



October 2021 Bulletin

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 12th October 2021

'Working with the ghosts of Hampton Court Palace'

Sarah Slater is a guide at Hampton Court and our speaker for October. She will be telling us all about 'Working with the ghosts of Hampton Court Palace' She will be wearing one of her costumes whilst talking about her experiences and give us a glimpse of what it is like to wander the galleries late at night on her own in the dark. She will lead us on an exploration of the history, stories and sightings of some of the ghosts of Hampton Court Palace that have been reported over the last few hundred years.

The zoom link is below.

Topic: Meopham U3A Monthly Talk

Time: 12 Oct 2021, 1:45 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting: see your email of this bulletin for details.

Meeting ID:

Passcode:

IMPORTANT

DO YOU WANT TO PUBLICISE YOUR GROUP?

If you are a group contact who would like to tell us all very briefly about their groups activities or advertise for more members our main speaker do please contact Alison Hillman via the website who will give you a slot.

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS

HOW TO JOIN A GROUP

Groups are central to the u3a movement and they are what differentiates us from other organisations for those no longer in full time employment. A u3a is a self-help organisation, in other words, unlike Adult Ed there is rarely a tutor or course leader. The success or otherwise of each group depends upon its members, how they to organise themselves and their enjoyment of learning together. To this end all members are asked to make a positive contribution to the group and take a turn at organising or arranging its meetings.

In the past Mu3a has held an open meeting, known as the 3R's, when members could sign up to join new groups but this has not been an option in 2020 or 2021. For now joining groups will have to be done on line so here is a brief reminder of how to join a Mu3a group via the website. This information is mainly to help our recent members to get involved but could be helpful to established members who wish to try something different.

How do I join a group?

If you would like to join a group then visit our website <https://www.meophamu3a.org.uk/> and click on "Interest Group Page ".Here you will see a list of the groups currently on offer. Click on the group name to see more. To make enquires or to ask to join the group click on the bluebird symbol and type your message.

You will be contacted by the Group Contact in due course. Please be patient whilst you wait for a reply as our Group Contacts are all volunteers.

The group I'd like to join is FULL

If the group is "FULL" it is still worth sending a message. The group contact will let the Groups' Co-ordinator know and once there is sufficient interest to make a new group viable a meeting can be arranged to set one up.

There isn't a group catering for my interest or hobby.

Contact the Groups Co-coordinator via the website and request that a group is set up. The group will then be advertised to members and once there is sufficient interest to make a new group viable, one can be set up. This is how many of our groups came about.

The group I'd like to join has folded

For all sorts of reasons some groups have ceased to run during the past 18 months while others are not intending to restart. If you would like to try to revive a group then contact the Groups Co-coordinator who will advertise it as a totally new group and seek interest. Although it is sad to see groups fold it is also an opportunity to make adaptations or adjustments and keeps the range of groups on offer fresh and up to date.

I no longer wish to belong to a group

Interests change, circumstances change and members discover new hobbies so this is going to happen .Please email the group contact as a courtesy and let them know. Other members who are interested in joining the group can then be invited along which keeps the group vital.

Thank you Heather

So what is on offer

HOW THINGS WORK – back visiting places of interest

MUSIC ENSEMBLE –meeting again

PATCHWORK BEGINNERS –restarting in an indoor venue

QUILTING- restarting indoors

ART APPRECIATION – meeting indoors

IT – awaiting the reopening of the library

ITALIAN –meeting again

CYCLING- out riding

CANASTA –now meeting in the hall at Culverstone

PETANQUE-restarts in the spring

FITNESS FOR FUN – restarted at the Leisure centre

BRIDGE – back in the Village Hall

HISTORY – meeting again

AMBLERS –walking locally

CRIBBAGE –moving back to an indoor venue

GARDEN VISITS - restarts in the spring

BOOK GROUPS – meeting indoors again

LONDON VISITS 1-some visits planned with possible zoom meeting in the winter

LONDON VISITS 2 – a new contact has volunteered and it will restart with a meeting in the spring

NATIONAL TRUST –possible Christmas visit otherwise it will restart in the spring

LANGUAGE GROUPS- these have suffered more than most during lockdown. German and Spanish have closed for now. Some French groups and the Italian group are still meeting. Check the website.

WINE APPRECIATION 3 meeting indoors again and seeking new members

GENEALOGY – meeting indoors in December

CURRENT AFFAIRS –seeking new members..See next page

SINGING –meeting in a venue again

MENS SINGING –meeting in person and have visited a care home to sing for the residents

....and much much more on the website

Current Affairs 2 (Daytime Group)

Our lively group generally meets on the last Friday morning of the month in a member's home. Like many groups our numbers have fallen because members have moved away or have not re-joined U3A so **NEW MEMBERS** are welcome.

Discussions range from global to local issues.

Why not come along to a meeting and give it a try!

Valerie Boswell (Group Contact).



London Visits 1 enjoyed a trip to Brompton Cemetery.

MEOPHAM u3a AGM 12th OCTOBER 2021

After a successful virtual and postal AGM last year your committee intends to do the same this year....just in case things should change again.

More details have been emailed to you or they can be found on our website.

END OF THE BULLETIN