



April 2022 Bulletin

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 12th April 2022 at 2pm

The start time is as usual 14.00 (2.00pm) but by all means arrive a little earlier so that we can start on time.

Ian Grey “The hedgehog - our much loved 'garden friend'.”

Ian will be talking about his work with ‘Kent Wildlife Rescue Service’ with particular reference to hedgehogs.

This hedgehog presentation will focus on some background notes, followed by their general behaviour and family raising efforts. I will, unfortunately, be showing the effects of human interference on their bodies. There will be a suitable amount of guidance on how to attract, and keep, hedgehogs within your local environment together with more suitable houses and feeding stations for them to use.

BRING YOUR OWN CUP TO THE MONTHLY TALKS

Your Committee is pleased to confirm that the arrangements for the monthly talks at St John’s church (starting with the one on 12 April) are going back to the pre Covid set up.

The meeting will be open to everyone (no booking in advance) and refreshments will be provided in the church hall afterwards. **However, we do request that you bring your own tea/coffee cup or container to the meetings in order to minimise any risk of infection.** We will provide tea, coffee, milk, sugar, etc. (and a slop bucket for any leftover liquids in your cup!).

At the April meeting the Committee will dispense the refreshments, but from May onwards the Group refreshment rota will be reinstated and volunteers from the designated group will be asked to assist in the kitchen.

We hope you will all continue to attend and enjoy the monthly talks and the opportunity to chat with friends afterwards.

Your Mu3a Committee looks forward to seeing you at the talk in April.

Mu3a Website

Have you visited our website recently?

A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes and our website has had a refresh. It now looks even more interesting and inviting than it did before! Thank you to Gus our webmaster for all his time and efforts with the site.

If you are a group contact please try to keep your page up to date so potential group members know what is going on. If you need some help with accessing your page or adding information do contact Gus and he will be pleased to help you. He can be contacted at meophamweb@gmail.com

GROUP CONTACT MEETING

Monday 4th April 2022

The Cricketers

Meopham Green

10am

Sue, your groups' coordinator, is hoping for a great turn out at this meeting. If you yourself cannot go along to represent your group then please ask another group member to go in your place. It would be wonderful to have every group represented.

Sue has lots of thoughts and ideas to share and there will be plenty of time for you to discuss how your group has fared over the past two years and your plans for the future. Your ideas and suggestions are very important to the smooth running of Mu3a and all members are very grateful for the time and effort that group contacts put into their group. Please bring your questions, ideas and suggestions along so they can be shared and discussed.

Refreshments will be available.

If you haven't yet let Sue know who will be coming on the meeting please email her at mepgroups22@gmail.com

If you are unable to make the meeting but have any queries or comments please email those to Sue so she can include them in the general discussion.

Thank you

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As mentioned in last month's bulletin, this year **three officers** and the Membership Secretary complete their three-year term and have to resign in July. (The officers are the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.)

In the event of the 3 officer posts not being filled Meopham u3a will no longer be able to continue.

This is urgent - the continuation of Meopham U3A depends upon finding a new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. At least one Kent u3a has recently closed as new committee members could not be found.

Please consider joining the committee in one or other of these capacities. There are over 400 members of the Meopham u3a - we only need 4 volunteers!

Spaces available in the Golf Group.

We are a friendly group of 22 mixed ability golfers.

We aim to have 2 rounds a month – one 9 hole and one 18 hole. Most of us are “fair weather golfers” and so we only arrange meet ups between April and October. However, if the weather is good we might stretch a month either side of those dates.

We are starting practice meet ups at Pedham Place in Swanley for those who may be a bit rusty or who are beginners. Putting and Golf range practice with some fellow members on hand to help out.

Normal attendance is around 6 to 12 depending on the weather and the course we play.

Feel free to call Mike Chantry on 0796931108 for more details.

BEACON NEWS

Beacon, for those of you who don't know, is the data management system that we use within Mu3a to communicate amongst our groups and to store your membership safely and legally.

It would be helpful to strengthen the Beacon team. The tasks are not onerous and are very straightforward. They usually involve allocating new passwords when a new group starts or a contact changes or amending members details if they move or change their email. Please contact crdcmu3a@gmail.com if you would like to join the team.

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS COORDINATOR

News from our Groups

If you need to contact Sue, your groups' coordinator, about anything to do with groups, please get in touch via the website, email her at mepgroups22@gmail.com or speak to her at the monthly Members Meeting or a Coffee Morning.

New Groups - Sign Language and Spanish both starting on 11 April 2022.

13 members of M u3a have now expressed an interest in starting a new group to learn Sign Language, and 8 for a new Spanish group.

Both initial meetings will take place in The Cricketers pub, Meopham, on Monday 11 April 2022, starting promptly at **10am for Sign Language**, followed by **Spanish at 10.45am**.

During these meetings the groups will decide where and when meetings will be held, how the groups will set about learning Sign Language or Spanish, and also appoint their Group Contacts for the first year.

If you have not already confirmed your attendance and would like to join either of these meetings please email Sue Bates, Group Co-ordinator on mepgroups22@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Book group 4 is now operating and has 6 members. More would be welcome.

National Trust Visits and **Garden visits** are meeting from April onwards.

COFFEE MORNINGS

The Meopham U3A coffee morning is held at the Cricketers Pub in Meopham on the last Monday of each month from 10:00 to 11:30.

This is a great opportunity to catch up with your committee and fellow members over a cuppa. If you are a new member you are especially welcome to come along so you can find out how to make the most of your membership and ask any questions you may have. Friends and neighbours who are interested in finding out about Mu3a or who wish to join are very welcome to come along too so please invite them.

The next gathering will be on Monday 25th April 2022.

END OF THE BULLETIN

