

December 2022 Bulletin

CHRISTMAS MONTHLY MEETING

6th December 2022

St Johns Church at 2pm



Our Christmas meeting is a chance for some of our groups to show case themselves .

There will be some performances from three of our groups and the Painting, Quilting and Patchwork groups will be displaying their work.

We will also enjoy a Christmas sing-a-long before we adjourn to the hall for a quiz, some u3a 40th Birthday cake (it's the u3a movements 40th birthday in 2022 not Meopham's) and mince pies.

We hope for a great turn out.

There will be a box for food bank donations as a number of members suggested we ran it for a further month. The bank would be grateful for any donations except for mince pies!

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

16 carrier bags of food and household essentials were donated by members at the November monthly meeting. I was delighted but somewhat over whelmed and had to ask for help to transport it all to the food bank!

The food bank sked me to express their grateful thanks to you all on behalf of all those who use their service.

GROUP REFRESHMENTS ROTA

Book Groups 3 and 4

We have reverted to the old system whereby each group in turn helps set up, serve the tea/coffee/biscuits and clear up after the Monthly Members' meeting.

Lynda Bolton will bring the supplies and guide the groups in the use of the dishwasher and kitchen facilities.

We ask for at least 4 volunteers for the appropriate month. Please arrive about 1.30 to help set up. Even if you do not usually go to the monthly meeting please make the effort to attend when it is your groups turn.

Please contact Sue Bates, Groups Co-ordinator on mepgroups22@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding this rota.

LONDON VISITS

On Wednesday October 19th, 19 members of Meopham u3a set off for London on a trip organised by London Visits 2. We were off for a walk around Bloomsbury, led by Caroline Piper, a Blue Badge Guide who many of us had explored parts of London with during lockdown, on her invigorating Zoom walks. We were looking forward to a walk around 18th and 19th century squares, finding the homes of many famous literary inhabitants, learning about the Foundling Hospital and just admiring the Georgian architecture. Our trip had already been cancelled once due to the rail strikes. The weather was perfect and we were all prepared for a lovely walk. Unfortunately, Caroline was taken ill. After a brief discussion at Victoria, some of our group decided to go off on their own, the rest of us headed off towards Bloomsbury. We had a pleasant wander around before going in search of coffee and other refreshments. After that, we separated into smaller groups. Some of us went to the British Museum which is nearby and spent a very pleasant afternoon wandering amongst the exhibits. Others went to the V&A, Tate Modern and some went off shopping! This is a photo of some of us outside RADA. It wasn't quite the day we had anticipated but we all managed to enjoy ourselves and the company was excellent!



PUBLICITY

If u3a's are going to stay lively, relevant and vibrant they need to regularly attract new members .Mu3a is no exception.

I am sure there are many people in our area that would find the u3a just up their street but may not have even heard of us. So we would like to spread the word as far and as wide as possible. You may have seen us on Facebook or in local publications ...well that was just the start

To that end you may remember that a call was put out in September for volunteers to help with publicity – to refresh our leaflet and once produced for volunteers to help with their distribution.

Jane Challis and the rest of publicity team have now finished the new design along with a complimentary poster and they will go into print this month. A big publicity drive is planned for early next year culminating in an open day in the spring-details to follow.

We already have 17 volunteer distributors but we still need some more particularly in these areas:

- Istead Rise
- Cobham and Luddesdown area
- Meopham Green
- Longfield and Hartley
- New Ash Green
- Ash
- Fawkham
- Culverstone and surrounding hamlets
- Stansted, Fairseat, Hodsoll Street
- Vigo
- Wrotham
- West Kingsdown

We would be extremely grateful for any help even if it is just a small amount of your time. As with everything if lots of people volunteer no one has to do too much so please think about offering to do just a few streets near where you live when you go for a walk.

Please contact me:

Andrew Morgan

meophamu3amembsec@gmail.com

Very many thanks.

News from the groups:

One of the signs of a vibrant and successful u3a is that new groups are suggested and then started...so before long they become established groups and then other are suggested

If you agree with that idea then Mu3a is thriving.

Two new groups were set up on Tue 22 Nov 2022 at a shared meeting held at the Cricketers Inn:

A planning meeting for the **Archaeology Group** will be held on Wed 14 Dec 2022 at a private address. If you would like to join this group from the outset please get in touch with the Group Contact Carole Baylis (secretarymeophamu3a@outlook.com) for details of the time and venue.

Meetings of **Genealogy for Beginner's** will be held on the first Tue of each month at Meopham Library (to be confirmed) at 10.00am. The Group Contact will be Lynda Bolton initially, and further details can be obtained from her on mu3abol19@gmail.com

Meditation 2 is also starting shortly. Contact meopgroups22@gmail.com for details .

The following new groups have also been proposed, and will be started when there are enough members interested in forming a group:

Art Appreciation², Citizen Science, History², Local History, Weekend activities, Writing and Wine Appreciation⁴

If you would like to be included in any of the these groups, please let me know on mepgroups22@gmail.com

NATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION

Entries are now open for the u3a **national poetry competition**, and they'd love to see what you have to offer.

Your poem should be a maximum of 16 lines (plus title), **on any topic**, and be submitted by **12 noon on Friday 27 January 2023**. The three winning poems will be published in Third Age Matters and on the u3a website.

You can find the competition rules and submission link on the **Poetry Competition webpage**, where you can also read previous winning entries.

The competition is open to all members, not just those who are not in writing groups.

To spark some inspiration, you are also invited to join author Sophia Blackwell on Tuesday 13th December at 2pm for a free 2 hour masterclass called 'Writing Poetry for Publication and Performance' which can be booked on the u3a's national **online events webpage**.