

December 2021 Bulletin



MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 7TH December 2021

CHOICE JOYCE

...the life and work of Joyce Grenfell

With Pat Bryer

Choice Joyce is not a talk but a performance of a selection of Joyce Grenfell's well-known monologues, interspersed with background information on her life and work.

This meeting will take place in the **St John the Baptist Church at Meopham**. This meeting is of course subject to any change in the Government's Covid rules; fingers crossed it will be fine. The start time is as usual **14.00 (2.00pm)** but by all means arrive earlier so that we can start on time.

Please be aware that the latest social distancing rules will apply and you are advised to continue wearing a face mask when indoors. Hand gel will be available but by all means bring your own if you prefer. The seating arrangements are that you must leave a seat between yourself and the next person; unless of course they are from the same household as you. Please respect other people's feelings at this sensitive time.

It will be great to see many of you again after last month's successful meeting and your committee hope we will have a good turnout.

If you wish to attend you must register to attend by emailing Diane Fenton, our Membership Secretary on u3ameopmemsec@gmail.com **We have a maximum seating capacity so don't delay do it today!!**

NEWS FROM OUR NEW GROUPS COORDINATOR

News from our Groups

Modern Jive are very keen to add more members to their group. This is a beginners group where there is no beginning or end so anyone can join at any time. It is open to members of both Gravesend U3A and Meopham U3A, and meets 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7.30pm at Christchurch Hall, Old Road East in Gravesend. What better way to start the New Year for those that want to get more active!

Circle Dancing will be restarting on 25 January 2022, and this could be an excellent moment to join as they are seeking new members from that date. Apply via the Mu3a website.

Singing has a new Group Contact. Sue Scott, has kindly taken over from Anne-Marie Medhurst, who has had to relinquish her role after a number of years with Meopham U3A, due to moving away from the area. We wish Anne Marie and her husband all the very best in their new home as they embark on an exciting new chapter in their lives.

Beryl Connelly has agreed to act as the main Group Contact for the **Bee Watch** group. Bee Watch will also need someone to lead & log the Jeskyns Bee Walks next year. There will be a meeting in due course.

London Visits 2 recently held a very successful relaunch and planning meeting. There was a good turnout of members including some relatively new to Mu3a and a full programme for 2022 is now in place. Details can be found via the website.

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.

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.

(Please note that there is no coffee morning in December as the venue is unavailable)

The next gathering will be on 31 January 2022.

NATIONAL ON LINE EVENTS

NATIONAL KINDERTRANSPORT DAY

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/u3a-national-kindertransport-day-tickets-203988333597>

A presentation followed by conversations with Kindertransport refugees and their families, with Dame Esther Rantzen.

Steve Williams, of Arun East u3a, will be delivering his engaging and informative presentation which gives context to the events of 1939. Steve will present some of the key people, many with a u3a connection, involved in rescuing 10,000 children from the threats posed by Nazi occupation. He will also be introducing some important figures who are less well known.

After a break, **Dame Esther Rantzen** will be talking to u3a members whose lives were saved and transformed by the Kindertransport migration.

Hear about their different experiences, from those who lived through it, from the next generation ensuring their family's remarkable past is not forgotten, and from the British hosts, who have grown up with Kindertransport foster siblings.

This event was advertised in TAM but there are a few spaces left if you are interested.

Book your place at this special u3a learning event, and many other opportunities, via the [online events page](#).

Over the winter the number of on line events has been increased and also there are more spaces at each event so members less likely to be disappointed. Currently booking for 2021 into 2022 are yoga, genealogy, archaeology, world faiths, astronomy, history and cookery ...so plenty to consider.

Sign Language –a new initiative for Mu3a?

Secretary Ann says:

No, it's not because I have been watching "Strictly Come Dancing" this year that has made me think about learning some basic sign language. It would be a useful skill for anyone to have and indeed many years ago, I did have a class that learned to sign. I have seen how beneficial it can be to people in the Emergency Department at Darent Valley Hospital and in communicating with very small children. Now, I believe it is being used to help avoid the frustrations experienced by autistic children and adults when trying to communicate.

Is there anyone within our membership who has expertise in sign language?

If not and you are interested, the British Sigh-sign.co.uk n Language is running a basic course: british-sign.co.uk

It is an online introductory course. It is accredited. It can be taken by a group or a team. Have a look. You might find it interesting and useful.

Please contact Sue mepgroups22@gmail.com if you would be interested in taking this idea further. A short course could be arranged for those who are interested or a group established. If you want to make a new year's resolution then learning sign language could be a good start.

CYCLING FOR ALL

We have now come to the end of the season for our rides and will be meeting in the next few days to discuss our plans for next year. This year we organised a total of 15 rides, starting in April, and where possible following our aim of holding a shorter ride on the first Thursday and a longer ride on the third Wednesday of each month.

Our rides have varied in length from 10 to 33 miles, although the latter was our most ambitious one so far! As well as local rides we have also cycled around the Heron Trail from Cliffe, the Crab and Winkle from Canterbury to Whitstable and the Viking Coastal Trail around the Isle of Thanet. We use cycle paths or quiet country lanes wherever possible and hope that our rides will continue to appeal to riders of all levels of ability. Most of our members now have electric bikes, which do make hills a lot less daunting!

We are a very sociable group and to prove this all our rides seem to include an obligatory refreshment stop, as shown in the photos below.



This year we tried out taking our bikes on the train, so who knows what 2022 might bring! If you are interested in joining the group, or just finding out more, why not contact us via the website and we can tell you about our plans for next year.

Andrew Dunk and John Thompson

A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

In November June and David Burkitt celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary. The current affairs group took the chance to celebrate with them and fizz and cake was enjoyed all round. Later in the month the History group suspended their usual topic (History of the 4 nations-who knew it was so complicated?) and devoted the meeting to all things 1961 –fashion, TV and significant events before enjoying a cuppa and a cake.

Congratulations to you both from all of us at Mu3a.

END OF THE BULLETIN