



January 2020 Bulletin

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 14th January 2020

2pm

St John the Baptist Church Meopham

Barbara Stevens

“The History of Downe Village”.

Downe village is near Orpington and lies on the North Downs. The village evolved as a centre to serve the 10 or so large houses and estates surrounding it and until the last 30 years or so, was chiefly made up of tied cottages for agricultural workers. Charles Darwin is Downe's most famous resident. He lived, with his family, in Down House for 40 years, from 1842 until he died there in 1882. Today the house is in the care of English Heritage and is open to the public. Darwin was fond of visiting Downe Bank and the area is now a nature reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest. Several members of his family are buried in the graveyard of the 13th century St Mary's Church.

Come along and hear more about this fascinating place that is so full of historical interest and character. A visit to Downe could be arranged with sufficient interest.

FOLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS IN THE ST JOHN'S ROOMS

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO SIGN IN WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE CHURCH

MU3A COFFEE MORNING

MONDAY 27TH JANUARY 2020

The Cricketers Inn on Meopham Green

10am -11.30 am

All members and potential members are welcome

MORE MEMBERS WHO LOOK GOOD IN **HI VIS YELLOW** NEEDED

The church car park is often full to overflowing before our meetings. It has been suggested that it would be helpful to have a few volunteers to organise the parking each month. This would mean we could aim to safely squeeze in a few more cars and also to alert members when the car park is full.

If you would be willing to go onto the car park rota please contact your Chairman Lionel at mevillmp@gmail.com and he will be pleased to add your name to the list.

DON'T BE IN THE DARK..... JOIN THE PRORITY SERVICE REGISTER

Get **Priority Service** in the event of a power cut by registering at www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/GroundworkSouth or calling 0800 029 4285. This is a free service for those over retirement age and is offered by our electricitysuppliers.

Hold the front page

.....Meopham U3A made the cover of the National U3A newsletter in December 2019.



Meopham U3A's Needlecraft Group gained permission from Royal Mail to decorate the town's letter boxes

OUT AND ABOUT WITH OUR GROUPS



The National Trust group (top) at Ightham Mote and the Archaeology group at Eynesford Castle.

Thank you to Ann McEwan for the pictures.



WE WISH

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO
ALL OUR MEMBERS....

.....AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THEM AT MU3A EVENTS IN 2020

