end we are starting up a Beginners class to encourage new members, starting on Monday 8th April (after Easter) for a period of 6 weeks. The classes will start at 0930 till 1000, when the experienced dancers will join in for a session together till 11.15.

Please contact us and let us know if you haven't already done so, that you would like to join in this lovely social class. We are very friendly, and it is a great way to start the week! It is a well-known fact that dancing in a sequence is a great way to fight dementia! Looking forward to seeing some new faces!

Ros Battrick and Barbara Moscrop.

Canasta

We are looking for a member to become the group leader of this well-established group. They meet at the Light Railway Hall, Hythe on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the afternoon for 2 hours. If you are interested in joining or are already a member of the group and could become a group leader, please email shepwaygroups@gmail.com

Afternoon Tea on the Marsh.

March's gathering was at The Coach House in New Romney. We were seated in a "conversation" corner and everybody enjoyed the opportunity to chat and eat cake.

As our meetings are on the first Thursday of the month our next meeting falls in Easter Week when most venues will be busy. I have spoken to the XIX Hole at the Warren Golf Club in Littlestone and they will have room for us. Cake is promised! Most of the venues we use are quite small so at present this group cannot accept any more members.

Ruth Faulkes

Critical Analysis of Poetry

Dates for next session:

16/04	30/04	14/05	28/05	11/06
25/06				

Ray Solly

Dance Group

I am often asked where the best places for social dancing are located, so I will mention some with which I am familiar. There is a regular Tea Dance at the Burstin Hotel in Folkestone every Tuesday afternoon from 14.00 to 16.30. There is a monthly Tea Dance at the village hall in Boughton-under-Blean on Sunday afternoons from 14.30 to 17.00. The Community Centre at Hawkinge has monthly dances starting at 20.00 to 22.30. There are also special event and cabaret dances held there periodically and often include super demonstration dances by professionals. Shortly, we expect to be running a U3A centred dance at Burton Hall off Stade Street in Hythe for U3A members and the local community. More information on that to follow. I am just back from a Warner's holiday on Hayling Island with lots of dance teaching and social dancing both afternoon and evening. Cruise lines invariably have a similar dancing format.

Dancing programmes at most venues have changed a lot in recent years. Sequence dancing and modern jive have become the mainstay of some venues but usually include ballroom and Latin dancing as well. At U3A we are including Sequence Dancing and Modern Jive in our programme to fit in with the current trend although we still maintain Ballroom and Latin as central to our teaching. Dancing has so much to offer in keeping fit, socialising and of course experiencing the joy of moving to music. There

is no age barrier or lack of musicality as various dances allow participants to set their own pace or rhythm. This month we are teaching social or rhythm Foxtrot which allows anyone to begin at a slower pace. Then we have the Rumba, again quite slow but very rhythmic and added to this the Rumba One Sequence dance. The pace quickens with the Quickstep and Jive to finish. Our next dance session is on 22 March starting at 14.00 in the Burton Hall off Stade Street in Albert Lane, Hythe. So book in to open up a new beginning and 'come on down'.

Edwin Mackenzie

Family History Group

It has been the practice of the Family History Group not to meet on those Mondays that fall on Bank Holidays and this year we find that we are impacted by no less than three, 1 January, 1 April and 6 May! So sadly the next meeting of the Group will not be until 3 June 2024.

With the number of other Groups meeting in the Railway Hall and the commitments of members who belong to other Groups, there are no easy answers to this situation but we do have an idea that may help to reduce the impact. We are exploring the possibility of re-launching the "Shepway u3a Family History Forum". This would enable members to raise queries about genealogy with Group Leaders, as well as to exchange information with the rest of the Group about interesting items they come across in their research. This forum was a popular innovation during periods of Covid lockdown and a wide variety of messages were sent and enjoyed by many members.

More details about this idea will be sent via Beacon to all current members of the Group shortly. Finally, do remember bring your £1 contribution to the extra heating costs again. This also covers the cost of hot drinks should you wish to take advantage of the tea and coffee that is available from the kitchen area and will be served at the back of the hall during the break.

Richard Andrews & Wendy Williams

Long Walks

Friday 15th April at 10.00 a.m.

Members will receive details of the walk by email before the walk..

Led by Tony.

Poetry Group

There was no meeting on 7th March, but on 15th February, having previously considered Commonwealth poets of Indian and African heritage, we turned to an Australian writer of British descent, the critic, journalist, novelist, TV personality and poet, Clive James (1939-2019). We read seven of his poems, most of these written towards the end of his busy life, as his health declined.

Clive James was born in a working-class suburb of Sydney, went to Sydney University, and in 1962 emigrated to Britain. After three years he gained a place at the more prestigious Pembroke College, Cambridge, graduating with a 2:1 in English Literature. During his career, according to Wikipedia, he produced 23 books of essays and criticism, 5 books of memoirs, 4 novels and 17 volumes of poetry, plus a translation of Dante's "Divine Comedy". This workload, and his regular TV and radio appearances, were supported for much of his life by a copious alcohol intake, 80 cigarettes a day and the use of cocaine. A married man, Mr James was also tempted into an 8 year affair with a younger woman (which must have added to the pressure) and which he later regretted. For example, in "*Leçons de Ténèbres*" he says "Far too casually/ I broke faith when it suited me, and here/ I am alone, and now the end is near."

"*Japanese Maple*" was published in "The New Yorker" in 2014. There is nothing superfluous in the poem's everyday vocabulary. It begins "Your death, near now, is of an easy sort./ So slow a fading out brings no real pain. / Breath growing short/ Is just uncomfortable./ You feel the drain / Of energy, but thought and sight remain." Though physically tired, he feels his senses actually heightened: "When did you ever see / So much sweet beauty as when fine rain falls/ On that small tree ..." His task is to survive until autumn, when he will see the leaves of his daughter's new Japanese Maple tree "turn to flame./ What I must do / Is live to see that. That will end the game / For me, though life continues all the same ..." In fact, he went on to fight kidney failure, emphysema and leukaemia for another five years.

"*Asma unpacks her pretty clothes*" was an earlier, political poem. The new rulers of Syria are Bashar Assad and his wife Asma (a model who had appeared in "Vogue" magazine). The couple's western sophistication promises reform, but in fact nothing changes. As she "unpacks her pretty clothes" "Out there in Syria, the torturers/ Arrive

by bus at every change of shift" ... "Her husband's doing,/ The screams will never reach her where she is".

In "*Be careful when they offer you the moon*" Clive James' voice of experience warns the reader against the empty pleasures of fame: "When you take the moon you kiss the world goodbye/ For a chance to lord it over loneliness/ And a quarter million miles down the sky/ They'll watch you shining more but weighing less."

"*Winter plums*" is another poem comparing the longevity of the ornamental plants with the poet's own frailty. It has a sense of foreboding worthy of Philip Larkin: "... Two winter plum trees that will outlive me./ Thriving with colour even in the snow,/ They'll snatch a triumph from adversity./ All right for them, but can the same be so / For someone who, seeing their buds remade / From nothing, will be less pleased than afraid?"

Frank Shepherd

Climate in Crisis

In climate science, Tipping Points are reached when a gradual change in conditions, typically global temperature, sets off a self-feeding reaction which leads to the destruction of a feature or mechanism which is important to the stability of our environment. Such Tipping Points which will probably occur this century will result in the melting of the Greenland and Western Antarctic Ice Sheets.

At our March meeting, we discussed the information on this topic available to us and concluded that there is great uncertainty about the timing of the onset of tipping events and their impact on our climate, particularly if different events were to interact significantly.

In view of this uncertainty, monitoring of likely triggers of such large changes is important. A particular concern for these islands are recent reports that the volume of fresh water running into the south Atlantic is falling and that this could slow the circulation of water in the Atlantic, of which the Gulf Stream is a feature, and that this would result in much colder temperatures here.

Successive Bank Holiday Mondays would result in the Group missing two monthly meetings so we will be meeting next in the Railway Hall on Tuesday 16th April at 2pm when we will discuss behavioural matters and lifestyle change in response to the climate crisis.

Roger Wood Group Leader

FLORA, FAUNA AND FORAGING

We changed location this month at the eleventh hour as our plan to walk the cliffs of Capel would be muddy going and likely to be shrouded in mist. So we switched to a gentle stroll around the gardens of the Metropole Hotel and along the Leas in Folkestone.

Signs of spring are everywhere in the garden. Daffs and tête a tête are out in force although some are being chewed by tiny snails. Tulips are coming into bloom which seems a little early and an iris is already showing some purple colour. The lawns are very green and lush following so much winter rain and are dotted with vivid purple sweet violets – a lovely addition to cake or trifle decoration if you can bear to pick them! A pink fringed cyclamen has been blooming in the shelter of the entrance gate all winter and is still going strong.

FAUNA..

Our resident herring gulls (Mick and Montmorency) treated us to their daily tap dancing routine on the lawn – this produces vibrations that mimic the sound of raindrops which entices worms to the surface creating a constantly available fast food outlet – McHerrings! Our walk around the garden was accompanied by the mating calls of coal tits, burbling wood pigeon, squawking gulls and magpies and twittering blue tits and sparrows. They are all busy finding mates and nest building. Other evidence of “fauna” – fox droppings, huge juicy snails (well we can see France from here) hover flies, bumble bees and dare I say a rat hole. It’s all happening!

FLORA...

The camellia shrubs which LOVE rainwater are particularly resplendent this year as are the hellebores. Lift the head of their seemingly modest blooms to appreciate their full beauty. The fatsia japonica are looking glossy and healthy and the border shrubs are all greening up. Alongside the gravel paths and in secret corners we discovered red dead nettle, celandine, muscari, bluebells in leaf, cleavers and wood anemone.

We left the Metropole and walked along Sandgate Road cutting into the back garden of the Grand Hotel. There are several large private gardens all along the front of the Leas which are managed by Smith Woolley and preserved by the Radnor Estate which owns most of the land. The magnificent houses surrounding these gardens all have access and apparently when first built had their own police force to keep the riff raff at bay. We headed along the Clifton Crescent where the elegant stucco villas were built by Decimus Burton in the mid 1800s. His father was James

Burton who with John Nash designed many London landmarks including Regents Street. You could almost imagine yourself to be in the West End of London. Decimus also designed the Palm and Temperate Houses in Kew Gardens. The gardens along the crescent held a wealth of interest for us – forsythia, magnolia, wallflowers, mossy walls and the more unkempt allowing dogs mercury and green alkanet to flourish.

FORAGING...

You are likely now to find three cornered leek (*allium triquetrum*) growing wild just about everywhere. This spring plant is unmistakable as the stem is triangular – hence its name – and the drooping bell like flowers look a bit like white bluebells. Crush the stem and the smell of garlic will hit you. All of the plant is edible. Leaves and flowers can be used in salads or stews and the roots as onion or garlic. I like to chop the juicy stem and add to a white sauce for fish. Like all onions these leeks can reduce high blood pressure and cholesterol. It spreads like mad so don’t be cautious about harvesting it.

APRIL MEETING

This will take place on Thursday, 18th April and will be a “bluebell fest”. The plan is to go to Reinden Wood on the A260 to Canterbury for a 10.30 start, walk the woodland paths, then poodle along to the Folkestone Garden Centre to look at plants and enjoy some refreshment.

Meet here at the Metropole, The Leas, Folkestone CT20 2LT at 10 a.m. where we can sort out a car share as parking is tricky.

Please let me know, as soon as you know, if you intend to join us.

Spring has Sprung!

Briar

Short Walks (East/Central)

These are monthly on the 4th Tuesday and about 2 - 2½ miles long departing from different locations in our area at 11.00 finishing with refreshments in a pub or cafe whenever possible. Contact Linda Fellows on linda.fellows1@ntlworld.com or 07976 512 332.

Local History 3

Our last meeting was very well attended.

The prearranged topic for general discussion was the Black Robin pub in the Elham valley and the surrounding area. About 8 of us had done our research and added to our combined knowledge. The pub is named after a Highway man who robbed travellers on the adjacent London to Dover road around the 1850s. But none of us came up with his real name or that of his horse who sadly died of starvation after its master was hung for his deeds at a local cross roads.

We then had presentations on:-

The Kingston brooch and its finder the Reverend Faussett, The Nailbourne stream, The Thames - Medway canal and Brook.

John Anstiss Group Leader

Music & Drama (MAD) Group

After 12 years of leading the MAD group, I have decided that it is time to retire!

I have had a fab time and met lovely people.

My thanks to them all and to the committee for their support.

Helen Peverett.

Jigsaw library trial

I have always enjoyed jigsaw puzzles, and have noticed (from the exchanges that go on in the local charity shops) that I am not alone in this! Sometimes I'll be busy enough that it takes me a couple of weeks to complete one, or if the weather's bad, a couple of days.

Studies have shown that jigsaws can help improve short-term memory, problem-solving skills, and combat cognitive decline...or simply be a bit of fun. Mine are fairly straightforward, that I get a sense of satisfaction in making progress.

I wondered if it might interest members to be able to borrow / swap puzzles, and would be happy to bring a dozen or so to some coffee mornings, and see how it goes ?

If you are interested I will be at the coffee morning at the Tin Tabernacle on Good Friday. Do come and bring jigsaws along.

Caroline Edmond

Courses and Events being held by the Third Age Trust On Line

The Third Age Trust have arranged an ongoing series of online courses and single events which members of any U3A in the UK can join. To review the current schedule please go to the Third Age Trust website on u3a.org.uk/events where you can also book your place. The majority are provided free as part of your membership. They will also be reviewed at the coffee morning.

OTHER LECTURES MEMBERS CAN ATTEND

The Society of Retired Engineers in Kent (SREK) TALKS

Meetings are normally held at The Burlington Hotel, 3-5 Earls Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2HR near the Leas) on the second Tuesday of each month (except during July and August) at 10.00am for coffee or tea before a talk on an engineering related topic at 10.30 am. Meetings normally close about midday,

APRIL 9. 2024

Sailing into the Electronic Age.

Jeremy Clark continues his informative and entertaining presentations showing the history and progress made in seafaring navigation for all modes of sea transport.

MAY 14. 2024

Further Reflections on the Diplomatic Service.

Brian Banks a retired British Diplomat who was active in Russia, Africa and Washington gives various anecdotal examples of his wide ranging, eye opening and often amusing experiences encountered during his working life in the foreign branch of the civil service.

JUNE 11. 2024

Captain Cooks first voyage to Tahiti.

Brigadier Hugh Willing's presentation concerns Captain Cook's voyage to Tahiti made ostensibly to track the transit of the planet Venus but which included sealed Admiralty orders to be opened following completion of the appropriate scientific experiments.

THE ARTS SOCIETY ASHFORD

Offer a selection of lectures, special interest days and visits on a variety of subjects related to the arts in the broadest sense.

Meetings are held in Aldington Village Hall, Roman Road,
Aldington, TN25 7EE

April 16th 2024 Lecture: **Beautiful, Beastly, Bizarre** Paula Nuttall
The Art of Hieronymus Bosch

The lecture unravels the meaning of Bosch's enigmatic paintings in the context of his own time, in terms of social satire and medieval folklore.

Coffee 10.30, Lecture 11am

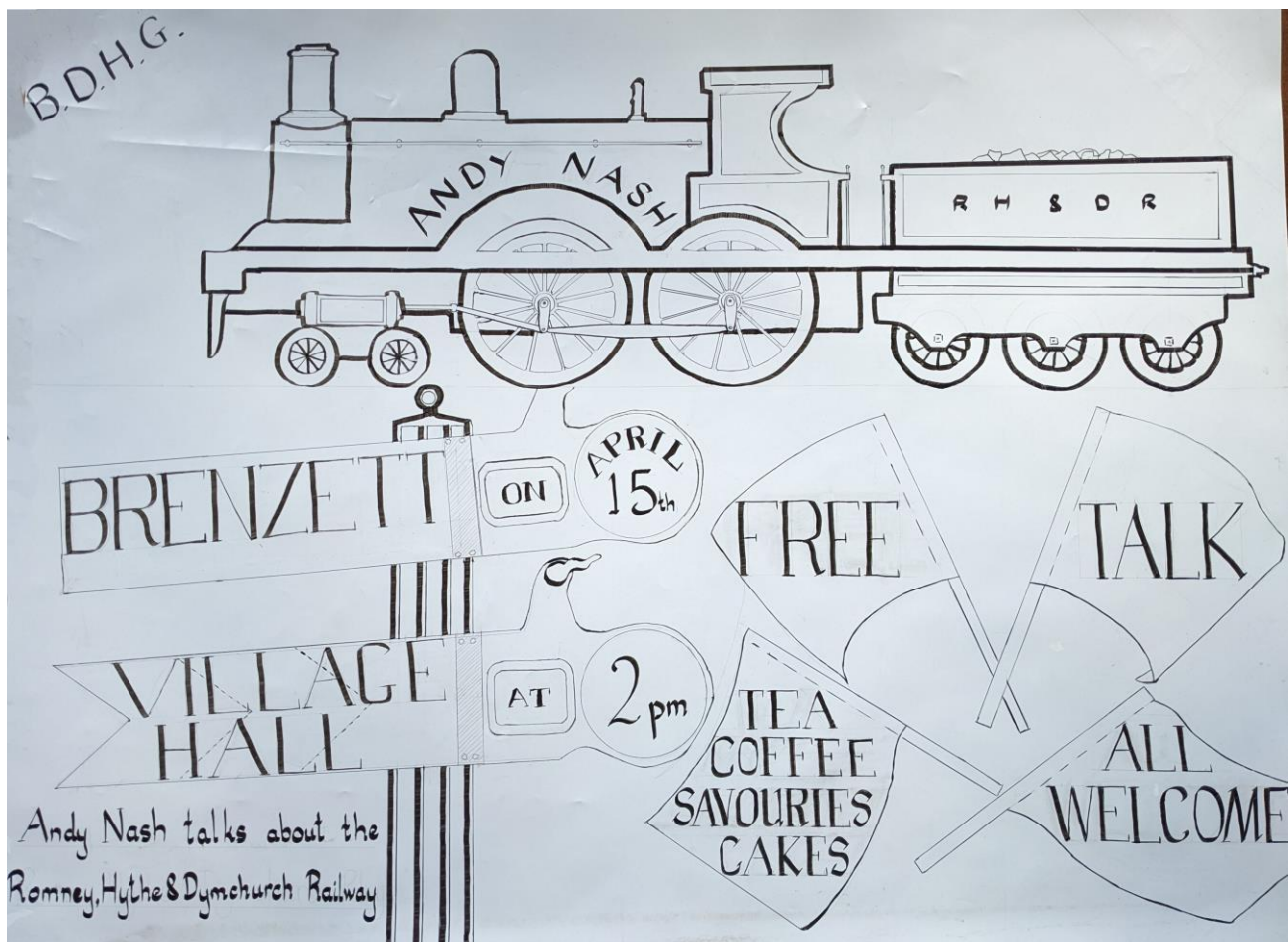
For tickets (£5) contact Annaliese Bush 07813 725259

SPECIAL INTEREST DAYS

Saturday 20th April, 2024 British Wild Food

Fresh, free and full of flavour 'talk and taste' £42

Tickets and more information from Shirley Boards 07970 655919



Brenzett and District History Group has invited Andy Nash, a Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch veteran volunteer (55 seasons), to talk to us about the Railway he loves so well. As an experienced train driver he has many a story with which to entertain and delight his audience. From Laurel and Hardy to the Great Train Robbery, Andy is the man to tell the tale.

We warmly invite all those interested in the history of our famous local railway to join us at Brenzett Village Hall on Monday April 15th at 2pm. Refreshments will be available, and there will be a chance to ask questions after the talk.

If you need further details or assistance, contact Sarah 07928 045 406.

Shepway and District U3A

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 10 May 2023 in the Tin Tabernacle

Present: Committee: Officers: Linda Fellows (Chair), John Hubbard (Vice Chair), Steve O'Neill (Secretary), Katherine Robinson (Treasurer)
Members: Roger Curd, Gehad Homsey, Christine Hughes, Eileen Presland, Tony Scofield, David Warren
Others: 45 other U3A members attending.
Apologies: Jacqui Bray (Committee member), and 10 U3A members

1. Welcome

Linda Fellows welcomed everyone to the AGM, and thanked everyone for coming.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11 May 2022

The minutes of the 2022 AGM meeting were agreed as a correct record

3. Chairman's report

Looking back over her time as Chair of the U3A, Linda Fellows expressed her thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make our U3A a success – the group leaders, those who take on extra jobs as needed, and fellow committee members. She was stepping down as Chair with some sadness, but confident that the U3A would continue to meet the challenges ahead, as it had done in the past year with for example rising costs, and rebuilding the membership after Covid.

4. Treasurer's report

Katherine Robinson's report for the year ending 31 March 2023 was approved, although it was noted that the accounts were still with the auditors. Total income was: £49,457. Total expenditure was £48,788. This resulted in a surplus of £669. The end of year reserves amounted to £24,282.

Katherine discussed some key income headings. Subscriptions amounted to 52% of our income, in the sum of £25,722, course materials and fees £9841, income from events £6169, Gift Aid amounted to £4,311, and the film matinees brought in £1038. As regards expenditure, hall hire cost us £33,650 (69% of our expenditure), events £4052, our Third Age Trust membership fees £2,988; administration (including our accountant) £1799, direct mail £1,684, postage and printing for the newsletter £1,024. Katherine was thanked for her presentation and good work.

5. Membership report

Tony Scofield said that membership at 31 March was 775. This had since reduced to 708 because just under 10% of members had not yet renewed their subscriptions. This percentage was not unusual and renewals were still coming in. Nearly half of members were from Hythe. 69% were women, and 31% men. 95% were on email. The Linda thanked Tony for his report, and work during the year.

6. Election of Committee members

There were vacancies for the officer positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Business Secretary. Nominations had been received and seconded as follows:

Chair – John Hubbard – eligible for a 3 year tenure

Vice Chair – Tony Scofield – eligible for a 3 year tenure

Treasurer - Katherine Robinson – eligible for a 1 year tenure due to previous service in this role

Secretary – Steve O'Neill – eligible for a 1 year tenure due to previous service in this role

There were no other nominations for these officer roles.

There were also four ordinary committee member vacancies, two for 3 years, one for 2 years and one for 1 year.

Nominations had been received and seconded as follows:

Eileen Presland, David Warren, Linda Fellows, Jacqueline Mack

There were no other nominations for these posts.

As the number of nominations equaled the vacancies, all the candidates would automatically join the committee, but the AGM confirmed its unanimous endorsement of them with a show of hands. The four ordinary members would decide how long they would serve for at the next Committee.

Under the constitution, the Committee was able to coopt two additional members for up to a year. One individual had offered to join in this way. Any one else interested was welcome to talk to the Chairman.

7. New Chairman

John Hubbard took over the chairmanship of the meeting, and thanked Linda Fellows for all she had done over the last two years as Chair of the U3A. He stressed that our philosophy was that members ran the U3A for the members.

8. Groups report

John Hubbard reported that there was a total of 83 registered groups. Most were meeting in halls – mainly the Tin Tabernacle or the Light Railway– but a few were meeting in other venues because of their special requirements, others in members' homes, others on line, and others on location. There were 1980 registered places. Average group membership was nearly 24 members. John gave an analysis of the wide range of groups available, and thanked the group leaders for their commitment and hard work. He also thanked Gehad Homsey for handling the registration side of the groups.

9. Members meetings report

Roger Curd reported on the members meetings that had been held over the last year, and thanked the speakers involved. The current year's programme was in preparation.

10. Film Nights

John Hubbard reported on behalf of himself and Eileen Presland that the afternoon film matinees had been very successful since they were introduced. Each month had been fully booked. The last of the current season would be in June, after which there would be a break until October.

11. Events report

Linda Fellows reported on the various events that had been held throughout the year, and thanked Veronica King for organising the U3A tea in September, the members dinner in October, and the Christmas lunch at the Clifton Hotel. Thanks were also due to Pat Beatty, who in April, had organised a successful trip to Pashley Manor, and to Jeff Bonner for a swing band concert in the same month, which had raised money for the Turkey / Syria earthquake appeal.

12. AOB.

- John Hubbard mentioned that 2023 was the 15th anniversary of Shepway and District U3A. Ideas to celebrate this were being considered
- He also mentioned that the Committee was looking for more helpers –people who were prepared to undertake one off jobs. It was intended to maintain a list of names of those who could be called upon when needed. He encouraged people to register if they felt they could help in this way.
- RHDR. Some concerns were expressed about the changes at the Light Railway particularly as regards car parking, access, and catering. John offered to talk to individuals privately, but explained that we were very much in the hands of the railway, and the constraints under which they now had to work. The catering service should improve, and the heating was much better. The restricted car parking still allowed for disabled parking, deliveries, and dropping off.

13. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was closed, to be followed by refreshments and a discussion about the future

14 Discussion about the future

The meeting reconvened to share ideas for the future in a discussion led by John Hubbard:

- Coffee mornings were thought to be fine as they were, and other social get-togethers a good idea
- Events and trips – people would welcome more trips out, for example to the theatre or to garden shows. A list of possibles could be put in the newsletter to establish levels of interest
- There was a question as to whether we needed more venues in Folkestone, eg church halls
- Evening dinners – more of these would be welcome
- The Christmas lunch was always popular
- More leaders were needed for group subjects, eg architecture, and languages

GROUPS

Afternoon Tea on the Marsh
 Art - Mixed Media
 Badminton
 Bird Watching
 Bolivia (Canasta alternative)
 Book Circle - 1 - Hythe
 Book Circle - 2 - Folkestone
 Book Circle - 3 Romney Marsh
 Bridge
 Canasta 1
 Chess
 Climate in Crisis
 Computer Users
 Cooking Live
 Cribbage
 Critical Analysis of Poetry
 Current Affairs - Folkestone
 Current Affairs - Hythe
 Current Affairs - New Romney
 Cycling
 Dance
 Earth Science
 England-Roman to Norman Times
 Family History
 Flora,Fauna and Foraging
 Flower Arranging
 Food-Cultural Culinary History
 French - Beginners
 French - Conversation
 French - Intermediate
 Gardening 1
 Gardening 2
 Golf
 Italian Beginners
 Kurling
 Late Middle Ages
 Line Dancing
 Local History 3
 Local History 4
 Mahjong
 Mid Week Supper Club

Mixed Craft - Romney Marsh
 Music - Classical
 Music and Drama
 Novels 1
 Out and About
 Patchwork & Sewing
 Petanque - Elham
 Petanque - Folkestone
 Philosophy
 Photography
 Photography 2
 Pickleball
 Play Reading - Folkestone
 Play Reading - Hythe
 Poetry
 Rummikub
 Saturday Dining
 Science, Philosophy, Spiritual
 Scone Rangers
 Script Writing
 Sewing Workshop
 Shakespeare
 Singing for Life
 Sunday Lunch
 Swing Band
 Table Tennis
 Tai Chi - Class 1 - Form
 Tai Chi - Class 2 - Qigong
 Tai Chi - Class 3 - Qigong
 Tai Chi - Class 4 - Sticks
 Tai Chi - Class 5 - Form
 Ten Pin Bowling (Friday Group)
 Ten Pin Bowling (Tuesday Group)
 Ukulele
 Walks - Long
 Walks - Short - West
 Walks - Short -East/Central
 Whist & Other Card Games
 Writing Circle 1
 Writing Circle 2
 Your Favourite Poems

Shepway & District U3A

Membership Renewal Form

(Registered Charity no. 1149472)



Please fill in details CLEARLY in CAPITAL LETTERS especially the email address.

You may pay by cheque, cash or bank transfer (BACS). See below for details and check the relevant box if using BACS. Email: shepwaymembership@gmail.com

YOUR DETAILS

Title	First Name	Surname
Email*	Please ensure your email address is easy to read	
	Home Phone	
	Mobile	
Address	Post code	
Emergency contact Please enter name and contact phone number		

*To reduce costs, the committee will communicate with you via email where possible. By default the bulletin will be emailed to you unless you notify us to the contrary.

Where possible I would appreciate support for the following disability: Hard of hearing ☐ Impaired vision ☐ Mobility ☐

☐ **Gift Aid:** I am a UK taxpayer and I want to Gift Aid my donation (my membership dues) and any donations I make in the future to Shepway & District U3A (please tick box if applicable, see note below). You **must** let us know if and when you no longer qualify for Gift Aid as Gift Aid will continue until such time.

GIFT AID: Under the Gift Aid Scheme we may reclaim tax on subscriptions and donations if indicated in the tick box above. For S&D-U3A to reclaim tax, you must pay, or have paid, an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year that is at least equal to the amount of tax that will be claimed on all your charitable gifts for that year.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

All members must:

- Abide by the Principles of the U3A movement. Always act in the best interests of the U3A and never do anything to bring the U3A into disrepute. Abide by the terms and conditions of the constitution. Treat fellow members with respect and courtesy at all times. Comply with and support the decisions of the elected committee. Advise the committee of any change in your personal details.

Signed Date

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The subscription is £35 from 1st April 2024 until 31st March 2025.

For those joining on or after 1 February, the full membership subscription will run until the end of March of the following year. These fees include a contribution paid to our National Organisation, the Third Age Trust, which provides a wide range of services and benefits, including liability insurance cover. It also covers hire of venues for groups.

Please complete, sign and send to Membership Secretary, Flat 3, 1-3 Broadfield Road, Folkestone CT20 2JT together with your cheque (made payable to 'Shepway & District U3A') for the relevant fee.

*I have paid my subscription by bank transfer to: Acct name: U3A Shepway Main. Bank Sort Code: 40-52-40. Account number 00031591. CAF Bank. Use reference 'SUBS' followed by all your initials and your membership number or postcode. Surname is not normally required. ☐

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Shepway & District U3A processes member information so that we can keep you informed about events, groups and activities as part of your membership. This is done in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018. Our Data Protection and Privacy policies can be viewed on our website www.u3asites.org.uk/shepway. Shepway & District U3A's lawful basis for collecting this information is contract. In processing your information Shepway & District U3A will:

- Store it securely. Use it to communicate with you as a U3A member. Share your information with group leaders/conveners for those groups that you are a member of. Send you general information about the Third Age Trust (The Third Age Trust are the national office to which all U3As are affiliated).

As part of your membership third party contractors will send you the Third Age Trust publication – Third Age Matters and the bimonthly Bulletin if you receive it by post. Please be advised that you can request for your data not to be used for the direct postal mailing of Third Age Trust magazines or the Bulletin at any time by contacting the membership secretary in which case you will not receive the former and the latter will be available by email or from the website only.