

# u3a Update

Announcements | Events | News from the Groups

## Book Now!

**Study Morning,  
Saturday 13 April**

*Rewilding: What Does It  
Mean In Practice?*



Booking is now open until 3 April—tickets are just £10.00 including tea and coffee—but don't leave it late!

If you have mislaid the form, or need another copy, here's a link to download it from the 'Events' page of our website..

## Time to pay 2024–25 subscriptions

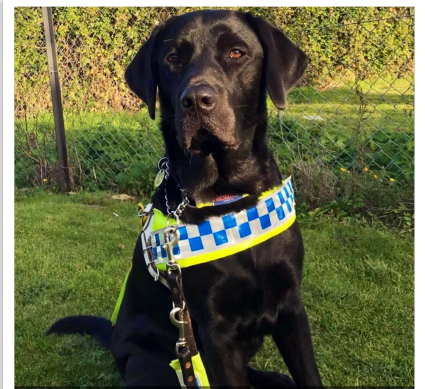
Spring is the season of renewal — and that goes for u3a membership too, which runs from 1 April each year. The fee is still £16 (£12.50 if your 'primary membership' is with another U3A).

Forms, with details of how to pay, are now going out to all

## Monthly Meeting, 21 March

**Antonia Brown-Griffin *The Life-changing Work of a Guide Dog, From Hooligan to Hero***

The charity Guide Dogs UK has been around for almost a hundred years, and Antonia has had an assistance dog for thirty of them. Her current dog (her fifth) is Wolfy, a very unlikely scallawag of a puppy, who with lots of guidance has what it takes to be one of the most highly trained dogs in the UK. Come and follow his journey from a young hooligan to a life-saving hero, and learn about the amazing work carried out by guide dogs and other assistance dogs.



## From the Chairman

We just keep on growing. I'm delighted that we have members joining every month, and are creating new groups, often as a result of our new members' enthusiasm. This month we have groups starting for Classical Music, Crafting and Current Affairs, and additional groups for Creative Writing, Dabblers, Psychology and French Conversation. Full details are in the Programme.

I'm also very pleased that we can offer a Study Morning again, now that Covid lockdowns are behind us. You may have thought, like I did, that Rewilding

members. Please renew promptly, **and remember to use surname and postcode as reference if paying by BACS.**, and enjoy next year's great programme.

New members who have joined in 2024 are exempt until March 2025.

### Pocket Diary and Membership Card

Most of our communications are electronic, and the Committee plans to reduce our print and mailing costs.

So for 2024-5, we will not be issuing Membership Cards but a redesigned Pocket Diary will have a space for your name and phone number and serve as proof of membership. Pocket Diaries will be printed and issued following the AGM in May.

### Dancing for Fitness

We don't usually promote non-u3a activities, but dance teacher Amanda Beacroft, is offering a class that we cannot provide ourselves. 'Fitsteps' promotes health and fitness through dance. The 45-minute weekly classes start on Thursday 7 March, with a discounted price of £4 if you tell Amanda you are a u3a member. For details and to book, see Amanda's website, or contact her by email, or telephone 07768 095184.

was not for me. I fed the birds in winter and left the grass a bit long in May. Recent housing developments in the town at Three Fields and Appledore Green, along with the planned development of the Limes Land site off the Appledore Road, add up to a considerable loss of wildlife habitat. The swifts and swallows that were common in the town seem to have disappeared in recent summers. Bees, butterflies and pollinating insects are in decline, threatening our food crops.

There's more to rewilding than leaving the grass long in No-Mow May. It's also about small contributions through simple actions in our gardens and public spaces. Our study morning is an inspiring opportunity to discover what more can be done to support wildlife and the environment in Tenterden.

### News from the Groups

Let's hear it for our group leaders and welcome Pam, John and Amanda into their ranks. We now have nearly fifty groups. Some of the leaders have been with us for many years, and several of them run multiple groups. Not only are we grateful to them, but also to those of you who invite members into your homes so that we can hold our meetings in comfort.

In February, the **World Through Maps** traced the evolution of airline routes around the world, with the help of Roy Arnold, whose slides remind us of a time when travel was

more glamorous, but also much more expensive and sometimes dangerous. **Scrabble** has taken on more new members to the point where the group is now full. But don't let that put you off. New enquiries can be put on a waiting list and if there is sufficient demand (and another leader) we can start another group.



## Spring is almost here!

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Many thanks to Lindy Bates for pictures to round off this Update with a promise of spring.

