



February 2022 Bulletin

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 8th February 2022 for 2pm

Food of the Gods – the Utterly Divine History of Chocolate With Russell Bowes

Congratulations, lucky finder of this Golden Ticket, which entitles you to a guided tour of Wonka's famous chocolate factory, conducted by Mr. Willy Wonka himself! You will learn all about the history of chocolate from its discovery in the forests of central Mexico to the birth of the modern chocolate bar, and your tour will include tickets to a rehearsal of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, a ride in the Great Glass Elevator to a chocolate processing plant, breakfast with a Spanish Marquesa and possibly - if you have been very good indeed - some free samples to take home with you.

Please be aware that the latest social distancing rules will apply and you are advised to continue wearing a face mask when indoors.

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!!**

JOYCE GRENFELL

If you enjoyed the recent monthly talk about Joyce Grenfell you may like to listen to Maureen Lipman doing four routines in similar style to Joyce Grenfell. It was broadcast on 22nd December on Radio 4, Woman's hour. You can listen to it on BBC sounds go to Radio 4 and search for it.

Thank you to Wendy for suggestion this.

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING – SO FAR SO GOOD

At the end of the very enjoyable talk Malcolm mentioned the charity 'LITERACY in a BOX'. The bright red and blue boxes contain all the basic consumable items that a class of 25 would need for a year. Each box costs £350. Due to the generosity of members who attended £61.40 was collected for the charity. The majority of the boxes are sent to Zambia.

More information can be found of their website <https://literacyinabox.org.uk/>

BEE WATCH



Interested in a gentle monthly walk with convivial company – learning a new mentally stimulating, skill as you go? Then **Bee Watch** is the group for you.

We walk a regular route noting what bumblebees we see and then enter the results on the central data base managed by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust (BCT) <https://beewalk.org.uk/>

NO previous knowledge needed. You will be shown how catch and identify the bees by members of the group and there is a great mobile phone app, Blooms for Bees, which provides excellent information 'on the go'. We aim to walk between March and October – depending on the weather.

In the past we have enrolled for the year after the February monthly meeting but because of the Covid restriction that is not going to be possible this year. I will at the monthly meeting in February so come and talk to me then if you want more information.

We have 3 confirmed walks for 2022

- **Jeskyns Woodland**
Meeting on the 4th Tuesday of the month outside the café at 2:00
 - **Northfield (Hartley/New Ash Green)**
Meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Black Lion carpark at 11:00.
 - **Trosley Country Park**
Meeting on the 1st Friday of the month at the Bluebell Café; 10:30 for an 11:00 start
- Cobham** is being reconfigured but hopefully will go ahead.
Provisionally 1st Tuesday in the month at 1:30 (start point to be confirmed later)

REMEMBER – NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY – WE WERE ALL TOTAL BEGINNERS WHEN WE STARTED.

Beryl Connelly

The Meopham u3a Singing Group

We are a very happy group who love getting together for our singing sessions on Monday mornings. We are reliant on ourselves as a group singing a cappella- AND IT WORKS! We are encouraged to collaborate in suggesting songs to sing and have built up quite a repertoire.

We are asked to sing for charitable organisations, residential homes and groups of people who experience memory type problems and neurological deficits. It is a joy to watch people singing along with us, especially if they can remember the words, and they often can! We recently sang our Christmas songs and carols to the Meopham group of Carers, with Sheila Garner researching the songs we were singing along with some very interesting and amusing accounts. We try to mix the songs up so that we are singing traditional and more up to date ones. Our rendition of "The Carollers From Hell" drew quite a lot of amusement and we were delighted with the response from our audience.

Can we urge any 'would-be' singers to join us? We currently have 13 members and a few more members would be wonderful – you do not need to be an expert.

Come and join us, you would be very welcome!

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. If you have an idea for a new group please contact Sue ...this is how a u3a works.

Three new groups start this month, and all would welcome additional members:

Play Reading Group:

The initial planning meeting of the Play Reading group took place on Monday 31 January at the Cricketer's Pub. 10 members have already expressed an interest in participating in this group, but there is still time to get involved if you would like to join. Contact Sue Bates, Groups Co-ordinator, for details of the first meeting.

Book Group 4:

Three members are setting up a 4th Book Reading group, starting [on Thursday 3rd of February](#) at 2.00pm for a planning meeting. If anyone is interested in joining this group they will be very welcome. Contact Sue Bates, Groups Co-ordinator, to express your interest and she will give you the details of the venue.

Please note this group will be held in a member's home.

London Visits 2:

This group have started their programme and the first in person visit has taken place. Please contact Sue Bates for further details or make contact via the website.

Spanish:

There is interest in re-establishing a Spanish group and the group is already viable. If you were part of the original groups or have an interest in learning Spanish please contact Sue Bates.

The proposed **Sign Language Group** now has 8 potential participants. A planning meeting will be held soon. Watch this space!

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.

Please note: this meeting is free to attend but the venue will charge for refreshments. Tea is £2.65 and coffee is £2.85 - payable by card at the bar or by cash.

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 28th February 2022.

BEGINNER PATCHWORK GOUPS

From January 2022 the two groups will combine to form a single group that will meet on a Wednesday afternoon. If you are interested in joining contact Beryl via our website.

To welcome the birth of a new granddaughter Sue Martin designed and created this playmat. The animals were appliqued onto the multi-coloured background while all the other embellishments are attached by Velcro. A stunning original design.

Beryl Connelly



GENEALOGY GROUP

The group are visiting the National Archives on Wednesday 23rd February 2022.

If any other members with an interest in history or genealogy would like to join us they would be very welcome.

You can look at an interactive exhibition called 'The 1920s: Beyond the Roar' and /or look at the 1921 census for free.

NB As of 24 1 2022: All visitors must wear a face covering during their visit, unless exempt but this may change.

The café is open between 09:00 and 16:00, and the shop between 12:00 and 17:00.

PLEASE NOTE: We will catch the 9.35 train from Meopham and should arrive at the National Archives by 11.30. The nearest tube station is Kew Gardens on the District Line and it is a good 10 minute walk to the Archives. Return at your leisure.

Carole Dickenson crdcu3a@gmail.com

END OF THE BULLETIN