



# April 2024 Bulletin

## MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 9 April 2024

St Johns Church Meopham

2pm

### **Chairman's Introduction – *Mike Chantry***

This is the last call for the Murder Mystery Evening and the Windsor coach trip. You'll find full details of both these social events below so if you haven't already booked, this is your last chance .

1. **Murder Mystery Evening.** We've already surpassed the break-even number of bookings but we still have 15 to 25 places available if anyone still wants to come; see details later in the Bulletin. The cost is just £15 per head.

#### **2. Windsor coach trip.**

While we have 30 places booked, we will lose money on the event if we can't get to at least 45. Coaches are now very expensive to hire but will still go ahead with the trip no matter what. However, if we are still short of numbers by the 10th of April, we will have to offer places to neighbouring U3A's. The cost of the trip is £18 with three pickup and drop off points along the Wrotham Road; see details later in the Bulletin. If you've a friend or neighbour who would like to come you could use this as an ideal opportunity to get them to join our u3a. The membership fee till September is just £7.50.

The AGM is fast approaching and it will be good to see some new faces on the Meopham u3a committee. Please give me a call on 07969 931108 without commitment, and I'll talk you through what's involved.

Regards  
Mike Chantry  
Chair

### **Introduction to our speaker – from John Cole**

At our next monthly meeting, Meopham U3A welcomes Jane Scotchmer to demonstrate **‘How artists and garden designers lead us up the garden path’**.

Designing a garden and creating a painting have much in common, using the same design principles to achieve a balanced and appealing result.

Jane explores how the garden path plays a key role in this, not only in the layout of a garden but in a painting set in a garden as well. She illustrates with slides how this has been successfully achieved in a wide array of gardens and by several art movements. At the end she gives some ideas for artistic flourishes and design features in the garden.

There is much to appeal for art and garden lovers alike.

### **South East u3a Forum Summer School 2024 – from Carole Dickenson**

The Summer School will run from Monday 2 – Thursday 5 September at the University of Chichester. Everything is moving steadily forward with the launch of the first phase on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 @ 10:00am** via the SE u3a Forum’s website. You will be able to peruse the fourteen subjects on offer for Summer School 2024.

There are many new subjects, such as:

- Art & Mythology, Photography, Crochet
- Living History, Patchwork, Philosophy
- Latin Remembered, Bridge, Politics
- Illuminated Manuscripts and Science



Also, on the agenda are the returners:

- Cycling, Mah Jong and Mathematics

Please be patient, as **no places can be reserved**, prior to the initial booking date going ‘live’, see below - thank you.

The costings for this year are:

- Residential En-suite - **£390**                      Residential Standard – **£360**
- Non-Residential with dinner - **£195**    Non-residential no dinner - **£140**

There will also be entertainment on campus, each evening, which is included in the price. But, if you would like to attend the theatre on the Tuesday evening, this comes at an extra cost – ticket price unknown at present.

The next phase will be the Booking Information sheet and the Booking Form; they will be going 'live' from **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 @ 10:00am**; a date for your diary - just Google - see u3a forum and they will be accessible to download.

The Forum's web address is - <https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/contact>

As we progress towards September more information will continue to be added, on a regular basis, to the Summer School webpage on the South East u3a Forum website.

The Summer School Team 2024, South East u3a Forum



**All images are from Summer School 2023**

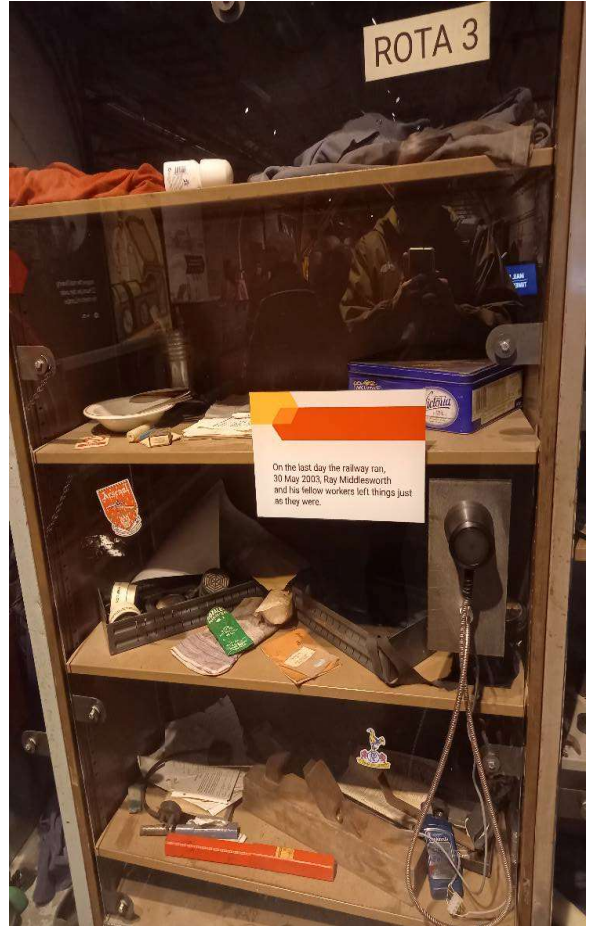
*Information Correct: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024*

### **Visit to the Postal Museum – from Paul Campion**

Great day out at the HTW visit to the London Postal Museum and Mail Rail tube train ride, very educational and I do not know how I fitted into the tiny carriage on the train but it was well worth it. This was an all-electric train introduced to avoid the traffic congestion on the London Streets and it worked extremely well. One of the guides advised us that one of the most questions asked is " Why was it closed down? "











## **Ellenor Hospice Open Garden Scheme – from Mike Chantry**

I have had a request from Ian Hills to include some information (follows below) about the forthcoming garden opening in aid of the Ellenor Hospice. Please help out this worthy cause if you are able. Ian's contact address is [ianhills1000@gmail.com](mailto:ianhills1000@gmail.com) or 01732 822544.

*We are opening our flower garden in Culverstone 14th July 2024 12pm to 5pm in aid of The Ellenor Hospice. Admission £5.*

*We did this in 2021 and it was well received and also discussed on radio Kent gardening Show.*

*To make this successful and raise the most funds we can, I wondered if your members would support this event by coming along?*

*Cakes and tea and coffee will be available.*

*Though we last time did receive much support from Meopham WI for cakes I wonder if any of your members would be happy to help make cakes or the gardening section donate a few plants for sale?*

*Kind regards,*

*Ian Hills*

Ian's address is

4, Silverbirch Avenue

Meopham

DA13 0TP

## **Circle Dance Group – from Joyce Garland**

This is a shout for the Circle dance group. We would like some new members (Dancing is for everyone)

Meetings are every 4th Tuesday morning to enjoy a varied programme of international folk dance.

Dances are from South America, Mexico, USA as well from the British Isles. Our European dances cover Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, as well as from Russia and Israel and vary from lively to moderate

For the fitness enthusiast, it is possible to rack up 2,500 steps in one session, as well as burning off quite a few calories

All this whilst enjoying the authentic music accompanying the dance. Much nicer than jogging!! No partner needed. Just wear soft, comfortable shoes.

VENUE: The Meadow Room, Cobham

DAY: 4th Tuesday

TIME: 10.00 am – 12.00 mid-day

NEXT MEETING 23 APRIL 2024

### **Post Box toppers – from Elizabeth Peters**

The Post Box toppers group have again been working their magic on local boxes, this time with an Easter theme. The newly-decorated boxes are those on The Parade and outside the Post Office.



### **Share Investing Group – from Mike Chantry**

The Money Matters group is looking to start a sub-group focussing on Investing in Shares, Unit trusts etc. If you think you may be interested in joining us for a taster session, please register your interest by emailing [mikechantry1959@gmail.com](mailto:mikechantry1959@gmail.com).

## Meopham u3a Murder Mystery Evening

Venue Meopham Village Hall

Date Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 6.45pm for sharp 7.00pm start

Cost £15 per head to include a Fish and Chip Supper (sausage or veggie alternatives)

To book please pay the Social Account £15.00 per ticket and email

[mikechantry1959@gmail.com](mailto:mikechantry1959@gmail.com) to confirm you've paid

**Account Meopham u3a**

**Account No: 83133348**

**Sort code: 51-81-07**

**Ref: MURDER + (your surname)**

## Meopham u3a Social Team's 2024 Coach Trip to Windsor and Eton

Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup> 2024. Approx pick up times 8.30am from one of three pick up points along the Wrotham Road – near Instead Rise, the Church and Culverstone. Returning back at approximately 6.30pm. Cost Just £18.00 on a luxurious Kingsferry 53-seater coach

Visit the historic town of Windsor on a day tour from Meopham. Treat yourself to a visit to Windsor Castle, the Official Residence of His Majesty King Charles. Admire the mighty stronghold, built by William the Conqueror in the 11th century, peek into the royal bedchambers and see Queen Mary's doll house, then stroll the beautiful gardens and enjoy free time in Windsor. Tickets for the Castle and other attractions are not included in the coach ticket price.

To book please pay the Social Account £18.00 per ticket and email

[mikechantry1959@gmail.com](mailto:mikechantry1959@gmail.com) to confirm you've paid

**Account Meopham u3a**

**Account No: 83133348**

**Sort code: 51-81-07**

**Ref: WINDSOR + (your surname)**

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