



July 2021 Bulletin

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday July 13th 2021

HOPPING DOWN IN KENT

Our speaker for this meeting is Chris Stewart who comes highly recommended by one of our members and will be talking to us about hop picking here in Kent. Some of your families may well have been involved in 'Hopping down in Kent' and it would be great to hear if any of you have any such memories passed on from family members.

Join Zoom Meeting

Time: 13 July 2021, 2:00 PM

THANK YOU SUNDAY 4th July 2021

Sunday 4th July has been entitled THANK YOU SUNDAY and is our opportunity to thank all and everyone who has helped us personally and our community to survive the past 18 months.

Dear member

Here's looking forward to a degree of normality in the 'not too distant' future for all of us. Keep safe, keep well and thank you for your continued support of our u3a Meopham.

Lionel Patterson

Chair

FUTURE MONTHLY MEETINGS

Even though we may be 'let off the leash' on 19th July, there is the question of when do we start to have public face to face meetings again in the Church?

The Committee have discussed this issue at some length and have decided that, as it is a personal choice, we need to ask everyone their views on the subject.

October is our suggested month for recommencing public meetings alongside a hybrid meeting if that can be arranged (see below).

Therefore, please email Lionel with your views at mevillmp@gmail.com

HYBRID MEETINGS

Your committee is still looking into being able to present a Hybrid form of our monthly meetings from October onwards. This means that some members will be in the Church as before but also the talk and questions will be 'Broadcast'; to those members who don't wish, or can't be present in person to view the meeting on Zoom.

Have you had experience of running hybrid meetings for other organizations? If so they would welcome your expertise to help the smooth set up and running of such events.

Also it is likely there will be some practical and technical issues involved with this concept. Do you have knowledge/experience of electronics, video, filming or similar activities from your professional life or interests and hobbies that you are willing to share?

Again please get in touch at mevillmp@gmail.com

COMMITTEE NEWS

Many u3as are struggling to attract committee members so it is wonderful to be able to announce that here in Meopham we have members have offered to help with the Secretary, Treasurer and Group Coordinator roles.

This means we will be coming out of the pandemic with a fresh and newly revitalised committee ready to move our u3a forward during 2021/2.

Our heartfelt thanks must go to Ann and Heather who so willingly stayed an extra year to keep things going and to everyone one else on our committee who has put in the extra time and effort that has been needed over the last 18 months.

COULD YOU BE OUR SPEAKER SECRETARY?

We also now need someone to take over the Speaker Secretary role from Alison Hillman. Alison has been behind the monthly presentations that you receive and has done a brilliant job of finding and organising speakers for us. Alison already has speakers lined up for the next few months and has offered her help and support to anyone who is interested. May be a role for two people who could share it

Lionel says “So come on offer a little of your time to this role; especially you gentlemen who are not well represented on the committee at the moment, this is your opportunity to take a step forward instead of back when asked!!”

MEOPHAM u3a AGM 12th OCTOBER 2021

After a successful virtual and postal AGM last year your committee intends to do the same this year....just in case things should change again.

Notification letters and forms will be sent out 9th August and all nominations must be in by latest 14th September. More details in the next bulletin or on our website.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewals have been coming in thick and fast already and over 150 of you have already renewed. This is a good indication of a vibrant and growing u3a that is going to thrive in the future.... and one that is well worth being an active member of for the bargain price of £10.

Please remember to send in your year's subscription soon and don't forget to include an **S.A.E. for your membership card**. A renewal form is included with this bulletin.

Please spread the word to neighbours, friends and family about our u3a and encourage them to join too.

CHECK YOUR RAIL CARD

If you are now using public transport again please check your senior citizen rail card is still in date. It's easy to overlook especially as you've not used it for a while. If you buy your ticket from a machine then no one else looks at it either to check it is still valid.

Buying a ticket on an out of date card can cost you some embarrassment and may involve a £20 fine.

BEE WATCH

The Jeskyns Bee Walk group had a happy and successful bee walk during the afternoon of 22 June. Although the weather was chilly and grey, for the first time this year there were bees aplenty. We started with a very welcome cup of tea at the Woodlands cafe and as soon as the walk started we saw bumblebees on the vetch and other flowers in the tall grasses by the paths. Due to the cold wet weather earlier this year, most of the wild flowers are blooming later than usual and on the walks in March, April and May we were lucky to see one or two Bumblebees. This time we saw more than 130 bees altogether, mostly Buff/White Tail workers but we did spot one Vestal Cuckoo Queen.

Bumblebees are pleasant little fellows and even after being caught in a jar and examined carefully through the glass for identification purposes, they are never bad tempered... they just have a little shake, orientate themselves and fly off in search of flowers.

Quite often the bees are too fast for us to catch and identify but we are getting quite good at identifying the common ones we are likely to see on our walks.

The information gathered on our bee walks is entered onto the Bumblebee Conservation website and used in a UK wide database to see how well the bumblebees are doing each year.

If anyone would like to join us to get a better idea of what goes on a bee walk just contact Anne - Marie via the link on the group page.

THE END of this newsletter