



*Happy New Year*

## January 2024 Bulletin

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**Tuesday 9 January 2024**

**St Johns Church Meopham**

**2pm**

**Chairman's Introduction – *Mike Chantry***

**Happy New Year**

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and are looking forward to seeing what 2024 has in store.

Thanks to all those who took part in our Christmas get together at the Church and a special thanks to our MC Di Fenton.

As we look forward to next year let's make two new year's resolutions:

1. **To step forward and give something back to Meopham u3a.** Nationally u3a is very strong with over 400,000 members. The main reason for this is the fact that we are a very informal organisation. The problem that poses is that it's all too easy to members to sit back and have things done for them. In reality, people are needed to step up from time to time and put something back. While I appreciate that most members do not have the time or inclination to get involved in a major role, there are lots of other ways you could help out. We are currently looking for people to join the Social Team, by sharing the work we will be able to offer more events. Perhaps one of your group leaders could do with some extra help, why not offer? Over the next month or so I'll be circulating a jobs vacant sheet for you to consider.

2. **Meopham u3a - a secret too good to keep.** There has been a lot in the media recently about loneliness at Christmas and this is where Meopham u3a could come into its own. I'm sure there are many tens of people in Meopham and the surrounding areas that would enjoy meeting people with common interests. I'm sure you have told your friends and neighbours how much you enjoy u3a, but why not take it one step further and invite them to a monthly meeting?

I hope many of you had the opportunity to see the Christmas Tree Festival at the Church. We supported them by decorating a tree to represent Meopham u3a and I was pleased to learn that they raised over £1,000. Thanks to those who produced a bauble to represent their group, I was particularly impressed with the Post Box toppers group bauble. I hope there will be space to include some photographs I took. *(There was! – Ed.)*

Looking forward to seeing you at the January monthly meeting.

Regards

Mike Chantry  
Chair Meopham u3a







## INTRODUCTION TO OUR SPEAKER – *from Beryl Connelly*

Our Speaker this month is Alan Haines. **The Baby Boomer Nostalgia Show** is an amusing celebration of being born between 1946 and 1964. Memories of the 1950s, 60s and 70s are dredged up in this hilarious reminiscence. It explores what shaped and inspired a whole generation which, according to Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, “never had it so good”. You’ll laugh at the old days and be in stitches at modern times. You don’t have to be a Baby Boomer to enjoy this as it’s fun for all ages. The show features comedy, audience participation, magic and some audio reminders of the time.



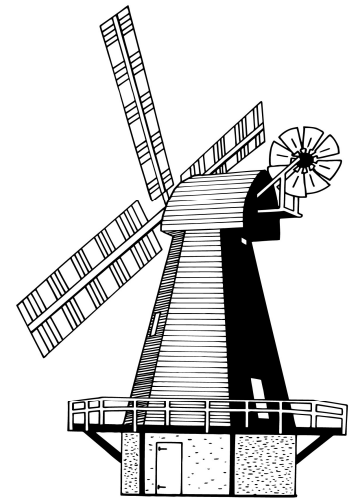
Looking ahead to next month - February 2024 - our speaker will be Delia Taylor giving us an insight into the life of Coco Chanel.

Meopham Windmill – *from Andrew Morgan*

## **Meopham Windmill – Help!**

There's still time to respond to the KCC's plan to sell off our beautiful, iconic windmill.

The Meopham Windmill Trust strongly believes that this is **NOT** in the best interest of the windmill and we need your help and support to fight against the plan.



Meopham  
Windmill Trust

When these buildings are gone, they are gone forever.

This is the link to the KCC website where you will find an invitation to express your views via a questionnaire:

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/windmills-consultation>

KCC has not made it easy and you need to make an account; this will only take a couple of minutes - please stick with it your help will make a huge difference. You may find the following helpful:

Please answer:

Question 4: **STRONGLY DISAGREE**

Question 5: **THE WINDMILL WILL NOT HAVE FUNDING**

Question 6: **NO**

Question 11: **STRONGLY DISAGREE**

If you don't wish to fill in the online questionnaire there is a printable version which is attached to this bulletin. Please be aware that the question numbering is different to the online version. Question 4: STRONGLY DISAGREE, Question 4a: THE WINDMILL WILL NOT HAVE FUNDING, Question 5: NO, Question 20: STRONGLY DISAGREE.

Please spread the word and ask your family and friends to respond whether they live in Meopham, Kent or anywhere else in the world.

The consultation ends on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024, so time is pressing.

Help us preserve and maintain all our windmills in Kent for us and future generations to enjoy!

An enormous thank you from Meopham Windmill Trust.

And a Happy New Year to all our readers

END OF THE BULLETIN