



Monthly Bulletin – July 2025

10th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8 July 2025

St. John's Church Meopham

2.00 pm

Chairman's introduction – *Mike Chantry*

It's hard to believe how the last three years have flown by. This will be my last Bulletin entry as your Chair as our constitution states a Chair should serve a maximum of 3 years. It's important that we retain this, as a strong and vibrant U3A always need a steady flow of new ideas.

At the AGM you will also have the opportunity to see the range of groups we have available. As in previous years we have asked group contacts to decorate a chair and man it with at least one group member before and after the AGM. I've contacted all group contacts asking them to join in but I've included a photo of how the chair will be set up in case they haven't seen it. A sign with the group name can be attached to bean poles to enable your group to be quickly identified. There will be a prize for the best decorated chair.

Hopefully most of our 70 groups will be represented so we'll all be able to join new groups.

Hope to see you at the AGM.

I've enjoyed the last three years immensely, thanks in no small measure to our great committee and the friendliness of all of you. Thanks.

Mike Chantry

**THIS EDITION OF THE BULLETIN CONTAINS THE AGM PAPERS
AND OTHERS ARE ATTACHED SEPARATELY TO THIS MAILING**

MEOPHAM u3a

Charity No. 1177639

Notice of 10th Annual General Meeting to be held on 8th July 2025, at 14.00

At St John the Baptist Parish Church, Wrotham Road, Meopham, DA13 0AA

Agenda

(Apologies for absence may be sent to the Hon. Secretary prior to the meeting)

1. Chair's Welcome (Mr Mike Chantry)
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the 2024 AGM for approval
4. Presentation of Trustees' Annual Report for 2024-25 (Chair, Mr Mike Chantry)
5. Presentation of Annual Accounts & Treasurer's Report for 2024-25 (Treasurer, Mrs Linda Hall)
6. Election of Executive Committee:
 - A) Election of Officers:
 - Chair
 - Vice Chair
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
 - B) Election of Non-Officer Members
(A Minimum of 1 and a Maximum 8 of are permitted under our current constitution)
7. Appointment of Auditors/Account Examiners
8. Any Other Business
9. Closing Address & Thanks
10. Date of next AGM (Provisional): Tuesday 7th July 2026
11. Close of Meeting

To be followed by Members' Displays and an opportunity to see what our Groups have to offer.

Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Treasurer's Report 2024-2025

I present our tenth set of accounts.

As in our ninth year, we have two bank accounts, main and social. The "main account" is used for the receipts of membership subscriptions, visitors' fees, and payments for the running of our u3a. The "social account" is used for the receipt of income from our social events, our visits programme and for payments of associated expenses.

The Main Account

Our membership subscriptions and visitor fee income total are £8,252.04. Main Account expenditure falls into six categories as below:

1. Payment to the Third Age Trust totalling £3,072.69. We pay an annual capitation fee of £4.00 per member. We also cover the cost of mailing Third Age Matters and resources to members and the Beacon running costs.
2. Speakers at monthly meetings have cost £805.00. We originally budgeted for a higher figure but as we have had fewer speakers than originally budgeted for this has reduced the expected total.
3. Webpage hosting £192.00
4. Hire of St John's Church, Centre and refreshments have cost £1,907.03.
5. Committee expenses amount to £220.79 This covers hire of the church meeting room for Committee meetings, printing of membership cards, annual booklet and activities associated with promoting new members.

Total expenditure on the Main Account of £6,197.51 is less than subscription income for the year of £8,252.04 resulting in a surplus of £2,054.53.

However, all things considered (projected increased cost hire of St John's Church and speakers in 2025-26) your committee has decided that the membership subscription should remain at £20 per annum.

Linda Hall
(Treasurer)

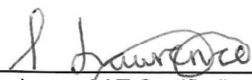


Date:

16/06/2025

I certify that I have examined the accounts presented to me and that this represents a true and accurate record of the accounts.

Tara Lawrence
(Independent examiner – AAT Certified)



Date:

16-06-2025

Treasurer's Report 2024-2025**Opening bank balance Social Account 1 June 2024****£ 2,285.98**

We have offered four social events this year (Christmas celebration, Cream tea quiz, Abba Tribute Band and one group visit to Winchester Cathedral and Christmas Market). In line with Charities Commission constraints these must be, and are, self-financing. The income for these events shows as £1,874.00 and expenditure £1,716.44, overall, the social account has surplus of £2,393.54 as at 31 May 2025.

The reason why the account has a surplus of over £2,000 is due to fact that when I took over the social account in June 2021, there was already a surplus of £2,152.31 built up over several years, the reasons for this are:

1. In June 2018 when my predecessor took over the social account there was already a surplus of £ 1,455.22.
2. The closing balance 2018-19 was £1,833.32.
3. During 2019-20 there was an increase in the balance due to oversubscription of members for trips, which lead to a closing balance of £2,759.12 as at 31 May 2020.
4. During 2020-21, the cost calculation for members trips was revised to and worked out on the basis of full coaches, this reduced the closing balance to £2,152.12 as at 31 May 2021. The loss of more than £ 700 in 2020-21 was measured and done purposely and with the full agreement of the committee.
5. During 2022-23 a small surplus arose on the Cream Tea/Quiz which led to a closing balance of £ 2,172.81 as at 31 May 2023.
6. During 2023-24 a surplus arose on events of £170.02. Whilst £56.85 was expended on the Christmas celebration with the full agreement of the committee. This led to a closing balance of £2,285.98 on the social account as at 31 May 2024.
7. During 2024-25 a surplus arose of £ 190.56 on the Cream Tea/Quiz. No members funds were expended on the Christmas celebration due to the generosity of our Chair, but a loss of £33 was incurred on the Winchester visit and a £ 50 non refundable fee incurred on the cancellation of the Abba Tribute Band.

Linda Hall



Date:

16/06/2025

(Treasurer)

I certify that I have examined the accounts presented to me and that this represents a true and accurate record of the accounts.

Tara Lawrence



Date:

16-06-2025

(Independent examiner – AAT Certified)

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS JUNE 2024 - MAY 2025

Opening Bank Balance (Social Account)	£2,285.98	
	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
	£	£
Cream Tea	£534.00	£343.44
Winchester Christmas Market	£1,340.00	£1,373.00
ABBA Tribute Band		£50.00
Total	£1,874.00	£1,766.44
Balance carried forward	<u>£107.56</u>	
Bank Balance (Social Account) Total	<u>£2,393.54</u>	

Linda Hall (Treasurer) L. E. Hall Date: 16/06/2025

I certify that I have examined the accounts presented to me and that this represents a true and accurate record of the accounts.

Tara Lawrence T. Lawrence Date: 16-06-2025
(Independent examiner – AAT)

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS JUNE 2024- MAY 2025

Opening Bank Balance (Main Account) **£6,882.90**

INCOME

Membership Subscriptions **£8,252.04**

Total income £15,134.94

EXPENDITURE:

Beacon (Third Aid Trust) **£408.00**

u3a Annual Capitation Fee **£1,642.77**

Third Age Matters (postage) **£1,021.92**

Speaker Fees **£805.00**

Web hosting page (Whitstable Design) **£192.00**

Hire of St John's Church, Centre and refreshments **£1,907.03**

Committee expenses/New members **220.79**

Total expenditure £6,197.51

Bank Balance (Main Account) Total £8,937.43

Linda Hall (Treasurer)



Date: 16/06/2025

I certify that I have examined the accounts presented to me and that this represents a true and accurate record of the accounts.

Tara Lawrence



Date: 16-06-2025

(Independent examiner – AAT)

1. Election of Executive Committee: **SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT**

A) Election of Officers:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary

B) Election of Non-Officer Members

(A Minimum of 1 and a Maximum 8 of are permitted under our current constitution)

Position /Nominee:	Membership Number	Proposed:	Membership Number	Seconded:	Number Membership
Chairman:	John Peters 420	John Thompson	550	Richard Blythe	632
Deputy Chair:	Richard Blythe 632	Carole Dickinson	101	John Peters	420
Hon. Secretary:	Sue Zoghob 299	Sylvia Paternoster	660	Jill McDougal	746
Hon. Treasurer:	Linda Hall 446	Penelope Gamp	614	S. Walters	290

3. Election of Non-officer Members: a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 8 are permitted under our current constitution.

The nominations for the non-officer posts on the Executive Committee have been:

Nominee:	Membership Number	Proposed:	Membership Number	Seconded:	Membership Number
Roy Lingham	222	Richard Blythe	632	John Peters	420
Pam Godden	917	Mike Chantry	387	John Peters	917
Ann MacEwan	193	Pauline Endersby	171	Jill Carey	193
Linda Doyle	326	Sue Zoghob	660	Paul Hillman	326

**Call the Midwife Visit to Chatham Historic Dockyard –
from Beryl Connelly**

23 members of Meopham u3a gathered at the entrance to the Historic Dockyard at 11 o'clock on Friday 6 June. After a brief introduction to what was available we were free to enjoy the dockyard until mid-day when we met our 'midwife' guide.

I have visited the dockyard many times in the past but this is the first time I really looked at the architecture. We were guided through both the history of the buildings and how they had been used in the television series. How subtle changes had transformed the dockyard into the 'Poplar' of the 1950's and 60's. The tour concluded with visit to an inside exhibition space which displayed some of the costumes and internal scenes from the show.

I have looked again at the very first episode of the show and the dockyard can clearly be seen.

After lunch there was time to visit some of the exhibitions hosted with in the historic buildings. The weather was kind, the tour was interesting and informative, and the historic setting was well worth a visit.





Membership Renewal 2026 – from Andrew Morgan

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 taken off and we have had 50 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 is **£20**.

As per last year can now re-join for the 2025-2026 year online. It is really easy and makes life so much easier for you, the membership secretary and the treasurer. Please consider using this renewal method.

Just follow this link where you will find full instructions on how to sign up to the member's portal and then re-join: <https://www.meophamu3a.org.uk/miscellaneous/303-beacon-portal>
Instructions are also attached.

If you signed up last year simply log in and pay it takes less than a minute.

Once you have re-joined online please send me an email to let me know so I can update the records: meophamu3amembsec@gmail.com

If you don't wish to use the online service this is how to re-join the old-fashioned way:

Download the renewal form attached to this message or from website.

- Print it out.
- Fill it in remembering to complete it fully.
- Take care to indicate how you mean to pay (**BACS is preferred**).
- If paying by cheque ensure that it is filled in correctly.
- Sign the form.
- Send it to me; remember the remittance (cash/cheque).
- Include an SAE, if you don't the membership card will be available for collection at the monthly meetings.

If you want to bring it to the AGM in July please ensure that all the paperwork and the payment are stapled together. Bear in mind that the queues can be quite tiresome.

- **Exact** cash only we do not have any change.
- Bank transfer (BACS) is preferred.
- We now have a card payment machine so we can take your payment on the day.

Any problems please send me a message and I'll do my best to help:

meophamu3amembsec@gmail.com

Remember: Just to remind members who are paying for their renewal via BACS to use this account:

Meopham U3A, No. 83133356, Sort Code 51-81-07. Please don't use the Social Account

Please include your SURNAME and MEMBERSHIP NUMBER as reference.

All the best

Andrew Morgan, Membership Secretary

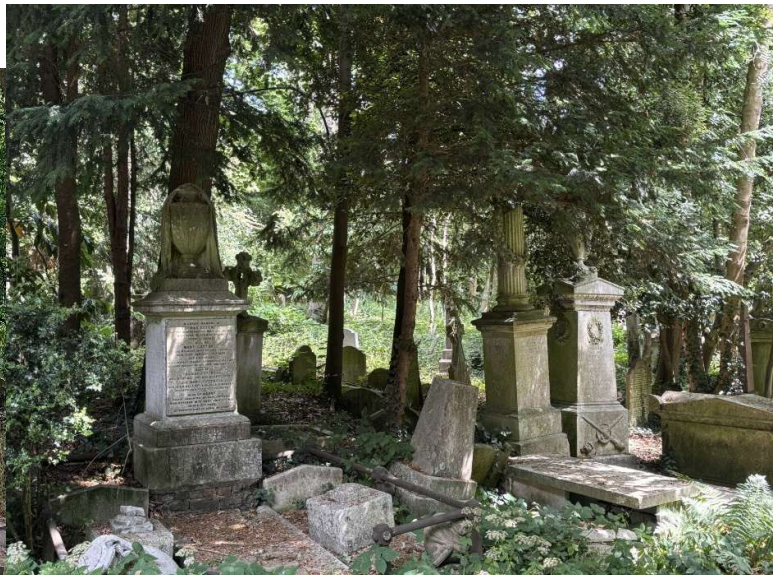
Attached to this mailing: Portal Instructions

Renewal form 2025-2026

London Visits 1 – Highgate Cemetery – *from Ann MacEwan*

We had a very good visit to Highgate Cemetery on 24th June. Helen Pearce had done a recce and guided us through the Underground to Highgate, through a beautiful park to arrive in time for our tour despite train delays at the Kent start of our journey.

The tour guide, Julia Johnston was very knowledgeable and passionate about the history and continuation of the Cemetery which depends heavily on visitors whose financial support helps to maintain this wonderful place. The Victorians, she told us, were snobs when it came to their funerals and final resting places which they wanted to be secure and showy. They competed for the best plots, bought in perpetuity, and had grand designs, for example, from ancient Egyptian. The rich and the famous have been buried there over the years and today we could see the graves of the great and the good: artists, poets, architects, anthropologists and scientists. The greatest of these is Michael Faraday whose gravestone is written large but is very unassuming giving his impact on us all. He refused a Knighthood and to be buried in Westminster Abbey abiding by his Sandemanian beliefs.





London Visits 3 - Victoria and Albert Museum – *a guided tour curated and lead by Andrew Morgan*

On the day it was just Sue and I entering through the main entrance on Cromwell Gardens to be greeted by the very impressive Dale Chihuly glass sculpture dangling precariously from the rotunda over the membership desk. Just around the corner from there the seven surviving Raphael Cartoons are displayed in their own gallery. At the far end is an enormous and beautifully painted altarpiece depicting the life or rather the torture and death of St George. In the sculpture hall The Age of Bronze by Rodin was unfortunately wrapped up in plastic but, for me definitely the highlight of the tour, Peasant Woman Nursing a Baby in terracotta by Aimé-Jules Dalou was still in place. A delightfully warm and intimate piece.

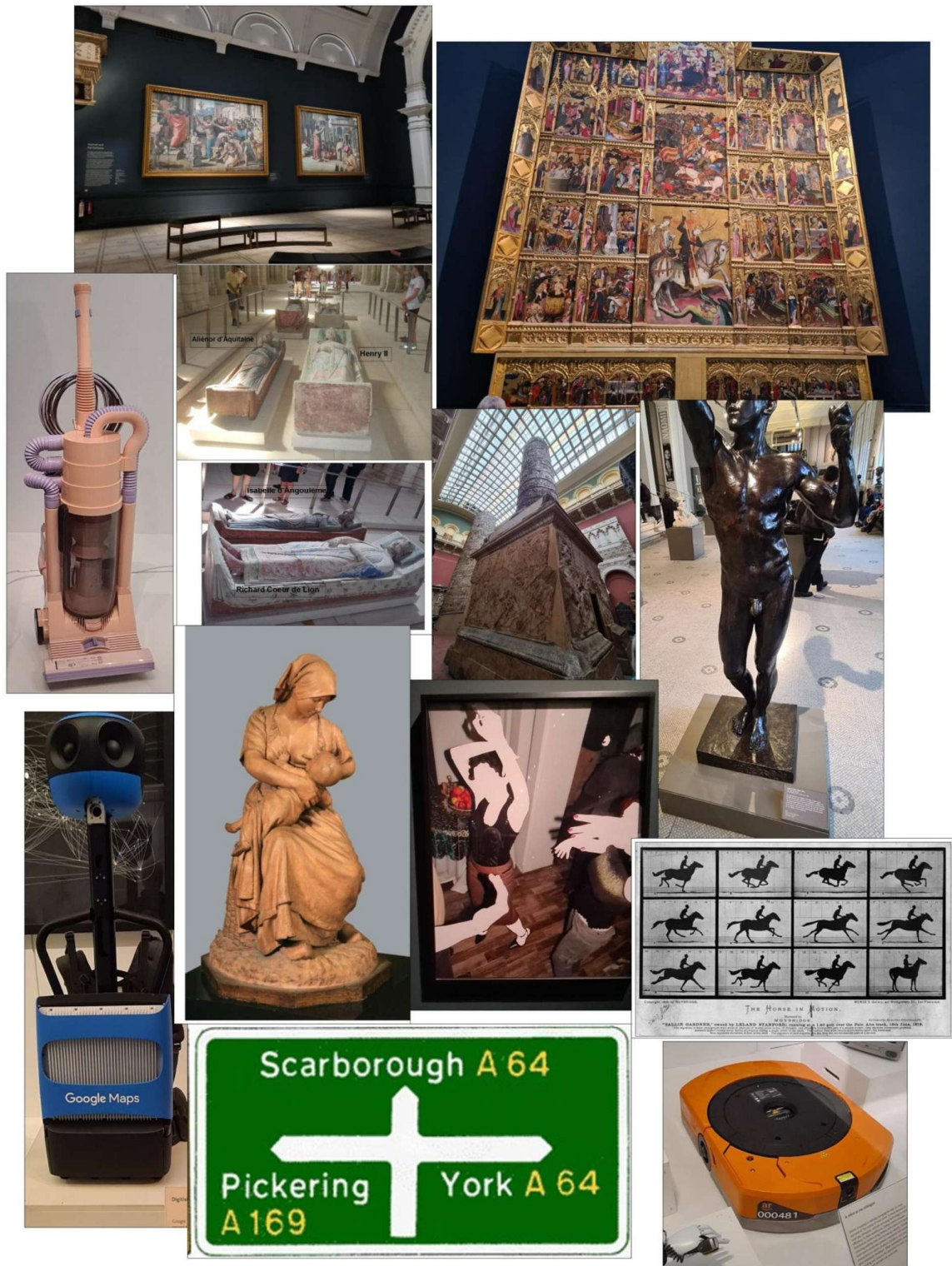
After coffee and pastries, the Casts Hall beckoned for Trajan's Column, David and the tomb effigies of Richard Coeur de Lion, Henry II, Aliénor d'Aquitaine and Isabelle d'Angoulême –the originals being in Fontevraud Abbey, France.

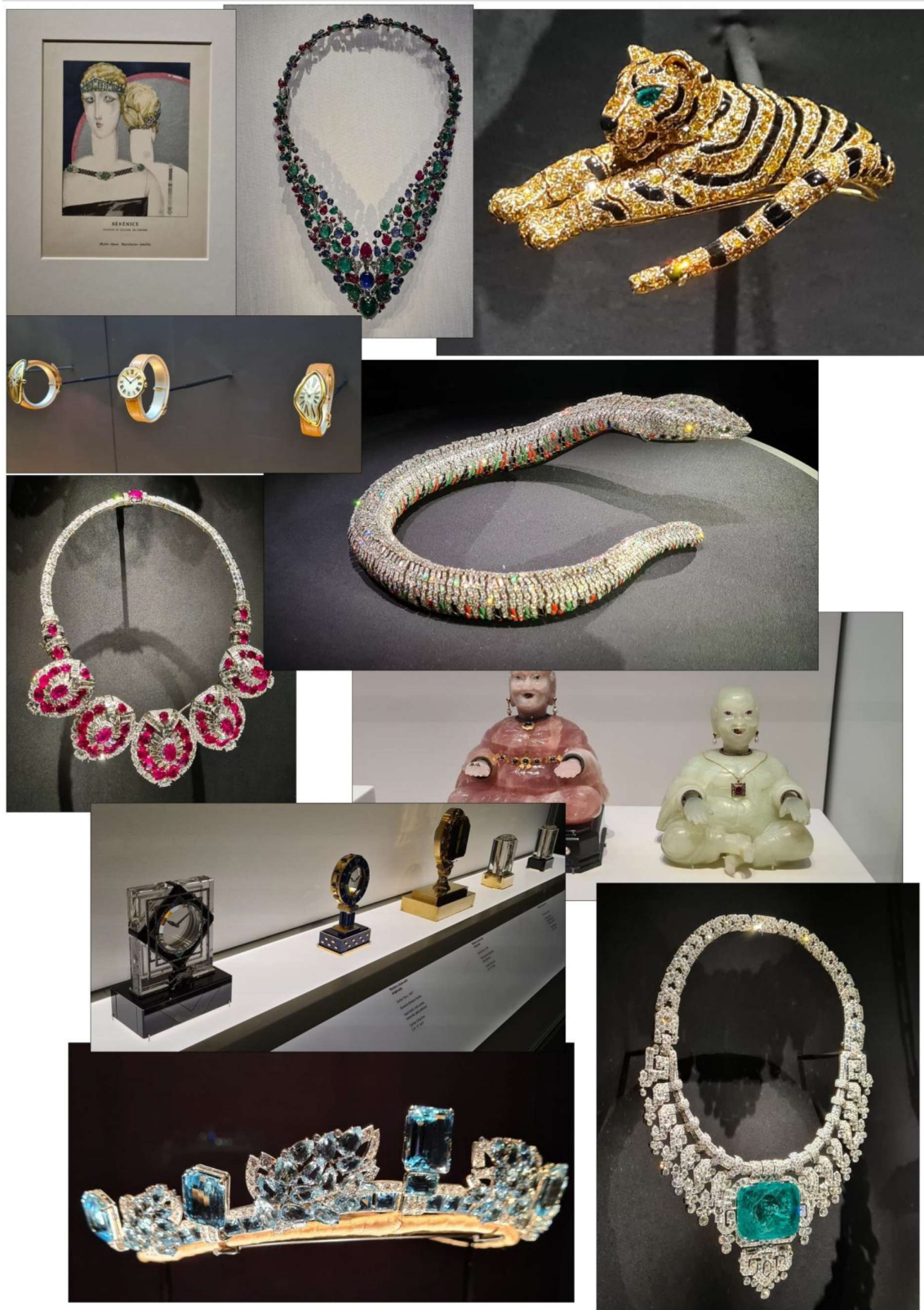
I didn't realise that since my last visit the Photography Gallery had been totally revamped with a completely new set of photos. I was planning to look at works by Eadweard Muybridge famous for chronophotography and Iranian artist Amirali Ghasemi. Despite that hiccup the new photos are very impressive.

Following the Theatre Gallery for some very iconic costumes we passed through the Jewellery Hall to see Queen Victoria's very tiny and delicate coronet designed by Prince Albert.

The last part of the tour was to have been the Design Hall but that was also closed which was a great shame –planning to see some items that we probably take for granted but seem vital to modern life, an Amazon robot, an original 1980's Dyson vacuum cleaner, the iconic green road signs seen on many A-roads and the Google Maps camera back-pack used for street view pictures.

However, we did profit from this closure giving amply time to visit The Cartier exhibition. A saturation of very big diamonds, rubies, emeralds and sapphires –expensive bling!





Prospective Tai Chi Group – from Roy Lingham – Joint Groups Co-Ordinator

"I had earlier enquiries for a possible Tai Chi group, although the numbers were not quite sufficient to get one started: having messaged those who expressed an interest, I heard

nothing further. If there are not enough members from Meopham, I will explore the possibility of a joint group with Gravesend, so would anybody still interested please get in touch at gc1mu3a@proton.me

Synchordia – Your Local Orchestra and Choir – from John Peters

I'm sure you'll all recognise this chap – even though he died in 1916. Anyhow, there's no suggestion that any u3a members should enlist for the army but Synchordia, your local orchestra and choir always welcomes new instrumentalists and singers. They're a friendly local group who welcome all abilities and play a variety of music. If you play a classical instrument (even if it needs dusting off), or sing, Synchordia would be delighted to welcome you. They rehearse every Wednesday evening in term-time. Please contact Laura Peters lauraspeters95@gmail.com for details.



And finally - from Your Editor

For those of you who have ploughed through this far, I'm writing to let you know that after exactly two years, this is my last month as editor of the Bulletin. You'll have seen the nominations for u3a officers earlier in this edition of the Bulletin and unless anyone else puts their name forward in the next week or so, I shall be installed as u3a Chairman at the AGM on 8 July.

I've enjoyed my time as Editor and I hope you've liked my whimsical selection of photographs for inclusion on the front page. I will be handing over the 'blue pencil' to Graham Jansen from next month. Graham's u3a email address is grahamjansen912@gmail.com and all future items for inclusion in the Bulletin should be sent to him.

Best Wishes to you all

John

END OF THE BULLETIN