

January 2023 Bulletin

MONTHLY MEETING

10th January 2023

St Johns Church at 2pm

'GRAVESEND LIBRARY – PUBLIC, PERIODICALS AND PILLOCKS'

with CHRISTOPH BULL

Gravesend Library has been a vital part of our cultural life-a part of our community memory. Its story is far more amusing and interesting than any could imagine, this talk explores its history, culture and contains many recollections of working there – the great Gravesham public – and the sometimes not so great - who have used us over 130 years. The speaker has been to Mu3a before and his talks are always popular with members.

Gravesend Library 1964



GROUP REFRESHMENTS ROTA

BRIDGE GROUP

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.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

I hope you will now have fully recovered from a great Christmas break and are looking forward to an exciting new Mu3a year.

New Year is a time of Resolutions. I'm not sure if you've made any yet, but here are a couple of suggestions if you haven't:

1. Meopham u3a is a secret too good to keep. So why not make it your mission to recruit at least 1 new member this year? No need for a hard sell, just keep on reminding friends, neighbours, and relatives what a good time you have with Mu3a and get them to come along to a monthly meeting. Andrew Morgan's Publicity committee have put together some great new promotional material to help.
2. Why not try a new group? I know some groups are full, but I'm sure there are plenty of other groups that would welcome you along if you wanted to try them out first.
3. Offer some help where you can. Our group coordinators do a great job and I'm sure they would appreciate a helping hand from time to time. Please don't be frightened to offer.

I know most New Year's resolutions go by the wayside before the end of January, so I will make no apologies for reminding you on a regular basis.

Look out for the new social programme we are putting together, full details next month.

Regards
Mike Chantry

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:

Many of our groups are now posting information about their activities on the Mu3a **Facebook** page. This is a private group and you will have to ask to join.

Why not ask to join the Facebook group at

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/groups/298950500570080/> or click on the link on our website

Joining an established group – go to the Mu3a website at

<https://www.meophamu3a.org.uk> and send a message to the group contact

Starting anew group – contact Sue Bates who will advertise the group

Joining a new group –contact Sue Bates or sign up at the next monthly meeting. Once there are sufficient expressions of interest there will be a meeting to set up the group.

Please contact Sue Bates, Groups Co-ordinator on mepgroups22@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like further information.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

10 carrier bags of food and household essentials were donated by members at the December monthly meeting.

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

END OF THE BULLETIN