



March 2024 Bulletin

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 12 March 2024

St Johns Church Meopham

2pm

Notes from the Chair – *Mike Chantry*

We've had a relatively quiet February, but at least the weather was relatively mild, albeit a little wet towards the end of the month. Within this bulletin you'll find information on how to book two of our up-coming social events:

Murder Mystery Evening - we've found that we can now accommodate more participants than we first thought so there are still spaces available.

Social Coach trip to Windsor on Tuesday 21st May - 50 places available.

The more interest that is shown, the more social events we can plan.

We now have a full committee but we need to start introducing members who may be interested in taking over when I and other committee members have to stand down.

Without committing yourself, why don't you attend one of our meetings as observers to see how it works. In reality, it's a bit like joining another friendly group. I appreciate most members join as they're only interested in the groups we offer, but we do need a committee

to keep things moving forward.

Please don't be shy, drop me an email to chairmu3a@gmail.com and I'll get back to you with more information.

INTRODUCTION TO OUR SPEAKER – *from Beryl Connelly*



Join Jennifer Godfrey, author of SUFFRAGETTES OF KENT, to hear stories of hope, determination, courage and sacrifice of those campaigning for women's suffrage in Kent. Topics covered will include: a peaceful suffrage pilgrimage, suffrage van tours, militant action in Kent, the previously untold story of a Kent working class maid arrested and imprisoned for window-smashing in London and forcible feeding. Jennifer will also touch on the subject of and reasoning behind her second book which is due for publication at the end of March 2024. There will be a chance for Q and A after the talk. Jennifer will also be selling signed copies of her book for £10 at the event (cash or card).

WALKING TENNIS - *from Carole Dickenson*

Thursday 2pm

This group is being offered in conjunction with Meopham Tennis Club: Kent Tennis Club of the Year 2023.

Walking tennis ideal for any Mu3a member who would enjoy an hour of sociable and fun exercise in the fresh air. It is suitable for everyone whether you are a beginner or have played before. Everyone is welcome. What have you got to lose?

The game is played as doubles with a larger, softer ball and two bounces are allowed..... but running and jumping are not. There will be an element of coaching and time for free play at each session. The club has 5 courts so 20 members can play at any one time. Some of you may enjoy the chance to sit and watch too!

Why not come along to a free taster session at Meopham Tennis club (behind the village hall) on Thursday 7th March for 2pm?

Please wear trainers and suitable outdoor clothing and bring a racquet if you have one. There will be some coaching available as well as a chance to look around the club and the afternoon will conclude with refreshments.

Walking Tennis sessions proper will start on Thursday April 25th 2024 at 2pm. Cost per session will be around £4 depending on numbers.

Interested in the taster session?

Email crdcu3a@gmail.com or jdtu3a@gmail.com to book you place or register your interest in the taster day via our website <https://www.meophamu3a.org.uk/groups> and click on walking tennis.

NB The taster day is just that ...you are not committing yourself to joining the group.

Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons – from Paul Campion

Members of Meopham How Things Work Group visited the Museum on 21 February and are seen in the photo below surrounding a statue of John Hunter backed by the main staircase featuring portraits of past presidents of the Royal College of Surgeons in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

The College is the HQ of English surgery and has recently been redeveloped at considerable expense, £4.6million alone has been spent on upgrading the Hunterian Museum using both traditional and wonderful modern display techniques.

John Hunter was an 18th century anatomist and surgeon and the museum traces much of the development of surgery to include current examples of robotic and specialist surgery practised today. Much of this is seen through the eyes of Hunter whose prolific efforts to advance anatomical knowledge, medicine and surgery have clearly consumed decades of dedicated hard work and research.

We saw historical collections of healthy and diseased specimens in glass jars and wonderful descriptions of the many surgical instruments on view. Surgical training was clearly described from the early years to films of current surgeons describing their patients and operations.

There are many beautiful portraits, items of furniture and clocks on view and the quality of the presentation is outstanding.

Much of the information is highly detailed and several visits may be required to do it justice. The Hunterian Museum is free and was much enjoyed by the HTW Group.



Meopham u3a Social Team's 2024 Coach Trip to Windsor and Eton – from Mike Chantry

Tuesday May 21st 2024. Approx pick up times 8.30am from one of three pick up points along the Wrotham Road – near Instead Rise, the Church and Culverstone. Returning back at approximately 6.30pm. Cost Just £18.00 on a luxurious Kingsferry 53-seater coach

Visit the historic town of Windsor on a day tour from Meopham. Treat yourself to a visit to Windsor Castle, the Official Residence of His Majesty King Charles. Admire the mighty stronghold, built by William the Conqueror in the 11th century, peek into the royal bedchambers and see Queen Mary's doll house, then stroll the beautiful gardens and enjoy free time in Windsor. Tickets for the Castle and other attractions are not included in the coach ticket price.

Windsor and Eton sit across the River Thames from each other and are easy to explore on foot. A 20-minute foray gets you from Windsor Castle to Eton College, while a 5-minute stroll will take you to the riverside, where you can catch a scenic river cruise. Cabs and local buses are also convenient. Many tourists opt for hop-on hop-off buses, which follow circular routes around and between both towns.

Halfway down Eton High Street, you'll find Tastes Delicatessen, a tiny gem of a store dedicated to fine foods and treats, including local specialties. Take some time to browse shelves crammed with pickles, preserves, and biscuits, and cold cases stuffed full of olives, cured meats, cheeses, and other delicacies. The deli's handmade and super-flaky sausage rolls, and the gloriously scrummy Scotch eggs, are particularly good—and perfect for a picnic overlooking the Thames. Some more information on local attractions is shown below.

To book please pay the Social Account £18.00 per ticket and email mikechantry1959@gmail.com to confirm you've paid.

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

Account Meopham u3a

Account No: 83133348


Sort code: 51-81-07

Ref: WINDSOR + (your surname)

For you



WORKSHOP OR CLASS
Windsor: Dr Choc's Express
Chocolate Making Workshop
15 minutes • Access by Foot
★ ★ ★ ★ 4.4 (7)
From £16.95 per person



ENTRY TICKET
Windsor Castle Admission Ticket
1 day • Optional audio guide
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.7 (4,210)
From £30 per person



ENTRY TICKET
LEGOLAND Windsor Resort:
Entrance Ticket
1 - 2 days
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.5 (111)
From £35 per person

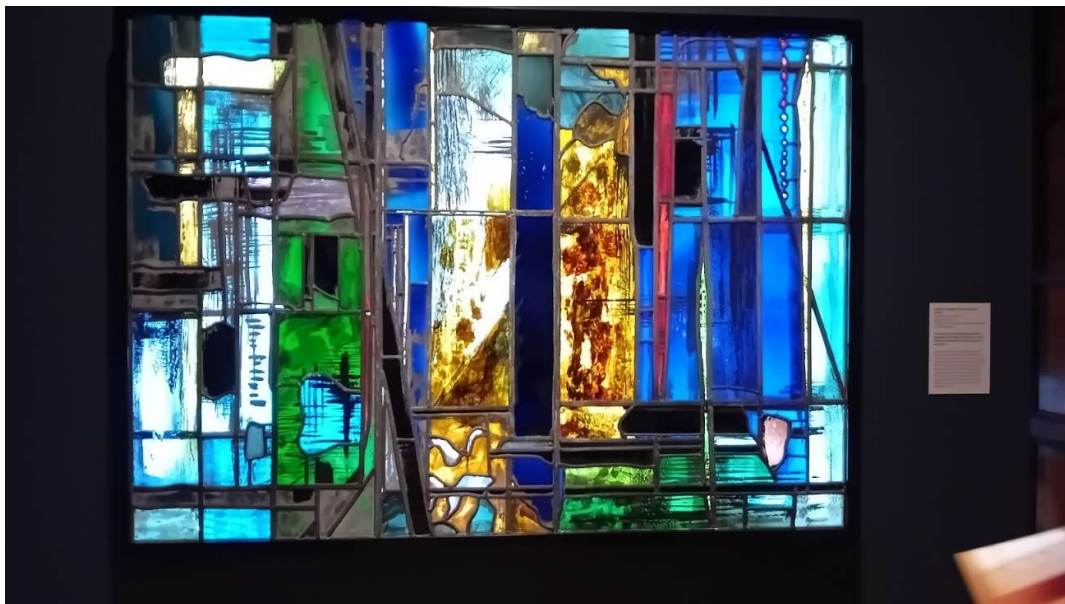


HOP-ON HOP-OFF TOUR
Windsor: Golden Tours Open
Top Hop-on Hop-off Bus Tour
1 day • Optional audio guide
★ ★ ★ ★ 4.1 (13)
From £16 per person

London Visits 1 – The Glass Heart and Temple Church – *from Ann MacEwan*

The Glass Heart: “This bold new exploration of glass in the UK brings together for the very first time rarely seen works from key UK collections, celebrating this remarkable material – unforgiving, fragile, strong, sustainable. The Glass Heart will make you think again about glass as we explore how it has illuminated and contained human narratives and ideas.”

Temple Church: “The Church is one of the most historic and beautiful churches in London. Here are eight hundred years of history: from the Crusaders in the 12th century, through the turmoil of the Reformation and the founding father of Anglican theology, to some of the most famous church music in London, week by week – music which we invite you to come and hear when you are next within striking distance of the Temple. The Church was built by the Knights Templar, the order of crusading monks founded to protect pilgrims on their way to and from Jerusalem in the 12th century. The Church is in two parts: the Round and the Chancel. The Round Church was consecrated in 1185 by the patriarch of Jerusalem. It was designed to recall the holiest place in the Crusaders’ world: the circular Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. It is a numinous space – and has a wonderful acoustic for singing.”





Meopham Windmill – from Dave Denman

The sails , cap , tail are currently being rebuilt in Suffolk at the Millwrights and a couple of Trustees will be visiting on Tues to inspect .

The plan remains for them to be refitted in the Spring and we hope to have a firm date after our visit .

At the Mill, work has been carried out on the garden to cut grass , trim hedges and an assessment carried out on the historic mulberry tree .

A full detailed account of work carried out to date is on the Windmill Volunteers Group on our Interest Group webpage, including some photos of the new sails (sweeps) in Workshop and some internal photos of Mill prior to sweeps removal .

We are keen, also, to attract more members to our groupthere will be a variety of things to do in the next few months !

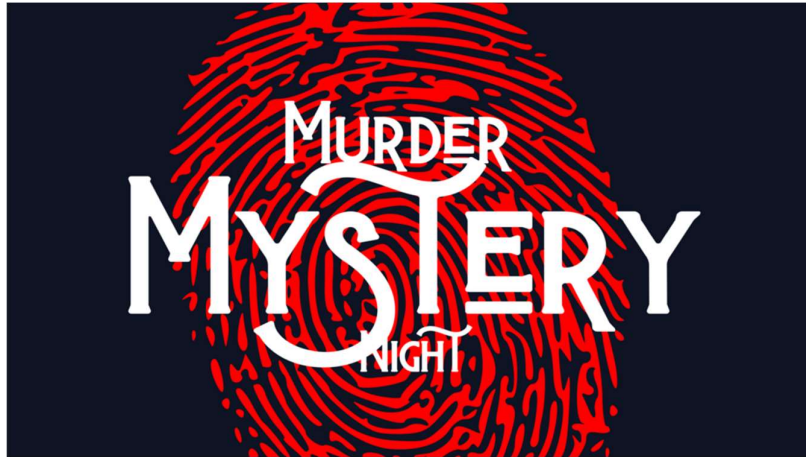


Murder Mystery Night – from Mike Chantry

Venue: Meopham Village Hall

Date: Saturday 27th April 2024, 7.00pm for sharp 7.30pm start

Cost £15 per head to include a Fish and Chip Supper (sausage or veggie alternatives)



If you love a crime series, are rather partial to the latest detective blockbuster, or are a bit of a Cluedo sleuth, you will love this Meopham u3a Murder Mystery Evening. You can immerse yourself in solving the crime, taking notes when you hear the suspects questioned, or you can just sit back and observe the action.

You will witness a play by actors providing you the clues to solve the mystery. But remember, not all the actors will be telling the truth. You will not be asked to play a part, so you just need to sit back and look for the clues that may help you discover who is the murderer.

Don't worry, there's not too much blood on show, and certainly not enough to put you off your fish and chip supper (sausage, or a veggie option, and chips if you prefer) You're welcome to bring your own booze, but don't drink too much if you hope to solve the crime!

No humans or animals will be harmed in the making of this murder mystery evening, but you may will see some fake stage blood to make the crime even more realistic!

The characters on stage are interesting and engaging because the actors have many years' experience at putting on these events.

People have asked "Could one of our party be the murder victim please?" No matter how deserving or annoying they are, all guests will be required to remain alive for the duration of the murder mystery experience, but nice try!

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT: PLEASE EMAIL mikechantry1959@gmail.com

END OF THE BULLETIN