



## July 2023 Bulletin

### AGM and GROUP SHOWCASE

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
St Johns Church Meopham  
2pm

There is no speaker this month as it is our AGM. Please make it a priority to attend so we have the quorum of 100 that we need to proceed with the meeting. If you can't make it please let Carole Baylis know that you are happy to give her your proxy vote. Her email is [carole.baylis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carole.baylis@yahoo.co.uk)



After the AGM you will have a chance to look around our group show case to see what our groups have to offer.

The plan is to have chair for each group with a sign indicating their group name and one person on the chair able to field and questions from potential new members. There will be paper and markers to do the sign on the day, but it would be even better if you could get creative and design an attractive sign yourselves. The posters will be judged and the group with the winning sign will win a box of chocolates to share with their group.

## **REFRESHMENTS ROTA**

**12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 *Cycling for all***  
**10th October 2023 *Fitness for Fun.***

## **NOTES FROM THE CHAIR**

As we approach the AGM I look back on what I would like to think has been an enjoyable u3a year for everyone. I know I've enjoyed it.

There will be no speaker at the AGM but there will be opportunities to discover what you may be missing in other groups.

We have found that many members are interested in joining other groups but are reluctant as they are worried about committing to something before they know what's involved. Some groups will be offering "taster sessions" so do ask if this would be possible when you are enquiring about a new group.

Other groups may not be seeking new members as they are full. (This is usually because of the size of the venue they meet in.) Carole Dickenson will have a table where you can show your interest in a group and once there are enough people for the group to be viable then a start-up meeting will be arranged. Similarly if you have an idea for an entirely new group there will be a list for those too.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM.

Regards Mike Chantry

PS – Another reminder. There will be no Monthly meeting at the Church in August, although your groups might still be meeting, please check with your group leaders.

## **NEW BULLETIN EDITOR**

John Peters is your new bulletin editor.

He has an email address for all contributions which is [johnpmu3a@gmail.com](mailto:johnpmu3a@gmail.com)

John looks forward to hearing from anyone with news or information about Mu3a and other local initiatives that are relevant to the membership. He will be taking over from today and will be sending out his first bulletin in August.

## MEOPHAM U3A MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2023-2024

I hope that you have enjoyed this year with Meopham u3a. We have had some fabulous monthly speaker meetings, our groups (more than 60 now) are meeting, visiting and walking, events and outings have restarted, and we have had 78 new members join us this year.

The Meopham u3a Committee wishes you all the best and invite you to re-join Meopham u3a. The subscription remains at £15.

**You can now re-join for the 2023-2024 year online.**

It is really easy and makes life so much easier for you and the membership secretary. Full details and a step by step guide are attached to this email.

Andrew Morgan

Membership secretary

## SHORT COURSES CAN ENHANCE LEARNING

This article in the Summer 2023 edition of 'Third Age Matters' stuck a chord with me.

This is the link to an on-line version of the article.

[https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/publications/tam-summer-2023#toc\\_44](https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/publications/tam-summer-2023#toc_44)

I don't agree with it all but it may be a way forward for some existing groups. A different approach could be an intensive short course to provide basic knowledge/skills/information before a group starts. On-line learning could be the solution to finding an 'un-paid' tutor to deliver the course.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the ideas raised in the article.

Beryl Connelly [berylconnelly@btinternet.com](mailto:berylconnelly@btinternet.com)

## LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The U3A local history group have available a few places for a guided visit to Cobham Church and college to hear about the history of the many Lords de Cobham including the founder of the church and college. We will also see the world's largest collection of 'brasses'

If anyone would like to join us for a cost of £5 please email [alisonmaryhillman@gmail.com](mailto:alisonmaryhillman@gmail.com)

U3A members might also be interested in the two opportunities to visit Cobham Hall in July as advertised on line.

The grounds and gardens on Thursday 13th July at 6.30 for a 'guided stroll' and the interior on Sunday 30th July at 2.00. p.m. A entrance fee is payable

Please book on the Cobham Hall website [enquiries@cobhamhall.com](mailto:enquiries@cobhamhall.com)

The history of the Hall and church are of course closely related.

# London Visits 1

Thank you to Helen Pearce for a really interesting walk and talk. Everyone said how much they enjoyed the walk that took us to many of the hidden areas of Hampstead and the history of the "great and good" who have lived there e.g. John Constable, Oscar Wilde, D.H. Lawrence, H. G. Wells, Bram Stoker, J.M. Barrie and John Galsworthy.

Helen drew our attention to Blue Plaques, the architecture and the many influences on structures from churches to houses to pubs.

There was a lot to take in but the locals were very pleased to engage with us e.g. the gentleman who owned and gave us an impromptu talk on the Campden Bath and Wash Houses.

Pictures:

1. St John- at- Hampstead where John Constable and his family are buried and the tomb of John Harrison responsible for the marine chronometer / longitude.
2. Church Row a well preserved Georgian Street of the 1700s.

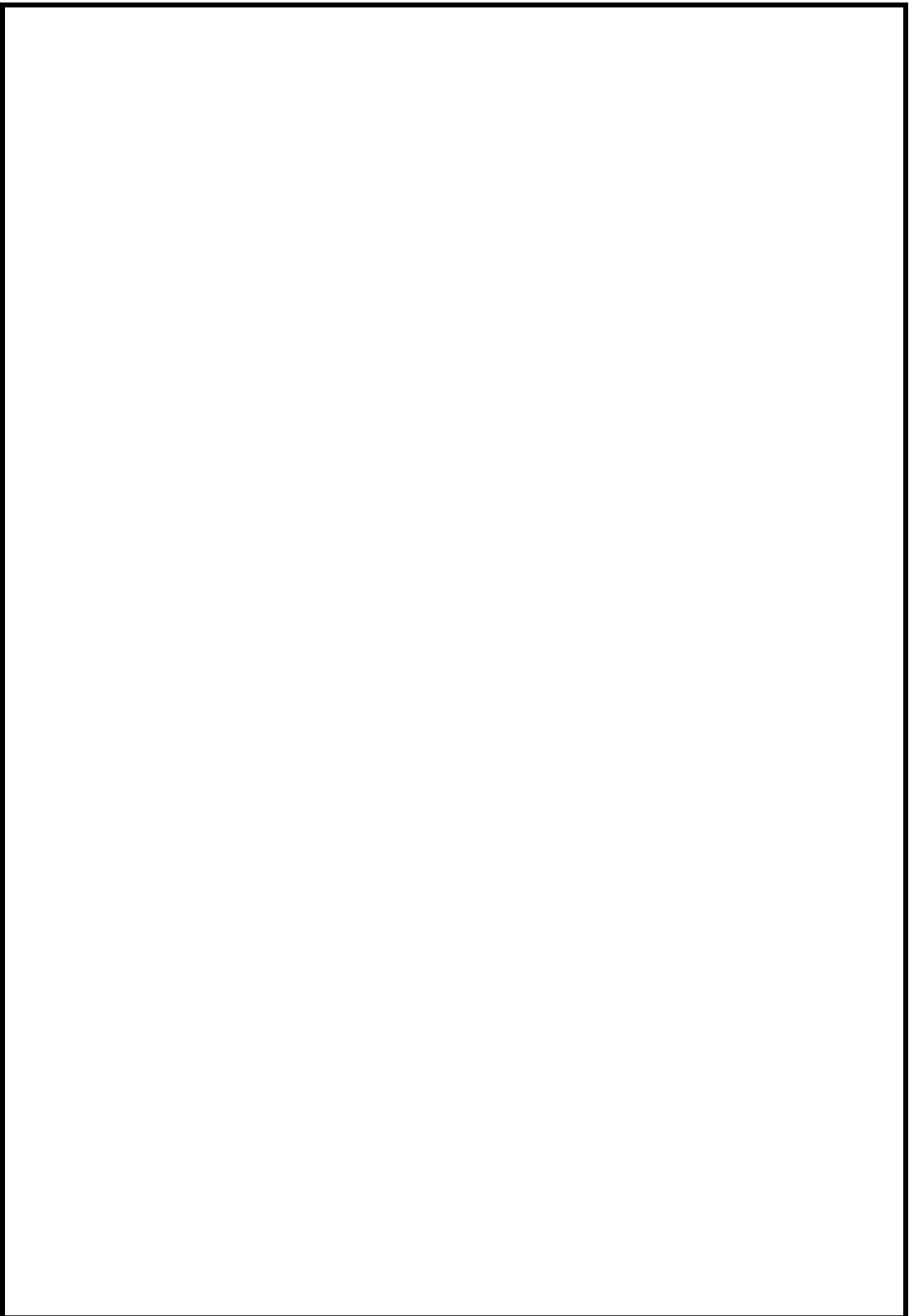


## NEW u3a in BOROUGH GREEN

The Launch of a new u3a at Borough Green & Wrotham will take place at the BG Village Hall, High Street, Borough Green TN15 8BJ on Monday 10th July at 2.30pm;

If you know of any of your one, or particularly non-u3a friends, who live in the Borough Green area and might be interested please let them know

END OF THE BULLETIN



END OF THE BULLETIN

