



May 2022 Bulletin

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 2pm

GUY BARLETT – THE RED ARROWS

Red Arrows pilots are amongst the most highly skilled and experienced within the Royal Air Force. Guy Bartlett explores the history of RAF Aerobatics teams and includes a look at what goes into making the RAF Red Arrows the premier aerobatics team in the world.

BRING YOUR OWN CUP TO THE MONTHLY TALKS

Your Committee is pleased to confirm that the arrangements for the monthly talks at St John's church (starting with the one on 12 April) are going back to the pre Covid set up.

The meeting will be open to everyone (no booking in advance) and refreshments will be provided in the church hall afterwards.

Mu3a will provide tea, coffee, milk, sugar, etc. (and a slop bucket for any leftover liquids in your cup!).

We do request, however, that you bring your own tea/coffee cup or container to the meetings in order to minimise any risk of infection.

From May onwards the Group refreshment rota will be reinstated and volunteers from the designated group will be asked to assist in the kitchen. Please rally your group when it is their turn so that everyone can have a convivial end to their afternoon.

We hope you will all continue to attend and enjoy the monthly talks and the opportunity to chat with friends afterwards. New groups sign ups and other opportunities will also be part of the monthly meeting once again.

Your Mu3a Committee looks forward to seeing you at the talk in May.

CLASSIC VEHICLE MEET UP
Hosted by How Things Work group
Wednesday 6th July

Have you a Classic vehicle- car or motorcycle- or would you like the chance to meet other Mu3a members who have? May be you are thinking of getting a classic vehicle and would like to chance to chat to members who are already owners?

The plan is to meet up with fellow Meopham U3A members at a local Pub for lunch and for the chance to admire the vehicles. This will be followed by an optional run.

If you would like to go along, please contact

David Denman, dave.denman49@outlook.com for further details and timings.

Research & Shared Learning National Conference 3rd August 2022

'She smuggled home her father's severed head, wrapped in her apron....'

A family story, handed down over generations, was a starting point members of for Glasgow West End Local History group. Working with local archives and museums, they uncovered the true, tragic story behind the family tale: the death of James 'Purlie' Wilson. You can share in the findings from Glasgow West End's projects, and more besides at our day conference on 3rd August in Preston, Lancashire

From archaeology to urban sketching, there will be displays of members' work to to inspire, handouts to take away, presentations by project leaders and opportunities to ask questions. The full programme will be circulated later in May.

The conference is open to those already involved in u3a research / shared learning projects, and also to any u3a member who wants to know more.

Here is the link to more details and the booking form <https://forms.gle/gUxvQcEecF7KJTW46>

Lunch will be provided. The venue is directly opposite Preston mainline station. If driving to the venue, Fishergate Shopping Centre Car park offers 24-hour parking for £8.50 and is a short walk from the venue.

If you have any queries on slp@u3a.org.uk

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 30th May 2022.

EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT EVENT FOR THE MONTHLY MEETING:

The monthly meeting in March was cancelled at the last minute due to the ill health of the speaker. At the coffee morning on Monday 4 April, I asked if there were groups and/or individuals who would be willing to take part in an 'impromptu' replacement event in case this happened again (e.g. 20-minute talk, group presentation, run a quiz etc.)

What I would like to have is a list of individuals/groups I could contact at short notice. In adding your name to the list you are in no way committed to being available but it would be a great help to know of some groups/members who might be able to help in an emergency.

Thank you

Beryl

Please contact Beryl via meopspeaker@gmail.com

BEACON NEWS

Beacon, for those of you who don't know, is the data management system that we use within Mu3a to communicate amongst our groups and to store your membership safely and legally.

It would be helpful to strengthen the Beacon team. The tasks are not onerous and are very straightforward. They usually involve allocating new passwords when a new group starts or a contact changes or amending members details if they move or change their email. Please contact crdcu3a@gmail.com if you would like to join the team.

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 a monthly meeting or coffee morning.

Group contacts meeting

25 Group Contacts attended a bi-annual meeting at the Cricketers Inn on 4 April 2022, where they shared information about their groups and discussed plans for the forthcoming year. Along with written reports from 9 of the groups who were unable to send a representative, we received feedback from 80% of all the groups, demonstrating the engagement and commitment of the group contacts on behalf of their groups. A further 9 groups were unrepresented on this occasion.

Sign Language

An exciting new Sign Language group has now been set-up after the initial meeting at the Cricketers Inn on 11 April was attended by 10 members. The group will meet on the 2nd Friday of each month from 2-4pm in the Committee room in Meopham Village Hall, where they will learn British Sign Language through a variety of written and digital media, supported by the input of one or two members who have a bit of past experience with BSL.

Spanish

A new Spanish group has now been set-up after the initial meeting at the Cricketers Inn on 11 April was attended by 6 members, and supported by a member who had attended a previous Meopham U3A Spanish group started in 2015. The new group decided use the BBC Spanish course. The group will rotate the meetings in members homes on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, from 10am - 12 noon, starting on Mon 9 May 2022.

Writing and Reminiscing

This group has run its course and has decided to close.

Summer School June 2023

Have you ever considered going to a U3A summer school, but felt you didn't want to go alone? If so, let me know, and I will see if there is likely to be a small group who would like to go to Chichester together in 2023.

How do groups start?

Groups come and goand this is healthy for the growth of a u3a.If you have an idea for a new group please make contact Sue in the first instance. Maybe you took up a new interest during Covid and would like to find others with the same interest or you perhaps you want to find a way to learn a new skill. Mu3a could be a way to get started learning and sharing with others.

Sue will then circulate the details of the new group and once there is sufficient interest for the group to be viable she will arrange an initial meeting. Ideas are welcome from new members and those who have belonged for a while.

u3a National Science Network 2022

This network organises science-based Zoom learning events with 3 presentations of 45 minutes followed by questions after each presentation, with a break for refreshments and for lunch.

The meetings start at 10:30 (doors open at 10:15) and will end with a short plenary session at 3 o'clock.

The April meeting was held on Tuesday 5 April with presentations by

- Rhobert Lewis, Brecon u3a
- Leigh Edwards, Science Subject Adviser
- Rodney Buckland, Meopham u3a

The day concluded with thanks and a summary of the day.

THE NEXT MEETING IS

The July meeting -Tuesday 26 July 2022

The next meeting is in preparation and as soon as the programme is finalised it will be advertised. This is billed as the Anniversary meeting and it is hoped that at least one nationally known scientist will be a presenter.

For more details contact -

u3a.us9.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=c3bcf0493f

It is intended to have a mixture of on line and physical meetings of this network in the future including the return of the annual science summer school.

Mu3a 7th AGM 12th July 2022

2pm

Please put this date in your diary and make it a priority to attend. The future of our u3a depends on you.

Thank you

Your committee

END OF THE BULLETIN