

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



SHEPWAY AND DISTRICT

www.u3asites.org.uk/shepway

Registered Charity No. 1149472

Newsletter

March 2024

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

February is nearly over, March is upon us, longer daylight hours and dreams of summer yet to arrive. All this should brighten your spirits.

Our first events are in progress with a regular series for the year in the planning stage. In March, we stay indoors, with an afternoon tea at the Clifton Hotel, Folkestone on 1st March and our music and drama group show at the Saltwood Hall over the weekend of 23rd and 24th March. Full details and booking forms are in the newsletter. The Drama group members have put a lot of effort into the show and really hope you will be able to attend and support them.

The first of our trips for the year has been arranged for 29th April and a trip to the Historic Chatham Dockyard. It includes a guided tour and an optional walking tour of the 'Call the Midwife' location. I hope you will enjoy the visit.

There are always opportunities for yourselves as members to contribute to the running of our u3a. Maybe to become a committee member, take up the reins of a group as leader or join a list of volunteers to help at general meetings. We all have special skills we have gained throughout our life, and it is these that are useful helping the operation of your u3a. In particular, do you have an accounting background, maybe to help with the finance side, or experienced in events or management roles. Let us know and have a chat with any committee member, there maybe a role for you.

If you haven't renewed your membership subscription already, remember it is due by 1st April. The annual membership is unchanged at £35. You can renew online, in the post and at coffee mornings. I hope you will continue to support us and enjoy your membership.

I am usually at most members meetings and coffee mornings. Please come along and meet. I am always available for a chat.

John Hubbard shepwaybeacon@gmail.com

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 20th March – Clifton Hotel, Folkestone 10.30am

Friday 22nd March – Ship Hotel, New Romney 10.30am

Friday 29th March– 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

We had a great Member's Meeting on 14 February when we were entertained by two of the Trustees from the Battle of Britain memorial at Capel Le Ferne. Turnout was very good again and we had another couple of rounds of our Progressive Quiz, on the natural World and on UK Place names. Feed back was that it was a little easier than the January round.

For the **March** meeting we will focus on **quizzing** with three or four rounds on Film musical classics, Hythe History, What year (from the 60s and 70s) and Music trivia. Plus a table brain teaser to get your brains into gear when you arrive. All plus the usual announcements and refreshments.

I look forward to seeing you all again on **Wednesday 13th March at 2.00pm in the Tin Tabernacle, Hythe.**

Nick Taylor

The Music & Drama Group presents:

Off the End of the Pier



Seats are now open for booking for the Music & Drama Group Show.
Non-U3A members will be most welcome.

“Off the End of the Pier” - a Variety Show with several surprises!

Join us in Saltwood Village Hall CT21 4PZ, at 2pm, Sat 23rd and Sun 24th March.

The seats are £6 each including refreshments.

Please use the attached form to book a seat. Seats are limited.



The Music & Drama Group Show - *Off the End of the Pier*

Saltwood Village Hall, CT21 4PZ, 2pm. Sat & Sun, 23rd & 24th March

Name:

No. of Seats: Sat 23rd March:Sun 24th March:

@ £6.00/per Seat = total £

Payment Method (please tick one of the following):

Cash or Cheque:

☐

Cheque Payable to:
Shepway & District U3A

Payment Online:

☐

Account: Shepway & District U3A
Sort Code: 40-52-40
Acct #: 00031591

Send your booking form in one of the following ways:

- 1) By post to: “Bookings”, 81a Seabrook Rd, Hythe, CT21 5QW
- 2) By email as an attachment, or put all the above information in an email, to:
shepwayevents@gmail.com

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

- Curry Night at the Gurkha Palace. Date to be finalised. The price has yet to be agreed. This can become a regular event if there is enough interest
- 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.
- Full details and booking forms in April newsletter.

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, Folkestone, 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.

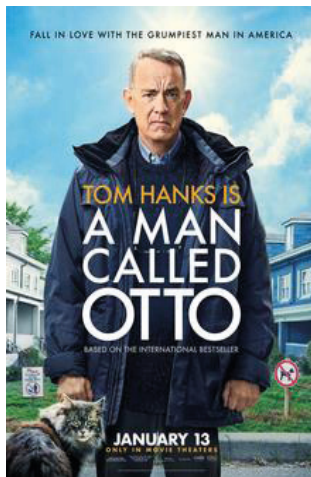
Members Afternoon Film Matinee

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.

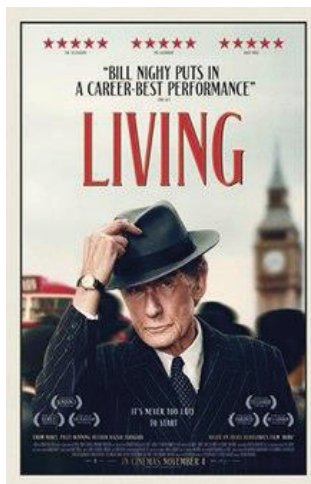
The format for the afternoon is the showing a feature film preceded by tea and cake, allowing us all time for some chat with our friends. It will be necessary to book your place in advance. Each session will cost just £6.

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 6th March – A Man Called Otto

Otto Anderson (Tom Hanks) is a grump who no longer sees purpose in his life following the loss of his wife. Otto is ready to end it all, but his plans are interrupted when a lively young family moves in next door, and he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol. She challenges him to see life differently, leading to an unlikely friendship that turns his world around. A heartwarming and funny story about love, loss, and life, A Man Called Otto shows that family can sometimes be found in the most unexpected places.



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.

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 February group calendar here: [March 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 following DVD courses are available to be used as part of a group subject and can be supplemented with your own additional material.

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)

Please note that the Short Walks (West) will resume on the 2nd Tuesday in April, and not March as originally intended. I look forward to welcoming everyone back then.

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 March and April at the AMB Hollywood Bowling Centre, Station Road, Ashford are as follows:

MARCH

Friday 8th 10.30am
Tuesday 26th 11.00am

APRIL

Friday 12th NA
Tuesday 23rd 11.00am

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

BThe second meeting of Season 2 should have hopefully taken place on Wednesday 21st February (this blurb has had to be submitted before that date) and discussed the enduring impact of the great Athenian philosophers – Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Links to the presentation, handouts, background material, discussion questions, and books referred to during the session can be found by clicking on [2.2 Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle - In Search of Wisdom](#). An article covering the points made during the presentation can be found at [The First Fruits of Wisdom: Classical Athenian Philosophy - In Search of Wisdom](#). This also has external links to authoritative web sites, to facilitate further reading.

March's meeting will be at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 20th March at the Tin Tabernacle. We will be

talking about the Hellenistic World – the World created by Alexander the Great, which paved the way for the Roman Empire.

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 other short pieces by the 19C composers Cecile Chaminade, Pauline Viardot and Clara Schumann, a solo piano work by the late 19C black Canadian - American Nathaniel Dett as well as a scherzo from one of the Bruckner symphonies. We will continue to explore these themes at our next meeting on Thursday 14th March 2pm at the Tin Tabernacle. New members are most welcome.

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 1030am. If you would like to join us please apply either via Shepwaygroups or at a coffee morning.

Jean Hatton

Kurling

Kurling now starts at 2 o'clock on every other Monday in the Folkestone Sports Centre.

Hope to see you there.

Shirley

U3A Out and About Group

We host a coffee morning, a lunch, and a drinks evening every month, plus other occasional social events. We currently have spaces for a few new members. If you would like to join us please apply in the usual way, via Shepway groups or at a coffee morning.

Jean Hatton

Petanque at Radnor Park, Folkestone

The petanque terrain is now ready for use in Radnor Park, Folkestone with space for two pitches. If needed, we can also use the grass which is just as much fun.

The aim is to meet every Thursday afternoon at 2 pm with the first U3A meeting to be on 4th April. Parking is quite good but be sure to check the signs in Radnor Park West (the park side is OK but not the other side). Wilton Road is OK any time after 11 am.

The cost of this petanque terrain came from community funding together with a couple of generous donations and it will be good to see it being used regularly.

Christine Upton

Earth Science

At our last meeting we discussed the idea of moving away from the Meteorology course that we are following to one that includes more of the other Earth Sciences. We held a vote, and the idea was adopted unanimously! I think we found the meteorology rather complicated and 'dry'.

So for next month we have sourced some very interesting material that has been shown on the television. It was the Rare Earth Series, and we watched a taster which was enjoyed by all. The second half of the session will be the remaining part of 'The Underwater Universe', which was fascinating.

So if you have an interest in the wider Earth Sciences (which includes pretty much everything above, on and within our planet) do join us next time we meet on 18th March in the hall at the RHDR.

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.

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

John Hubbard

Photography groups 1 and 2

Photography groups 1 and 2 continue to be busy. Having finished the ever popular subject of "Black and White" images we have now moved on the what is usually the least popular subject - portrait photography. This month though we are blessed with two things - a willing model in the shape of a local musician, David Phillips, who is hoping for something for his portfolio and a new member, Brian Russell who is a professional photographer with a lot of experience in portrait photography. That meant the workshop was well provided for.

Evidence of that subject, and previous examples, can be found on our regular Google page [Photos](#)

There is currently room on both groups for anyone interested in photography at any level and with any digital equipment. Group 1 meets on the first Tuesday of the month in the Light Railway Hall and Group 2 meets on the first Friday (except this year in April!) in the Tin Tabernacle. Both groups meet in the morning.

Pete Savage & Peter Carroll



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 February, the suggestion was "an autobiography or biography of a British Man". There was plenty to choose from as it didn't specify someone contemporary, so a person from history would be fine.

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

Dance Group

A few months back a lady emailed me to say she was giving up U3A dance. She loved it and thought the instructor (me) was very charming. However, as she was now widowed...I think, she wanted a man to dance with and other fringe benefits! Just her luck that there were not enough men to go round back then. The tables have turned and we now have more men than women, so if you are still out there dear lady then return to us and all your dreams may be fulfilled both on and off the dance floor. We continue with our second February session on the 23rd with the waltz and cha cha. We shall also repeat a sequence dance: 'The Sweetheart Waltz'. Most dancing venues now include sequence dancing in their programmes so it is helpful to know a few. Some of the moves are similar to ballroom and Latin dances so it helps to re-enforce these also. We finish off as usual by letting our hair down...mostly ladies, with jive and rock and roll. In March we return for both sessions on 8th and 22nd with the quickstep and sensual rumba. We shall also repeat the Rumba One sequence dance followed by a jive session. So get active and 'come on down'

Edwin Mackenzie

Family History Group

The next meeting of the Family History group will be on Monday 4 March at 2 pm in the hall at the back of the tea room at the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway in Hythe.

This month we shall be focusing on how DNA testing combined with online family trees can support members' family history research and the benefits and pitfalls of this approach. Anyone who has some knowledge of the theory or practice of DNA testing is encouraged to join in and share their own experiences.

We also intend to give Group members who missed out in the earlier meetings a final opportunity to tell us a bit about their ancestors in the form of a "show and tell" session.

As usual if there is any time left over then there will be a live question and answer or discussion session on any subject relevant to the Group. This is where you can ask questions of the leader(s) but everyone is welcome to chip in to help with queries and open up a more general discussion.

We're pleased to say that parking is still available in the main car park at the front of the RH&D Railway station.

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

Folkestone Current Affairs

The Folkestone Current Affairs Group meets at the Folkestone Museum, Guildhall Street. on the second Friday morning of each month. We have a couple of spaces for new members. Please apply at a regular coffee morning or via Shepway Groups: shepwaygroups@gmail.com.

Jean Hatton

Poetry Group

On 1st February we continued with poetry of African or West Indian origin, plus a poem by Sujata Bhatt. We began with another poem from Derek Walcott's final work: his collaboration with the painter Peter Doig. "Moruga", the latter's large oil on canvas painting (the original is 9ft 10 in by 6ft 7 in) depicts a menacing sliver of orange sunrise cutting in half brooding black clouds above and a black nocturnal sea below. Illuminated by the sunrise is a boat with a red cross on its white sail. Standing in the boat is an intimidating robed figure. Moruga is a village on the central south coast of Trinidad, where tradition has it that Columbus landed on 1st August 1498. The local villagers remain proud of their connection with Columbus. They have a statue of him and, using their fishing boats, continue to re-enact his arrival every 1st August. Nationally, Columbus Day has been replaced in Trinidad since 1985 by the more politically correct Emancipation Day, to mark 1st August 1835, when slavery was abolished on the island. Derek Walcott comments: "Doig paints it for what it is: a fable./ Columbus never set foot here, but what is/ important is the fact that the cross-tree took root/ and has spread from here its vile or virtuous practice."

The Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe (1930-2013) is best known for his novels "Arrow of God" and "Things fall apart", about colonial Africa. His poem "Vultures" (1971) came from his experience of the war in Biafra (1967-1970). Achebe was living in the Biafran capital at that time and while in the war zone most of his creative work took the form of poetry, with its shorter format and greater intensity. "In the greyness/ and drizzle of one

despondent/ dawn ..." he observes two vultures perched "high on broken/ bone of a dead tree ..." They are a loving couple; the male is inclining his ugly head affectionately towards his mate. The poet contrasts the vultures' mutual affection with the shocking reality of how they live: "Yesterday they picked / the eyes of a swollen/ corpse in a water-logged/ trench and ate the/ things in its bowel. Full/ gorged they chose their roost/ keeping the hollowed remnant/ in easy range of cold/ telescopic eyes ..." He compares the loving but horrific vultures with the paternal concern of the Commandant of Belsen, on his way home at the end of the day, stopping at "the wayside sweet-shop" to buy chocolate "for his tender offspring/ waiting at home for Daddy's/ return ..." Achebe concludes "Praise bounteous / providence if you will/ that grants even an ogre/ a tiny glow-worm/ tenderness encapsulated/ in icy caverns of a cruel/ heart or else despair/ for in the very germ/ of that kindred love is/ lodged the perpetuity/ of evil."

Sujata Bhatt (born 1956) in "A different history" conveys something of the gentleness and discipline of Hindu culture. Her poem associates the primitive Greek and Roman god, Pan, with Sarasvati, the four-armed goddess of art wisdom and learning.. "Great Pan is not dead" she says "he simply emigrated to India" where "the gods roam freely,/ disguised as snakes or monkeys" "and it is a sin/ to be rude to a book." "You must learn to turn the pages gently/ without disturbing Sarasvati,/ without offending the tree/ from whose wood the paper was made." And indeed, in the western world perhaps we do need to have a greater respect for books, and to be less impressed with consumer society's flashier products.

Grace Nichols was born in Guyana in 1959 and came to England in 1977. In "Hurricane hits England" she lies awake at night listening to such a rare event (perhaps it is the 1987 hurricane). It sounds like a "howling ship of the wind". It is as if the West African gods of the wind have come to the UK to talk to her. She tells her visitors to "break the frozen lake in me".

"Bread" was written in 2005 by Kamau Brathwaite (1930-2020), a poet, academic and activist from Barbados. In pidgin English he tells how people's dreams of a better life have become "tougher" (an understatement), their aspirations reduced to a desperate struggle for bread to survive.

Chinedu Dike was born in Nigeria in 1972 and moved to South Africa in 2003. He describes

himself as a businessman and freelance writer. He has a degree in Engineering but also obviously has a great feeling for words. "Mzansi and the Ballot Box" celebrates South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994 with much rhetorical flourish. "Mzansi" is an affectionate name for South Africa in a local language. The Ballot Box becomes "the Arbiter of Disputes", "the Receptacle of Liberty" and the "altar". The ballot papers are "ammo stronger than bullet,/ Ready to dislodge a fiendish cabal out of Power." The message is "Popular Will prevailed .../ Ballot Box had come at great expense:/ At all costs its sacredness shall be preserved."

Finally we read "Colonization in Reverse" by Louise Bennett (1919-2006). She was the first black student at RADA, and she wrote and performed poems in Jamaican patois. In eleven four-line stanzas with an up-beat rhythm reminiscent of calypso music popular in the 1950s, she says with mock innocence: "Wat a joyful news, Miss Mattie,/ I feel like me heart gwin burs/ Jamaica people colonizin/ Englan in revers." Not everyone finds work immediately: "Me say Jane will never fine work/ At de rate how she da look,/ For all day she stay popn Aunt Fan couch/ An read love-story book."

Frank Shepherd

Long Walks

Friday 1st March at 10.00 a.m.

The walk will start from outside the church in Worth, near Sandwich (CT14 0DF). Park in the road near the church.

Led by Tony.

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.

FLORA, FAUNA AND FORAGING

Brockhill Park 15th February 2024

What a perfectly dry and mild day for our first outing of the year. The aim was to view the snowdrops and look for early signs of spring. After refreshments in the delightful Alma Café, where we suddenly realised it was half term, we headed down accompanied by careering children, pushchairs and dogs to the Lake. There has been an estate here at Brockhill since Norman times owned largely by the Tourney family until 1903 when the last lord – William Tourney Tourney (so good they named him twice) died. An eccentric fellow, he insisted on being buried alongside his dog and horse on the island in the middle of the lake. Today algae is in bloom and ducks are a dabbling around this final resting place as they search for food and a mate.

As we walked down we spotted a bed of lesser periwinkle in bloom – such a bright blue against the browns and blacks of a wet winter. We attempted some tree ID although this is sometimes difficult sans leaves. However, we noted a beautiful walnut – there are several in the park – oak trees, newly planted cherries and the majestic scots pine identified by the red scaly bark in taller mature trees and the shapely crown of pine needles. They can live for 700 years and grow to a height of 35m and make fantastic telegraph poles! Ground ivy is rapidly covering the ground beneath the trees along with nettle and sticky cleavers all spreading as if their life depended on it – which of course it does.

Snowdrops in abundance could now be seen, although they are not quite at their best just yet – we need a few more warmer days and some sun to bring them to full bloom. They have the nickname of “snow piercers”. As the plant grows, the flower which is cloaked in a robust pointed sheath effortlessly pushes up through the leaf litter. We clearly saw that happening today.

Two streams converge at the bottom of the hill where a small bridge straddles pools filled with alder trees which love getting their feet wet. We spotted their male and female catkins and cones and watched three lively dogs having a bundle in the water. Here the going became very muddy so we took cautious steps along the path through the bamboo by the lake. Deep in the bamboo “forest” we spotted black bumpy fungi (King Alfred cakes) clinging to dead logs along with turkey tail fungi and a lovely squashy red fungi called Jelly Beans! There is so much colour if you really look even in darkest February. Lichen is very noticeable here in large white and pale green patches – a sure sign of pure air.

Near the “cascades” – a man made stepped-waterfall – the stream had become a torrent.

This eventually ends up flowing quietly along the tranquil Royal Military Canal but here it was almost deafening. Banks of yellow comfrey, common and harts tongue ferns and penduline sedge fringe the river and many polypods - tiny parasitic ferns – decorate the tree trunks.

As we headed towards the valley of meadows and open areas, it was clear we could not walk further as the muddy ground was treacherous. But we took the opportunity to stand still and listen for bird calls – nuthatch, robin, crow, bluetit, wood pigeon, the machine gun rattle of a wren (the smallest bird with the loudest call) and best of all the persistent repetitive call of several song thrushes establishing their mating territory. On our walk back we spotted the first primroses - spring is most definitely in the air and the sap is rising!

MARCH EVENT

This will take place on Thursday, 21st March at 10.30. We will meet at The Battle of Britain site up at Capel, New Dover Road, Capel-le-Ferne, Folkestone CT18 7JJ. We can park here and have a look around the site before heading to the coastal park for a careful walk along the cliff edge to the Cliff Top Café and back along the road. Hope to see you there.

Briar.

Climate in Crisis

Two main conclusions arose from the Group's discussion of Net Zero last month. The first was that there is a worrying disparity between the scientific definition of Net Zero emissions, in which only direct interventions such as carbon capture and storage can mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and the “accounting” version used by governments, industry and finance in which “offsets” and carbon trading can be used to excuse continuing emissions.

The second lesson is that while achieving Net Zero is a useful and readily understood objective, it will not on its own arrest global temperature rise. The peak global temperature will depend on the volume of greenhouse gas emissions which occur before we achieve Net Zero and how quickly we, and nature, can remove them from the atmosphere.

At our meeting in March, we will be exploring Tipping Points - how they work and how rapidly they can transform our environment.

Roger Wood Group Leader

Local History 3

At our first meeting of the new year we had a good turnout of members.

The prearranged topic was on Saltwood castle which provided us all with an interesting insight in to the history of the castle from pre-roman times up to the present day.

We then had 3 presentations.

The first on the history of the villages around Brabourne including some unresearched burial mounds, the remains of an Anglo Saxon manor house and one of the churches with its medieval stained glass windows and stairs up to the tower carved from a single tree.

This was followed by the life and times of a lady born in Hythe — Margareta Smith. who later became known as Etta Lemmon. She became a joint founder of the R.S.P.B. and known as the lady who saved the birds by starting a campaign against the millinery trade which was causing the near extinction of many species of birds by importing tons of feathers and sometimes the birds themselves and adorning them on to ladies' hats .

The final presentation was on how the WWII Royal Air Force got its petrol from the refineries on the west coast of England to its airfields near the east coast and why the system was extended out to Dungeness where petrol was piped under the channel to France (PLUTO) to keep the D-day invasion force moving across Europe.

Part of the system is still in use today keeping the civilian airfields supplied with aviation fuel.

We intend to resume our visits out to places of local historical interest this summer and the Sound mirrors at Dungeness and the Roman remains at Richborough have been added to the list.

John Anstiss Group Leader

Local History 4

Discovering the history of the local area

Hythe – Voted the most boring Seaside Town in England??

The story of the Kidder family and the last woman to be publicly hung.

William Kidder, a greengrocer in Hythe, was a widower with two children, a toddler and a girl, Louisa, about 10 yrs old. He then married Francis Turner age 22, in St Leonard's Church in February 1855. A shotgun wedding as their first child was baptised in March of that same year. Francis was

unaware of William's 2 children by his former wife. The baby was looked after by a family member and Francis was expected to look after Louisa, who, by all accounts was a handful. Francis openly abused Louisa who was often hungry and shut outside the house. Francis told neighbours that she hated the child and wished her dead. The Kidder family were fined 15/- for assaulting a neighbour, so they were no strangers to violence. In 1865 Francis accused William of assault. In July 1867 Francis was riding on William's potato cart when the horse bolted and Francis was thrown onto her head. As a result she was brain damaged and suffered fits. Her treatment of Louisa became worse. William Henniker who lived next door was so appalled with the treatment of the child he called the police and Louisa was sent away. However, William failed to keep up the maintenance payments and Louisa returned home to Francis. One day in 1868 when Francis was visiting her parents on Romney Marsh, she told a neighbour she meant to get rid of the child. She took Louisa for a walk and came back alone. On returning home from work William found Louisa was missing and alerted the police.

P.C. Aspinall found Louisa's body and Francis was charged. Louisa had drowned in 12" of water by Cobb's bridge, Dymchurch.

Francis was remanded in custody awaiting trial at Maidstone. Meanwhile William was having an affair with Adelaide, the maid, and also Francis' sister, Ruth Cuddy. Francis was found guilty and was hung in front of a crowd of 2,000 on 2nd April, 1868.

Meanwhile, William's behaviour was reported in *The Times* newspaper, and he was barred for his affairs whilst his wife was alive and waiting sentence. The local people of Hythe were so appalled by his conduct that they burned his effigy in Theatre Street.

Sally Starbuck

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.

OTHER LECTURES MEMBERS CAN ATTEND

Shepway & District u3a have come to an arrangement with The Society of Retired Engineers in Kent (SREK) which will allow our members to attend their lectures, held monthly at the Burlington Hotel in Folkestone. Some of their lectures are of a more general interest and may appeal to our members.

Details of the society and some of their upcoming lectures are given below.

Also included in this section are the next few talks run by the Arts Society, Ashford in the village hall in Aldington.

The Society of Retired Engineers in Kent (SREK)

The Society of Retired Engineers in Kent (SREK) was formed in 1982 originally as the 'Society of Retired Chartered Engineers in South East Kent' but changed its name in 2010 to reflect the broadened interest base and membership of the Society. SREK provides a social meeting place for engineers retired from the profession of engineering and those who have had a strong professional relationship with the engineering industries; and a means for them to be kept informed of the achievements and developments of the profession and a forum for the presentation and discussion of subjects of more general interest.

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, but the opportunity exists for members to stay on for lunch in the Hotel. The May meeting incorporates the Annual Lunch, when partners are also invited to attend. In addition, the Society organises occasional visits to places of engineering interest. An attendance fee (currently £2.50) is payable at all ordinary meetings.

Topics presented at recent past meetings have included the Crossrail construction project, decommissioning of Dungeness A power station, the London Array offshore wind farm, historic aircraft preservation, the Panama Canal, the Wealden iron industry, the history of navigation, the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway (plus a separate visit to the railway workshops), the evolution of electric cars, and radio astronomy.

SREK TALKS

MARCH 12 2024

Inertial Navigation Systems on Royal Navy Submarines.

In the late 1950s the Admiralty commenced development of self-contained inertial navigation systems for submarines. This talk by Malcom Mattocks looks at the first concepts of inertial navigation and details the systems fitted in Royal Navy hunter-killer nuclear submarines.

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

March 19th 2024 Lecture: **The Art of Fresco** Nicole Mezey
Fresco is the medium in which one can track the ideas and the
accomplishments of the Italian Renaissance.

Coffee 10.00am

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 23rd March 2024 The Wheel of the Year

A celebration of 8 seasonal festivals £35

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

GUIDE DOGS VOLUNTEER PUPPY RAISERS

Guide Dogs are looking for volunteer Puppy Raisers in the Folkestone area. In this role, you will be providing a puppy with a vital foundation for its future role as a guide dog. This is a full-time volunteering opportunity as a puppy will live with you in your home for around 12-14 months. You can find out more and apply for the role on our website: <https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/how-you-can-help/volunteering/volunteer-with-our-dogs/puppy-raiser/>

Alternatively, please contact volunteer. maidstone@guidedogs.org.uk for more information.

Sarah Luck



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.

[Look out for Details](#)



BOOKING FORM - MEMBERS AFTERNOON FILM MATINEE

1st Wednesday starting at 2pm

I / we wish to attend the Afternoon Film Matinee

- March 6th – A Man Called Otto
- 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.

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

April 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 March**.

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.

GROUPS

Afternoon Tea on the Marsh	Mixed Craft - Romney Marsh
Art - Mixed Media	Music - Classical
Badminton	Music and Drama
Bird Watching	Novels 1
Bolivia (Canasta alternative)	Out and About
Book Circle - 1 - Hythe	Patchwork & Sewing
Book Circle - 2 - Folkestone	Petanque - Elham
Book Circle - 3 Romney Marsh	Petanque - Folkestone
Bridge	Philosophy
Canasta 1	Photography
Chess	Photography 2
Climate in Crisis	Pickleball
Computer Users	Play Reading - Folkestone
Cooking Live	Play Reading - Hythe
Cribbage	Poetry
Critical Analysis of Poetry	Rummikub
Current Affairs - Folkestone	Saturday Dining
Current Affairs - Hythe	Science, Philosophy, Spiritual
Current Affairs - New Romney	Scone Rangers
Cycling	Script Writing
Dance	Sewing Workshop
Earth Science	Shakespeare
England-Roman to Norman Times	Singing for Life
Family History	Sunday Lunch
Flora,Fauna and Foraging	Swing Band
Flower Arranging	Table Tennis
Food-Cultural Culinary History	Tai Chi - Class 1 - Form
French - Beginners	Tai Chi - Class 2 - Qigong
French - Conversation	Tai Chi - Class 3 - Qigong
French - Intermediate	Tai Chi - Class 4 - Sticks
Gardening 1	Tai Chi - Class 5 - Form
Gardening 2	Ten Pin Bowling (Friday Group)
Golf	Ten Pin Bowling (Tuesday Group)
Italian Beginners	Ukulele
Kurling	Walks - Long
Late Middle Ages	Walks - Short - West
Line Dancing	Walks - Short -East/Central
Local History 3	Whist & Other Card Games
Local History 4	Writing Circle 1
Mahjong	Writing Circle 2
Mid Week Supper Club	Your Favourite Poems