



March 2022 Bulletin

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday March 8th 2022 at 2pm

WHERE DO NOVELISTS GET THEIR IDEAS FROM?

Bobbie Derbyshire

Bobbie is the author of three gripping novels: *Oz, Love, Revenge and Buttered Scones* and *Truth Games*. She won the 2008 fiction prize at the National Academy of Writing and the New Delta Review Creative Nonfiction Prize 2010. From the initial spark to the realisation on the page, Bobbie will explain how the complex world of character, location, plot and subplot arrives in a writer's mind.

This meeting will take place in the St John the Baptist Church at Meopham. This meeting is of course subject to any return to Government's Covid rules; fingers crossed it will be fine. Please respect other people's feelings at this sensitive time. Some members may wish to continue to wear a mask indoors and to follow some degree of social distancing.

The start time is as usual 14.00 (2.00pm) but by all means arrive earlier so that we can start on time.

If you wish to attend you please register your interest by emailing Diane Fenton, our Membership Secretary on u3ameopmemsec@gmail.com your name and YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER. Guests and prospective members are welcome for a one off donation of £3.

- BEE WATCH

March sees the start of the Bee Watch season. Continuing from previous years we have four walks planned. As always make contact with walk leader to confirm no last minute alterations before setting off. Contact details can be found on the Meopham u3a website. <https://www.meophamu3a.org.uk/bee-watch>

New members are always welcome but please make contact beforehand to make sure the walk is suitable for you. Training will be given and no previous experience is needed.

VENUE	DAY	TIME	
JESKYNS	4 th Tuesday 22 March	2:00pm	Meet by café
MEOPHAM ALLOTMENTS	3 rd Tuesday 15 March	10:30	Meet at the top entrance at the junction of Park Hill and A227
NORTHFIELD	2 nd Wednesday 9 March	11:00	Black Lion car park
TROSLEY	1 st Friday 7 March	10:30	Meet at the café for an 11:00 start
COBHAM	DETAILS LATER IN THE YEAR		

Beryl Connelly

SPACES ON A HOW THINGS WORK VISIT

**The Musical Museum, Kew
399 High St, Brentford, TW8 0DU**

**Friday 18th March 2022
Meet at museum at 1.30pm (guided tour at 2pm)**

“Our collection of working instruments, displays and interactive exhibits tell the story of how music has been recorded and reproduced, from mechanical inventions to the present day.”

Cost: £10pp (pay individually on entry)

Travel: Nearest station Kew Bridge (from Waterloo). Alternatively Gunnersbury (District Line, Richmond Branch) then walk/take local bus.

Food/Drink: Café at museum. Also local pubs, cafes, shops and takeaways at Kew Bridge, Kew Green (across river) and Brentford.

Local Area: Other attractions include Kew Gardens, The London Museum of Water and Steam, the Thames towpath and Strand on the Green.

Contact: **Brian Ashmore** by email brian.ashmore@outlook.com

COMMITTEE NEWS

At the AGM on 12 July 2022, three members of our committee complete their three-year term and will be leaving the committee. These are the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

In the event of these posts not being filled Meopham u3a will no longer be able to continue - it is as simple as that.

Please consider joining the committee in one or other of these capacities.

To find out more, any member of Meopham u3a can contact the current post holders via the website or at the monthly meeting and then attend a committee meeting to see what the positions entail.

Committee meetings are currently held on the 2nd Wed of the month (the day after the monthly Members Meetings) in the upstairs hall of St John's church Meopham, from 2-4pm. The next meeting is on 9 March 2022 at 2pm.

In the latest Third Age Matters, Feb 2022, p14, 1st column, U3A founder Eric Midwinter says: 'There is a danger of U3A becoming a service to third-agers rather than a self-help organisation.'

This is urgent - the continuation of Meopham U3A depends upon finding a new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. At least one Kent u3a has recently closed as new committee members could not be found.....

Come and talk to your committee to find out how you can support your u3a.

BEACON NEWS

At Meopham u3a we, along with about 500 other u3as use Beacon for secure and safe email contact.

If you are a Beacon user and you encounter any difficulties you are welcome to contact crdcu3a@gmail.com for help but it may be quicker and more convenient to use the newly beefed up guidance. These documents can be found at the bottom of the Beacon home page as soon as you log in. This now includes much more detailed information and short videos to guide you through the most usual glitches.

Please note that maintenance of the Beacon site takes place on Tuesday mornings and it may be unavailable during those times.

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS COORDINATOR

News from our Groups

If you need to contact Sue, your groups' coordinator, about anything to do with groups, please get in touch via the website, email her at mepgroups22@gmail.com or speak to her at the monthly Members Meeting or a Coffee Morning.

Sign Language has 8 prospective members and an initial meeting of this group will be arranged soon. Now is the time to add your name to the list if you would like to join at the beginning of the new group.

Spanish now has 6 potential members on the list and I would like to hear from anyone else interested in participating in this new group.

Book group 4 is now operating and has 5 members. More would be welcome.

National Trust Visits and **Garden visits** aim to start meetings in April and details of the visit, dates times etc will be emailed to the current members of those groups and shared with all members in the April Bulletin

Singing meet twice a month, the first and third Tuesday of each month 9.45 - 11.45.

COFFEE MORNINGS

The Meopham U3A coffee morning is held at the Cricketers Pub in Meopham on the last Monday of each month from 10:00 to 11:30.

This is a great opportunity to catch up with your committee and fellow members over a cuppa. If you are a new member you are especially welcome to come along so you can find out how to make the most of your membership and ask any questions you may have. Friends and neighbours who are interested in finding out about Mu3a or who wish to join are very welcome to come along too so please invite them.

The next gathering will be on Monday 28th March 2022.

Spring Gathering
Thursday 7th April 2022 at 10.00

. Happy 40th Anniversary to the u3a.
Celebrate with the South East Region

PROGRAMME *All timings are approximate. Please allow time to log in. Zoom opens at 09.15*

9.30 - 9.45 Introduction – **Susie Berry**, Trustee for the South East Region

9.45- 10.45 Leigh Edward's Science in the past 40 years Followed by Q & A

10.45 - 11.45 Clive Woodward Poetry and Anecdotes from last 40yrs

LUNCH BREAK

12.30-1.00 Breakout rooms

Topic to discuss.

What is your u3a doing to celebrate the 40th anniversary?

What other ideas do you have? (The more unusual the better)

1.00-1.15 Feedback from Breakout rooms

1.15 - 2.15 **Rodney Buckland** subject advisor for Research on Research projects
Followed by q and a

2.15 - 2.30 Farewell and close – **Susie Berry**

Registration is free for u3a members. Please book here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/spring-gathering-tickets-268897147607>

Eventbrite will send an acknowledgement immediately and the Zoom link a few days before the event. Please check your junk / spam box if you don't see these.

Closing date for registration is 6th April