



March 2023 Bulletin

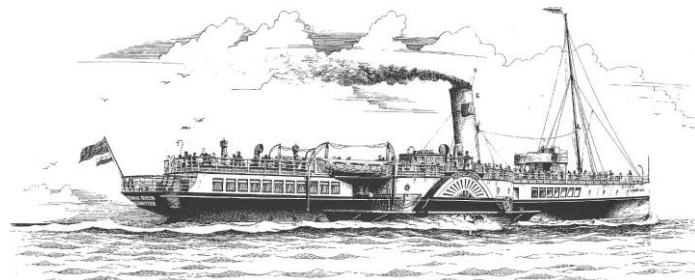
MONTHLY MEETING

14th March 2023

St Johns Church at 2pm

THE MEDWAY QUEEN – A DUNKIRK HEROINE

This paddle steamer, built for pleasure cruises on the Thames and Medway, made 7 trips to Dunkirk and rescued more than 7000 men. Come and hear the uplifting story of her rescue from dereliction and the ongoing restoration. The Medway Queen is moored at Gillingham and is open to visitors on Saturdays. Please check website for visitor information at <https://www.medwayqueen.co.uk/>



HEARING LOOP

The hearing loop in the church work best if you are sitting close to the central aisle towards the front of the church.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

This month I would like to focus on new members.

Thanks to our membership secretary Andrew Morgan, we welcomed **57 new** members this u3a year. He, ably assisted by Di Fenton, Jenny Lev'y, Linda Bolton, and Beryl Connelly, has hosted three new members meetings that went really well. Thanks also to all the existing members who have gone out of their way to make our new members welcome.

However, I hear that a few new members have not been able to find vacancies in groups that interested them. If you are one of those new members who maybe having problems, please email me on chairMu3a@gmail.com and I'll do my best to help you.

We now have **395 members**, but as we normally drop 50 to 70 new members a year its important that we do all we can to spread the word on a regular basis. A straw poll I've recently conducted at certain groups, seems to indicate that many existing members joined after hearing about us through a friend, neighbour or relative. So, with that in mind, I urge you to let your local contacts know what a great time you have in Mu3a and, perhaps, bring them along to the next monthly meeting. There is a small charge of £3 for the meeting but that is refunded if they join.

CREAM TEA QUIZ

I'm pleased to announce the first social event of 2023.

Thanks to all the Group Leaders who have organised teams for the Quiz.

Should your group have not be able to muster a team, or it is full, you can still sign up individually and we'll find you a team on the day.

The details are:

Venue: Culverstone Community Centre, DA13 0TN

Date: Thursday 23rd. of March 2023

Time: 2 p.m. start prompt (doors open 1:30 p.m.)

Cost: £5 entry to include scone/jam/cream, tea or coffee

Teams of up to 6 people.

We've already had a great response and we are limited to 72 people, so please get your entry in asap. Please reserve your space by emailing me as soon as possible and I'll let you know how to confirm your place by paying your £5.

Regards

Mike Chantry..... 07969931108

GROUP REFRESHMENTS ROTA

14th Mar, CHESS GROUP

Please contact Sue Bates, Groups Co-ordinator on mepgroups22@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding this rota.

11th Apr, CIRCLE DANCING GROUP

A sad note for friends of Jean Washer.

Jean passed away a few days ago and her family would like to let her friends in the u3a know that the funeral will be on Monday 13 March at Medway crematorium with the wake to follow at Dartford Masonic Hall. If you would like to attend could you please contact her son **Guy** at guy.washer1@gmail.com
Thank you.

u3a Summer School

<https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/events>

South East u3a Forum Summer School

The 2023 Summer School will take place at the University of Chichester from Monday 4th to Thursday 7th September, inclusive.

All courses are tutored by experienced u3a members who kindly give their time for free, in return for board and lodging during the Summer School. There will be a range of subjects, academic through to practical and active; something to suit everyone.

There will be some familiar faces along with new tutors and new subjects.

Details of the courses available this year will be posted on 3rd March. Information on 'How to Book' and access to a 'Booking Form', available to download or to fill in online, will be available from 17th March.

Each member will need to make their own booking etc but it may be possible to share transport.

Please contact me if you are interested or just want more information.

**Beryl Connelly
berylconnelly@btinternet.com
07854 221410**

Quilting Group.

Here are two pictures of the quilts completed by the Quilting Group as a project last Autumn.

Members of the group each completed several blocks the parameters being the size and colour (blues). The wonderful variety produces these eye catching quilts.



Special Garden Visit.

VISITING THE PRIVATE GARDENS AT KNOLE

Are you interested in seeing how a garden changes during the seasons?

The private gardens at Knole are only open 8 times a year and I plan to visit in May, July and September just to see and enjoy the changes.

There is an additional charge of £5 for admission to the garden even if you are a NT member.

I plan to go on:-

Wednesday 24 May

Monday 3 July

Friday 15 September – PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE OF DATE

If you think this would be of interest to you please get in touch. I am happy to drive if you are interested in car sharing.

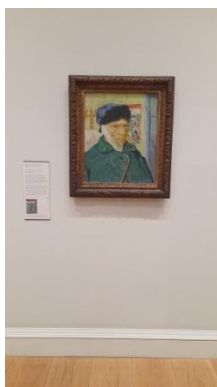
Beryl Connelly

berylconnelly@btinternet

07854 221410

London Visits 1.

At the end of February, LV1 had an interesting visit to Somerset House and the Courtauld Gallery. The permanent exhibition is superb covering many aspects of art through the centuries and the building and its architecture are impressive even on a wet day. Seeing famous paintings anew is always a pleasure especially in good company.



Needle craft/ Post Box Toppers



We are Back and looking to the future!!

After the success of the Christmas postbox toppers a group of “crafters” from Meopham U3A would like to form a new group dedicated to decorating the Meopham postboxes at different times of the year.

The obvious starting point for 2023 is the Coronation and we have a few ideas but would like help from anyone willing to knit, crochet, felt or sew royal regalia to go on top of the postboxes.

The idea is for these to be a **communal effort** so there is no pressure to complete individually.

Please contact group leader **Helen Pearce** for more details.

New groups information update.

Group Contacts Meeting

The next meeting of our Group Contacts will be held on Mon 13 March 2023, 10.00am-12.00noon in MEOPHAM VILLAGE SMALL HALL.

News from the groups:

Citizen Science and Local History each have 8 members expressing interest, so these groups can soon be launched.

French Chatting, Wine Appreciation(4), and History(2) each have a few on their lists, so we will encourage more members to sign the lists before proceeding.

Beginners Patchwork, Italian(2), Tuesday Needlecraft, and Current Affairs(3) will have lists available at the Members' Meeting on 14 March 2023, for interested members to start signing.

Group Co-ordinator(s)

As you may know, Sue Bates will be stepping down from the role of Group Co-ordinator at the AGM in July. We will be looking for a replacement or replacements, as this is a job that could readily be divided up between two or three people working as a mini-team reporting to the Committee. The job involves setting up new groups, arranging meetings for Group Contacts, and responding to queries from U3A members.

If you want to know more or feel that you'd like to get involved, please contact any committee member or email Sue Bates on mepgroups22@gmail.com

Is the group you want to join marked 'FULL'?

This can be for a number of reasons, often primarily because the group sessions are held in people's homes and there is limited space, chairs etc. for the group meetings. If you come across this situation this is what you should do:
Inform the Groups Co-ordinator at a Monthly Meeting or via the website www.meophamu3a.org.uk or email mepgroups22@gmail.com to let the Groups Co-ordinator know that a list for another group in the same subject can be created and a new group formed (this may take several weeks, but bear with us, it happens 95% of the time, if enough interest is generated).

End of Bulletin