



SHEPWAY AND DISTRICT

shepway.u3asite.uk

Registered Charity No. 1149472

Newsletter May 2025

COFFEE MORNINGS

Dates for the next coffee mornings are

Wednesday 21st May – Voco (Clifton) Hotel, Folkestone 10.30am

Friday 23rd May – Tin Tabernacle, Hythe 11.00am

Friday 30th May – Ship Hotel, New Romney 10.30am

It would be very helpful if those attending can bring the correct money for their coffee i.e. £2.50 for one, £5 for two etc. at the Clifton and Ship Hotels and £2 each at the Tin Tab. This will ensure that there will be no problem with providing change.

You will be able to register for groups, book for events, and discuss anything with the committee. If you have friends interested in joining, please bring them along. New members are always welcome.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Members Meeting is the AGM on **Wednesday 14th May at 2pm** at the Tin Tabernacle in Hythe.

A review of the year and elections to the Committee.

Attachments are on pages 19-22.

AFTERNOON FILM MATINEE

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 7th May at 2.00pm**.

Les Misérables with Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe & Anne Hathaway. Booking is required.

Further information is on page 5

COMING EVENTS

Afternoon Film Matinee: *Les Misérables* **Wednesday 7th May**. See page 5 for details.

AGM **Wednesday 14th May** (see this page for details)

June Newsletter

If you have any material about group activities or other pieces that may interest members, including poems, quizzes etc, please send them to Tony at shepwaymembership@gmail.com by the **21st May**.

Membership and General Enquiries

Email: shepwaymembership@gmail.com

Joining Groups and Enquiries

Telephone/Text: 07938 999 015

Email: shepwaygroups@gmail.com

Disability Contacts:

Email: shepwaymembership@gmail.com

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

I am writing this on Easter Monday. The ancient Easter greeting: *Christus resurrexerit est! Christ is risen!* has resounded round the world in Latin and many other languages. Indeed, both Western, and Eastern Orthodox Christianity shared the same date for Easter this year - 20 April – a moment which happens only every few years. In other years they can be four or five weeks apart because of our different calendars. And as I write the news is breaking that Pope Francis has sadly died.

But now.....the holiday is nearly over. The Easter sports events are won or lost (I know it was before Easter – but I must record that Cambridge won the boat race in both the men's and women's events!). The children are going back to school for the exam term. The routine of normal life is resuming. The Easter break is finishing. What is there to look forward to? Maybe a few Easter eggs, or hot cross buns?

Well, the good news is that better weather will hopefully mean that our outside groups can go full swing. Bird watching; cycling; flora, fauna, foraging; golf, pétanque, long walks, short walks – just look at our website <https://shepway.u3asite.uk/groups/>. And we are hoping to start a Nordic walking group – see elsewhere in this newsletter. In addition, of course, all our inside groups and other activities are carrying on.

Our AGM will soon be upon us – 2.00 pm Wednesday 14 May in the Tin Tabernacle. We had a good number last year – and I hope we can have even more of our members present this year. We shall look back at the past year, look ahead to the coming year, and elect members to our Committee. This year we are losing Tony Scofield, Christine Hughes, and Jacqui Bray from the Committee. A big thank you to them for their good work over their time with us. Tony deserves a particular mention because of his years of work as membership secretary, as well as his former responsibilities for the website. I am delighted that although not on the Committee, he is going to continue producing this newsletter.



The closing date for nominations to the Committee is 30 April. It is excellent news that Roger Wood is standing as Vice chair, and I am really pleased that Katherine Robinson (whose term of office is ending) will stand again as Treasurer.

Jacqueline Mack, who manages our events and visits, is also coming to the end of her term, but has kindly agreed to stand again. Christina Ford is also standing and will continue formally as the Committee's Minute Secretary. And Sue Dickie will be standing with a view to becoming our Membership Secretary.

Because we have three more vacancies than candidates, all these people will automatically come on to the Committee, but need to be ratified by the AGM. But it would be great to fill those three vacancies. Could this be your way of contributing to the U3A? Email me if you are interested u3achairmansteve@gmail.com. You will find the nomination form later in this newsletter.

Steve O'Neill

My Time on the U3A Committee – PLEASE READ!

Due to personal circumstances, after the AGM on May 14 th I am stepping down from 3 great years with our Shepway committee.

I would love to hand over my post to somebody new and enthusiastic.

I have achieved and learnt so much over this time and made many new friends.

I co-ordinate the groups that attend other venues than the tin tabernacle and the light railway. This involves finding new premises and sorting out any problems and changes in attendance. There is always support and guidance from the very friendly committee and I would be happy to assist in any way for the first few months.

There are lots of social events and coffee mornings giving the opportunity to get to know many new people.

If anyone feels interested, and would like to find out more, please feel free to e mail me on:

Hughesc1@hotmail.co.uk

Christine Hughes

Tin Tabernacle Refreshment Arrangements

Our grateful thanks to **Jacqui and Chris Bray** who have supervised the supply of tea and coffee at our 4th Friday coffee morning at the Tin Tabernacle for the last few years. They are moving on to other duties but will be greatly missed. We have really appreciated their reliable help.

Huge thanks too to **Nina Chislett and Pat Beatty** who will now take charge of arrangements for refreshments at the Tin Tabernacle for both Members' Meetings and coffee mornings. Please see Nina's plea below and come and give your support.

Linda

Tin Tabernacle Refreshments: we need your help!

Whether you are on the Volunteers List or not, **we particularly need help with refreshments at the Tin Tabernacle for the monthly Wednesday Members Meetings and, from May, the Friday Coffee Mornings.**

Both these meetings are very popular and a great way to meet other u3a members. We need just 2 or 3 people to help with tea and coffee at each meeting, and it would be really useful if we had a list of people (male or female) we could call on a purely voluntary basis. If you think this is something you might like to help with every now and then, please email me at ninachislett@btinternet.com so that I can add you to the list. It's a really worthwhile effort and much appreciated.

Nina

Membership Renewal 2025 – 6

Our new membership year started on 1st April 2025, and we would be grateful if you could renew in good time before then. Just follow the instructions below. Please note that your membership number, if requested, can be found on any of our emails to all members. **If you have not renewed by the end of April your membership will lapse.** We hope very much that you enjoy being in our U3A and will want to remain a member

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

We have kept the annual subscription at **£35.00** for each member, and you can renew and pay in the following ways

1. Online via our website and Beacon (our new and preferred way of renewing)

- Go to our website <https://shepway.u3asite.uk/renewal/> and click on the button labelled “Online Renewal”. This will take you to the Beacon members portal.
- Insert your email address and password to enter the portal
- Click on “Renew your membership” and follow the instructions.
- You may pay by PayPal, or if you do not have a PayPal account, by clicking on the button labelled “Pay by debit or credit card”. No PayPal account is needed.
- If you wish to add Gift Aid to your subscription, please tick the appropriate box while making the on-line payment.

(To renew in this way, however, you must have first registered with Beacon for a membership account. You can do this via the Register with Portal button on the website renewal page. Alternatively, go to <https://shepway.u3asite.uk/resources>, click on Members Login, click on Register for a membership account, and follow the instructions.

2. Online bank transfer (CAF Bank)

- Account: **Shepway and District U3A**; Sort Code:**40-52-40**; A/C No: **00031591**
- Include, as payment reference, the word **SUBS** and ideally your membership number
- You must email the Membership Secretary and say you have paid: shepwaymembership@gmail.com

3. Cheque

- Make your cheque payable to: **Shepway and District U3A** and write **SUBS**, and ideally your membership number & postcode on the back. If paying for someone else, write their name, **SUBS**, & ideally membership number & postcode on the back!
- Post the cheque to **Membership Secretary, Flat 3, 1-3 Broadfield Road, Folkestone CT20 2JT** or bring it to a coffee morning.

4. Cash or card

- Bring cash in an envelope to a coffee morning and include a covering note with **your name**, the word **SUBS** and ideally your **membership number and postcode**.
- You can pay by card at a Tin Tabernacle coffee morning. Bring a covering note with **your name**, the word **SUBS** and ideally your **membership number and postcode**

GIFT AIDING is an easy way to increase your subscription by 25% at no cost to yourself. Many members already do. If you pay tax, and have not gift aided previously or when you made your on-line payment, but would like to now, please contact our Membership Secretary on shepwaymembership@gmail.com . There is also a gift aid form on the website <https://shepway.u3asite.uk/renewal/> which you can print and return to our Membership Secretary

FILM MATINEE

Tin Tabernacle – 2pm

Admission £6 including refreshments. Advance booking required.



Wednesday 7th May

‘Les Misérables’ starring Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway

The musical phenomenon, Jean Valjean, known as Prisoner 24601, is released from prison and breaks parole to create a new life for himself while evading the grip of the persistent Inspector Javert. Set in post-revolutionary France, the story reaches resolution against the background of the June Rebellion.



Friday 30th May (please note change of date)

‘Gone with the Wind’ starring Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, Leslie Howard, Olivia De Havilland

The epic story, winner of 10 academy awards. Scarlett is a woman who can deal with a nation at war, Atlanta burning, the Union Army carrying off everything from her beloved Tara, the carpetbaggers who arrive after the war. Scarlett is beautiful. She has vitality. But Ashley, the man she has wanted for so long, is going to marry his placid cousin, Melanie. Mammy warns Scarlett to behave herself at the party at Twelve Oaks. There is a new man there that day, the day the Civil War begins. Rhett Butler. Scarlett does not know he is in the room when she pleads with Ashley to choose her instead of Melanie

BOOKING FORM - FILM MATINEE

1st Wednesday starting at 2pm

I / we wish to attend the Film Matinee

- May 7th – Les Misérables
- May 30th – Gone with the Wind

Name/s

.....
.....

Payment and booking (Cheques payable to ‘Shepway & District U3A’)

- £6 per person per film
- By cheque or cash at coffee morning
- By post: send booking form and cheque to ‘The Organiser, 52 Lower Corniche, Hythe, CT21 4SE’
- Online: Pay through your bank, to ‘Shepway & District U3A’, Sort code: 40-52-40, account number: 00031591 and clearly state in the reference field ‘MATINEE ‘your name/s’. Separately email names and dates to shepwaybeacon@gmail.com.

Bookings close on the Friday before each matinee.

TRAVEL AND TRIPS WITH VIV KENNY, REAL SOCIALISING – ISSUED 20TH APRIL 2025

We are very pleased to welcome members to two bespoke trips in May. We have sent emails out to those who have booked but in case some have slipped through the net, and you haven't received our information, or we have ended up in spam, here is a repeat of our pick up times and routes for both trips:

16th May - Houses of Parliament and the Bank of England Museum:

8:25: Bus Stop, Opposite The Ship, New Romney High Street
8:30: Jefferstone Lane, (A259) St. Marys Bay (Dymchurch available on request)
8.45: Red Lion Square, Folkestone bound side
8.55: Bus Stop opposite Homepine House, Sandgate Road, Folkestone
9.00: Central Station, Cheriton bound side
9.05: Opposite Cheriton Post Office (Lighthouse 43 Bus stop)

24th May - Chagall Windows talk and tour of Tudeley Church:

8.30: Cheriton Post Office
8.35: Homepine House, Sandgate Road, Folkestone
8.40: Sandgate, Bus Stop at Royal Norfolk
8.45: Seabrook, Bus Stop opposite The Fountain
8.50: Waitrose Hythe; then Red Lion Square, Hythe
9.20: A20, Ashford, if Arts group have booked

We do still have a few spaces on both which are priced at £27pp; so if you are interested then please email me on viv@realsocialising.co.uk or call between 10 and 4 Monday to Friday on **0777 3946828**

WE HAVE TWO NEW TRIPS TO TEMPT YOU.

Lambeth Palace – Friday 27th June: Sometimes we are very lucky with advance notice and with Lambeth Palace, we have been fortunate to have notice on one of the very few opening days this year. If you are interested in booking, then don't delay as places are selling very quickly. The cost is £39pp and includes executive coaching and the guided tour. The event is offered as one of Lambeth Palace's HOPE days and will benefit a charity, this day being given over to raise funds and awareness for 'Help Musicians', part of the Musicians Benevolent Fund. **Booking Link:** www.realsocialising.co.uk/events/lambeth_palace/

The Tower Remembers – Saturday, 20th September: This is our second new trip where we visit the Tower of London as it marks the end of the Second World War. You will remember the stunning display of ceramic Poppies that adorned the moat of the Tower of London marking the centenary of the First World War, and 30,000 of the original poppies have been loaned by the Imperial War Museum and will form a stunning display from the White Tower within the walls of the Tower of London. The cost of £54 (for seniors) includes return executive coaching, entry to the Tower and its display; and you will also enjoy access to get up close to the Crown Jewels, meet the legendary Yeoman Warders and ravens and see the Tower like never before. **Booking Link:** www.realsocialising.co.uk/events/tower_remembers_2025/

For both the above, we recommend a quick check of the diary and to book with us before it's too late. If they are showing 'sold out' or full, email us with your details and we will add you to our reserve list.

Its trips such as these that we announce to our mailing list subscribers and due to time constraints, announcements for new trips may fall in between our monthly newsletter issue, so this is why we emphasise the importance of subscribing on our website, to receive news updates and be aware to new trips.

We hope our short breaks and days out with a difference offer a great opportunity for you and we look forward to welcoming you when the time is right.

Viv Kenny, REAL Socialising

Email anytime: viv@realsocialising.co.uk

M: 0777 3946828 (10am-4pm - Mon-Friday)

W: www.realsocialising.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/REALSocialising>

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT & BANK OF ENGLAND MUSEUM

FRIDAY 16TH MAY 2025

Join this exclusive U3A Member day out.

Enjoy a morning visit to the Bank of England Museum when among the interesting displays and historic information; you can hold a real gold bar!

In the afternoon we visit the Houses of Parliament, when we enjoy a guided tour of the House of Lords and House of Commons.

A great day out!

Shepway U3A Members & Guests £27pp

Pick up points—our coach is on hire from Scotland and Bates which allows Romney Marsh pick ups too

The Ship New Romney: St. Marys Bay, Dymchurch: Red Lion, Hythe: Seabrook: Sandgate: Homepine House: Cheriton Post Office

Book by email to: viv@realsocialising.co.uk

Or call 0777 3946828— Mon-Friday 10-4



CHAGALL AT TUDELEY CHURCH

SATURDAY, 24TH MAY 2025

Join with fellow U3A members on this day out visiting 'All Saints' Tudeley, the only church in the world to have all its twelve windows decorated by the artist Marc Chagall.

After local pick ups; we travel to Tudeley but due to limited facilities here, will make best use of a coffee stop at Notcutts Garden Centre near Tunbridge Wells. On arrival at All Saints, our guide and Tudeley resident Josephine, will commence the informative 45+ minute guided talk and tour of the church.

In the afternoon, we will transfer to Tunbridge Wells where you can enjoy free time to take lunch, shop or perhaps visit the historic Pantiles.

The Chagall Windows: The east window is a memorial tribute to Sarah d'Avigdor-Goldsmid who died aged just 21 in a sailing accident off Rye. Sarah was the daughter of Sir Henry and Lady d'Avigdor-Goldsmid; the family then lived at the fine Jacobean house Somerhill (now a school) situated nearby. Chagall was initially reluctant to take on the commission but was eventually persuaded; and when in 1967 he arrived for the installation of the east window and saw the church, he said, 'It's magnificent. I will do them all. And over the next 15 years, Chagall designed all the remaining eleven windows, collaborating as usual with glassworker Charles Marq of Reims. The chancel windows were finally installed in 1985, the year of Chagall's death at the age of 98.'

Shepway U3A Members & Guests £27pp

Book by email to: viv@realsocialising.co.uk

Or call 0777 3946828— Mon-Friday 10-4

Pick up points—our coach is on hire from Crosskeys Coaches:
Cheriton Post Office: Folkestone Bus Station: Homepine House: Sandgate: Seabrook: Red Lion Hythe



GROUP NEWS

CALENDAR OF GROUP ACTIVITIES

Download the May calendar here: [May Calendar](#)

Group Information

A reminder that for insurance and administration purposes members of each Group need to be registered as such on our Beacon system.

If you are interested in a particular Group, you can, with the Group Leader's permission, attend a meeting as a guest, on a single occasion but if you wish to continue you must register your interest by contacting shepwaygroups@gmail.com or leave a message on 07938 999015 or register at a coffee morning.

The Group Leader will be informed and add you to the list or put you on the waiting list if the Group is already over-subscribed. Either way they will let you know.

If you are unable to attend a meeting, please always let the group leader know in advance as it helps them with arrangements

If you belong to a Group which you are no longer able to attend please inform the Group Leader so that your place can be given to someone else.

When you apply to join a group make it clear which group you wish to attend by giving the exact name and the timing.

Establishing a new group

Our u3a has always been proactive in assisting with new group subjects. If you would like to start up a new group, we can offer help with materials, venue and publicising the group to the membership as a whole. Just email Christine Hughes on hughesc1@hotmail.co.uk or speak to a committee member at a coffee morning. We will be pleased to help.

Group Taster Sessions

Prospective members sometimes would like to attend a session of a group before deciding whether to join the u3a. Our insurance will allow them to attend ONE session with ONE group before becoming a member. Requests will come through the Membership Secretary who will contact the group leader. The committee have worked out a procedure for this.

1. The Membership Secretary (MS) will log the request, send an acknowledgement to the enquirer and pass the request to the group leader asking them to respond to the enquirer and send a copy of the email to the MS (or, in the case of a phone call to the enquirer, let the MS know of their action) who will record the response.
2. Group leaders may respond by phone or by email to the enquirer.
3. The applicant's details will be destroyed if they become a member or a fixed period later if they do not.

England following the Norman Succession 1066-1272

At the last meeting we covered the civil war between Matilda, the Empress and the son of Adela, William I daughter, Stephen. Stephen came out on top, but it was the son of Matilda that succeeded Stephen, Henry II. This is the subject for the April and May meetings.

We meet at the Tin Tabernacle on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 10.30am. We are a large group and please register first if you are interested in joining as space is at a premium.

John Hubbard

Short Walks (East/Central)

These are monthly on the 4th Tuesday and about 2 - 2½ miles long departing from different locations in our area at 11.00 finishing with refreshments in a pub or cafe whenever possible. Contact Linda Fellows on linda.fellows1@ntlworld.com or 07976 512 332.

Italian

The Italian Group is temporarily suspended for health reasons.

Franca

Long Walks

Friday 2nd May at 10.00 a.m.

The next Long Walk will be from Bishopsbourne. Meet outside the Mermaid pub.

Led by Christine

Short Walks (West)

The short walks cover the Romney Marsh area and take place on the second Tuesday of each month, meeting at 10.45am for setting off at 11am. They usually take around an hour and end with refreshments at a suitable pub or cafe. An invitation is sent out to all members a week or so in advance giving the walk location and where to meet.

To register for this group, please send an email to: shepwaygroups@gmail.com or text 07938 999 015. For further information, you can contact me via the Short Walks West page on the U3A Shepway & District website.

Bryony

Music & Drama

Well, all our hard work is over, and the group is taking a well-earned break, very much buoyed up by so many messages of congratulation and appreciation from members and friends.

I took on the role of leader a year ago when the previous incumbent stood down. That year is now over and, while it has been great fun, I don't wish to carry on. As no-one in the group wanted to take over the previous leader is returning. I shall stay on with the group, loitering in the ranks!

I would like to say a big 'Thank you' to all the members for their help and kind words during the past year.

So on with the show. But first some lovely sunshine, I hope!

A great summer to everyone.

Bronwen Drake

Courses and Events being held by the Third Age Trust On Line

The Third Age Trust have arranged an ongoing series of online courses and single events which members of any U3A in the UK can join. To review the current schedule please go to the Third Age Trust website on u3a.org.uk/events where you can also book your place. The majority are provided free as part of your membership. They will also be reviewed at the coffee morning.

Science, Philosophy and Spirituality

There was no meeting during April, so as reported in the April Newsletter our next meeting will be in the Tin Tabernacle at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 21st May. This will be the first of a series of three sessions delving into the history of science and what it means for our understanding of ourselves and the Universe of which we are a part. May's meeting will be concerned with the development of science up to 1900 or so – the age of Classical Mechanics.

Terry Cooke-Davies

Email: terry@insearchofwisdom.online

Folkestone Book Club

Folkestone U3A Book Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Folkestone Museum in Guildhall Street between 1.30 and 3.30pm.

We read a variety of books all chosen by group members – complex and simple, classics and recent publications, with authors both British and worldwide.

We have recently moved to larger premises and so currently have space for a few new members. So if you are a reader and book lover, who likes to talk about books, their stories, their characters and the thoughts and feelings they give rise to, then do come and join us.

Apply via: shepwaygroups@gmail.com or at a coffee morning.

Jean

Book Circle 3 – Romney Marsh

This group meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month to discuss our current reading. Members take it in turns to suggest either a genre or perhaps a particular author for us to read. This month, we are reading Scandinavian thrillers!

If you would like to register for this group, please send an email to: shepwaygroups@gmail.com or text 07938 999 015. For further information, you can contact me via the Book Circle 3 – Romney Marsh page on the U3A Shepway & District website.

Bryony

Local History 3

Our latest meeting held in the railway hall will be our last there because all our future meetings have been moved to the Tin Tabernacle on the 2nd Friday of the month.

We had four great presentations:

The first about Wye, the large village a few miles north of Ashford. The presenter spoke about the recently restored Wye Undercroft a large underground cellar dating back to the 13th Century, which is now a scheduled monument. It was explained that in the past it had been used as a temporary store for goods being transported across Kent by horse and cart and as a stock room/ wine cellar for an adjacent ground level shop.

This was followed by a presentation on the recently unveiled blue plaque in Hillside Street Hythe. dedicated to Gerald Holton, the nuclear disarmament campaigner (C N D), where he lived until his death in 1985. Gerald designed the CND logo which was based on the semaphore letters for N and D in a circle. (The method used by the royal navy to signal between ships before radio using two flags held at the end of a sailor's arms) 'D' one flag held above the signaller's head and 'N' 2 flags held pointing downwards at 45 degrees one on each side of the signaller. (C was not included in the logo)

We then had a presentation on the history of Hythe from Roman times to the present including when it was one of the cinque ports supplying ships and men for the navy. And how stone quarried from local sources was used to build the town including the local coastal military defences. Hythe was also known for exporting sheep fleeces and fishing for herrings. The town was granted a charter from Queen Elizabeth I in 1573.

Our final presentation was on the life of St Oswald, KING OF NORTHUMBRIA, to whom the church at Paddlesworth is dedicated. His life was outlined from his birth in AD 604 to his defeat at the Battle of Maserfield in 643. He made it his mission to convert his kingdom to Christianity. Legends surrounding his kingship were covered including the blessing of his right arm by Aidan, the first Bishop of Lindisfarne after Oswald shared his banquet with poor people gathered outside the court. The site of his final battle is disputed but after his death his uncorrupted right arm was removed to Bamburgh Castle, his former royal seat of power, and his head was later buried alongside the body of St Cuthbert whose coffin

eventually ended up in Durham Cathedral. The Early Medieval trade in saintly relics was discussed since Oswald's arm was allegedly stolen by the monks of the Abbey at Peterborough though it possibly ended up in a priory in Gloucester! Many of these relics were taken by missionaries on their travels and at one point no less than four monasteries in Northern Europe claimed that they had Oswald's head or at least part of it! The town of Zug in Central Switzerland acquired one of these relics for its newly rebuilt parish church in the 16C. The church today has statues of King Oswald on its exterior and paintings of him inside as a Renaissance prince and soldier! His status as a cult figure is so far removed from his origins in Saxon Northumbria. His various artifacts and bones were given/acquired by various European religious sites who put them on display for the viewing of pilgrims who donated handsomely to see them.

John Anstiss Group Leader

Poetry Group

At our meetings on 3rd and 17th April 20th we read more Romantic poetry, including work by female writers of the era. Charlotte Turner Smith (1749-1806) was born into a well-to-do family that fell upon hard times. In 1765 for financial reasons at the age of 15 she was married to Benjamin Smith, the son of a prosperous West Indian merchant. He proved to be violent, unfaithful and profligate. She bore him 10 children, six of whom survived infancy. She began to write sonnets in 1783 while confined with him in a debtors' prison. Her volume of "Elegiac Sonnets" was published in 1784. It sold well, enabling Charlotte to pay for their release from prison. She left her husband in 1787 and decided to support herself and her children by writing. Her unhappy marriage provided source material for 10 novels between 1788 and 1798. As the fickle public lost interest she turned to other subject matter – children's writing, history and natural history – and she returned to poetry. Her financial state was always precarious and she had to move frequently to avoid creditors.

The Bee's Winter Retreat is a simple poem in rhymed couplets, perhaps written for children. She invites the wandering bee to come and live in her "straw-built hive", listing all the nice flowers in her garden: "There, for thee, in autumn, blows

/ The Indian pink and latest rose. / The mignonette perfumes the air, / And stocks, unfading flowers, are there." She promises to feed the bee during "winter drear" so it can renew its industry for another year.

A more unsettling poem was her *Sonnet LXX* subtitled "On being cautioned against walking on an headland because it was frequented by a lunatic". The Romantics took an interest in unusual mental states. In *Kubla Khan* Coleridge depicts himself as someone you ought to keep away from: "Beware! Beware! / His flashing eyes and floating hair!" His *Ancient Mariner* is to normal people a frightening outsider. Charlotte Smith uses the pathetic fallacy; the "sea-borne gale" "chides" and "chills" the cliff, reflecting the mood of the madman, who murmurs "responses to the dashing surf." She comments "I see him more with envy than with fear" ... "He seems (uncursed with reason) not to know / The depth or the duration of his woe."

We also read an extract from *The Emigrants* (1793), an ambitious blank-verse poem in which she parallels her own sufferings with the fate of those driven out of France by the Revolution. The poet imagines herself sitting on the Sussex cliffs looking out over the Channel (from whence invasion might come at any time). She meditates "On human follies and on human woes" and sees "the Fiend of Discord" in "savagely triumph" displaying "the headless corpse of one, whose only crime / Was being born a Monarch ..." She contrasts war-ravaged France with England where "the poor but peaceful hind / Pens, unmolested, the increasing flock / Of his rich master in this sea-girt isle."

Charlotte Turner-Smith influenced the better-known writers of her time. Sir Walter Scott praised her novels, and Wordsworth said of her "She was a lady to whom English verse is under greater obligations than are likely to be either acknowledged or remembered."

Frank Shepherd

Ten Pin Bowling

The dates for when the Ten Pin Bowling Groups will be playing over the months of May and June are as follows:

MAY

Friday 9th 10.30am

Tuesday 27th 11.00am

JUNE

Friday 13th 10.30am

Tuesday 24th 11.00am

All the games are played in the Hollywood Bowl, Station Road, Ashford and we play two games per session at a cost of £7.30.

Newcomers wishing to join one or both of the groups are very welcome.

Registration can be made at shepwaygroups@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming new members to the group.

I very much appreciate the continued support received from the members of both groups.

Doreen Bishop

Photography groups 1 and 2

Photography groups 1 and 2 continue to work in unison. The "Abstract" challenge proved to be very successful with photographers producing some stunning work. The current challenge is twofold. Group members will be photographing flowers or something blue and in many cases both as we are visiting bluebell woods as part of the project. Our work can be found on our Google page [Photos link](#) and we are in the process of generating a web page for the U3A site.

Both groups continue to welcome new members and there is still room for more. People with any equipment and at any level of experience are very welcome. Photography group 1 meets on the first Tuesday and group 2 on the first Friday. Both groups meet in the morning.

Pete Savage & Peter Carroll

U3A Flora, Fauna and Foraging – Saltwood 17th April

Our original plan to visit the bluebell woods at Kingswood near Ashford was abandoned as they were simply not ready for us! I am reliably informed by the Forestry Folk that they should be at their blooming best during the first week of May.

Our alternative venue thankfully proved to be very rewarding. On a perfect spring day, 11 of us parked at Saltwood Church and wandered around the churchyard, footpaths, the local farm and alongside Saltwood Castle, all in glorious, warm sunshine. And boy, were the "boids choiping"! A stand out for the morning was the variety of birdsong we were able to identify. Here we go...

Blue tit, chaffinch, robin, great tit, rook, jackdaw, wren, chaffinch, greenfinch, blackcap, blackbird, stock dove, magpie, wood pigeon, crow, peacock (from the castle grounds). All were competing for supremacy - won, I believe, by the machine-gun rattle of the wrens, our next to smallest UK bird. It was thrilling too to hear the buzzy, wheezing call of a pair of greenfinches – now red-listed due to a disease they pick up at bird feeders.

Primroses and lesser celandines were rampant in the churchyard of St Peters and St Pauls Church where cherry and apple blossom stood out against the bright blue sky. Walking towards the farm we oohed and aahed at gambolling lambs, heard, and spotted, a noisy rookery, identified alders along the stream with their roots in the water, then peered into pigsties to find big fat porkies sharing house space with hens and chicks (bacon and eggs anyone?!) Three frisky horses entertained us as we lent over the gate to the adjoining field.

At Saltwood Castle wallflowers bedecked the walls (their original homes) and surrounded the nesting spaces of jackdaws, identified from other corvids by their light grey heads and mantles. Alexanders were prominent along the lane – these early blooming brassica can be eaten but best picked young and tender and added to a casserole as the flavour is strong. They are rarely found inland as they can't cope with frost but like a bit of salt. I feel much the same.

Here is the list of some of the flowers we spotted.

Footpath by Stream - marsh marigold, gunnera, green alkanet, cow parsley, herb Robert, cleavers, wild arum (lords and ladies) red campion, white deadnettle, dog violet, spotted medick, cleavers.

Churchyard – lesser celandine, primrose, sweet violet, butchers breeches, ground ivy, dandelion.

Farm and Castle – garlic mustard, common nettle, alexanders, mint, forget me nots, bluebells (English), snowflake,

All morning we were caught in a bubble of birdsong, bursting buds and feverish fecundity so it seemed only fair and appropriate to explain to the group the naming of the wild arum growing everywhere. It's common name is "lords and ladies", due to parts of the plant looking like our naughty bits. Enough said.

May event

This will take place one week later than normal on Thursday, 29th May and we will walk the coastal park on the Leas either to the Harbour or to Sandgate (depending on the wind direction). We will meet in the car park of the Metropole at 10.30. Please let me know if you would like to join us.

June event

This will be a **DAY TRIP** to Mount Ephraim, near Faversham where there is a splendid arboretum, flower and rose gardens, woodland walks, maze etc. This will be on June 19th. Entry will be under a tenner – free to Historic Houses members. We will have a lunch in nearby Hernhill at The Red Lion – a 14th C pub where one of my ancestors was potman in the 1800s just alongside the church where my great, great grandparents were married. Just blame them.

Happy days.

Briar

Climate in Crisis

Last month, we revisited the role of the oceans in managing our earthly environment. The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is vital for transporting heat northwards in the Atlantic Ocean and maintaining our temperate climate. A video lecture helped us to understand its mechanics and, crucially, how melting of the Greenland ice sheet and arctic ice can weaken it.

We also learned that 70 per cent of the oxygen we breathe emanates from plants and microorganisms in the oceans breaking down carbon dioxide (CO₂), The rising concentration of CO₂ resulting from the burning of fossil fuels is thought to reduce the efficiency of this process overall.

A recent report on the potential for electricity generation from tidal energy in the Severn Estuary favours lagoons over a full barrage. Strong support on both sides of this argument was expressed by members of the group but no consensus emerged.

We next meet in June when we will attempt to decipher the then current state of the Trump administration's policy agenda and how it might impact the race to tackle the climate crisis.

Roger Wood Group Leader

NEW COURSES

Nordic Walking

Are you interested in joining sociable small group Nordic walks?

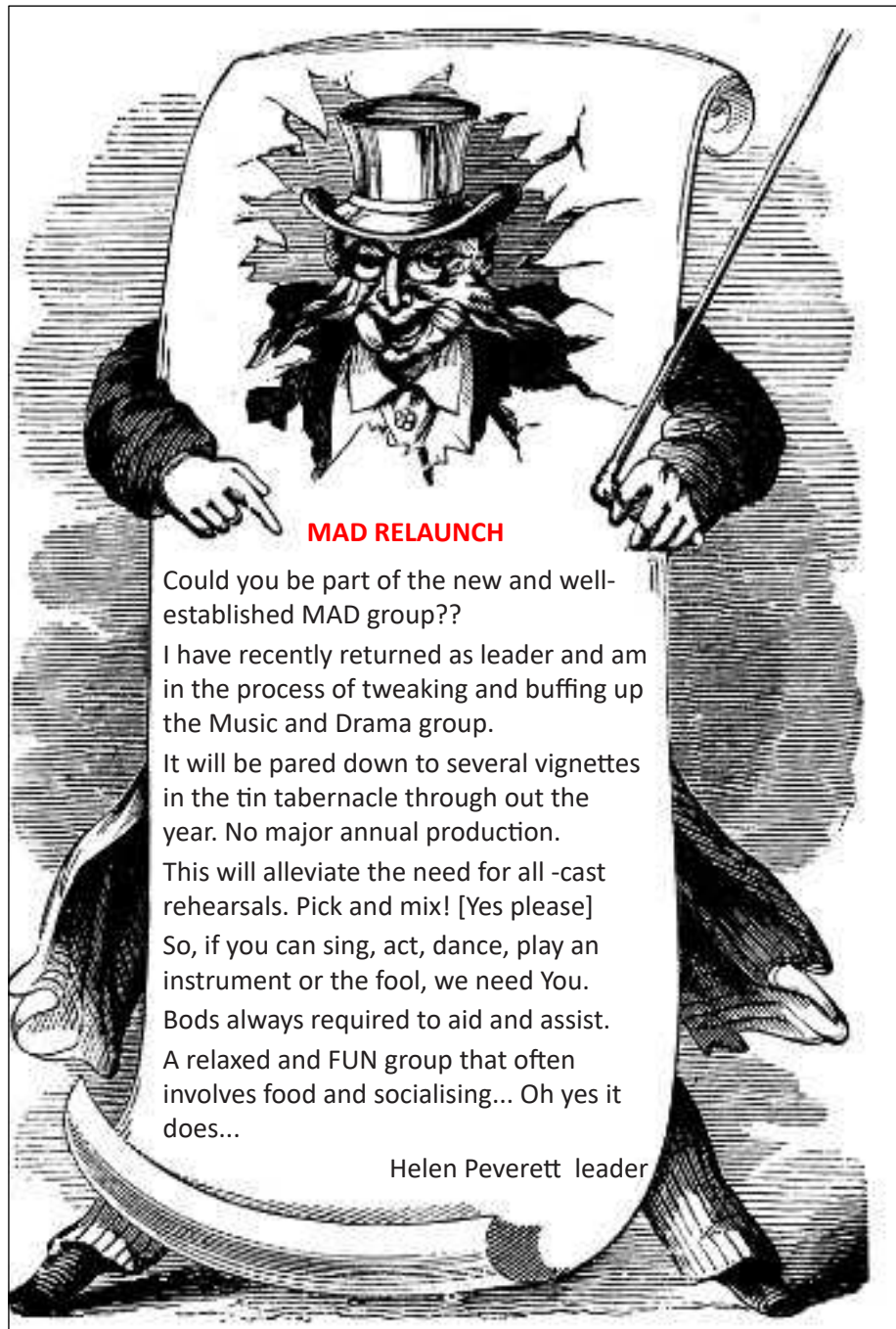
Nordic walking uses special walking poles to provide a full body workout, exercising your upper body as well as your legs. The poles reduce the impact on your knees and hips, whilst using more muscles helps build strength and increases your heart rate.

Walks will initially take place in Folkestone; days/times will vary.

Please contact Janice Vale via janicevale2@gmail.com for more information or to arrange a taster session (poles can be provided).

Janice Vale





MAD RELAUNCH

Could you be part of the new and well-established MAD group??

I have recently returned as leader and am in the process of tweaking and buffing up the Music and Drama group.

It will be pared down to several vignettes in the tin tabernacle through out the year. No major annual production.

This will alleviate the need for all -cast rehearsals. Pick and mix! [Yes please]

So, if you can sing, act, dance, play an instrument or the fool, we need You.

Bods always required to aid and assist.

A relaxed and FUN group that often involves food and socialising... Oh yes it does...

Helen Peverett leader

Lyminge Friends

Imogen Corrigan is the Speaker at our meeting on **Wednesday, 7th May** and her talk is "**The Hazards of the Pilgrims Journey**". What possessed people to trudge hundreds of miles, often in appalling conditions and sometimes perishing on the way?

On the **5th June**, **Peter Stratton from The Fifth Trust** will be speaking about the Charity and it's work supporting adults with learning disabilities in the Elham Valley

Everyone welcome – Entry is £4 for Social Meetings (including Tea/Coffee)

We are a friendly social group and welcome new members and visitors so just drop into a meeting, or if you'd like to talk to one of us first, please call 07904 157897. All meetings are held in The Methodist Church, Church Road, Lyminge from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. **unless stated otherwise.**

Ageing Without Children East Kent: Next Hythe Meeting

The next free quarterly meeting of Ageing Without Children East Kent (AWOC East Kent) will be on Tues 13 May from 10:30am-12:30pm at the Open Door Project, 101 High St, Hythe. The meeting is open only to people who are ageing without the support of adult children, either because they never had children or because their children can't provide support for reasons like living overseas or having additional needs.

We will be joined by Karen Edmunds, Associate Director of Patient Experience at East Kent Hospitals to discuss "Improving people's experience of care at East Kent Hospitals". Karen is keen to hear our reactions and views about the changes they are making and the challenges they face. AWOC East Kent is working with Karen's team to increase staff awareness of the needs of those without family support but this discussion will go wider than that. There will also be an update on other recent AWOC activities in East Kent. There is no advance registration; the room can hold up to 24 people. For more information or if you have specific dietary or mobility needs, please contact Penny at info@awoceastkent.org.uk.

OPEN DAY

A Celebration of Canterbury & District U3A

Thursday 8th May

10.30am – 3.00pm

**St Peter's Methodist
Church Hall, CT1 2BE**

&

**St Peter's Anglican Church
15 St Peter's St, CT1 2BQ**

MUSIC

ACTIVITIES

DISPLAYS

TALKS

PERFORMANCES

COME & MEET OUR MEMBERS

SEE WHAT U3A HAS TO OFFER

Reasonably priced refreshments
available throughout the day

u3a
Canterbury & District

canterbury.u3asite.uk

Charity No.1026681



SE u3a Forum Summer School

Monday 1st – Thursday 4th September 2025



University of Chichester

South East u3a Forum Summer School 2025

The dates for 2025 are:

- **Wednesday 12th March 2025.- Course list and details** will be posted on the Forum website by mid-day
- **Thursday 10th April 2025.- Bookings** will go 'live' by mid-day

The courses are now finalised. Below is **the list of 13 courses** we will be offering in 2025:

- **AI** – Artificial Intelligence
- **History** - Roman
- **Italian** - Intermediate
- **Latin** - for Roman Britian & Beyond
- **Mah Jong** - Intermediate
- **Mathematics** – People & Paradoxes
- **Memory, Perception & Thinking** – how it normally works well, but can go wrong
- **'Operatunity'** - Opera Appreciation
- **Patchwork** - Beginners
- **Philosophy** - Introduction
- **Poetry** – Australian poets
- **Walking** – A Coastal Delight
- **Yoga** – Mat, Standing & Seated



The costings for 2025 summer school are as follows:

Residential - En-Suite	£405.00	Residential - Standard	£375.00
Non-Residential with dinner	£240.00	Non-Residential no dinner	£180.00

The residential prices include accommodation, all meals and refreshments offered at break times and a 'Welcome' drink on the first evening, with a 'Farewell' drink on the last evening, both prior to dinner.

There will also be entertainment on campus, each evening, which is included in the pricing for summer school. But, if you would like to attend the theatre on the Tuesday evening, this comes at an extra cost – ticket price to be released after Chichester Festival Theatre has released their seasonal programme and we know what is on offer.

Full information on all aspects of this Summer School can be found on the South East u3a Forum's website; please use this link - [2025 - South East u3a Forum](#)



All images are from Summer School 2023

The Summer School Team 2025, South East u3a Forum

Information updated: - 2nd Mar 2025

U3a LEARNING DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN IN SHEPWAY!

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

It seems a lot of our members are not aware that U3a is a worldwide organisation and of the HUGE range of Learning opportunities our UK U3a organisation provides for all of us. Recently one of our Shepway members gave a brilliant talk to around 200 members about 'Ageing without Children' which was available on Zoom to the whole of our UK membership!! Hers was just one of a huge range of very interesting and professional lectures which U3a members throughout the UK can choose to enjoy every month **at no extra cost**, as part of our membership.

Other 'in person' Learning Opportunities are also available to members every year in the form of residential UK Summer Schools. They get booked up fairly quickly so if you fancy comfortable residential accommodation, excellent food, brilliant courses, and socialising with like-minded U3a members..... Details can be found by logging into the National U3a website <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events> and looking for 'Summer Schools' in the Menu tab at top right of the page.

HAPPY LEARNING!



Summer schools taking place in 2025

South East University of Chichester 1-4 September 2025 Courses and booking information	North West Manchester Metropolitan University 12-15 August 2025 Courses and booking information
Yorkshire and Humber The Hawk Hills 18-21 August 2025 Courses and booking information	London 2025 Summer Programme Rather than a traditional summer school, the London Region will build on the success of last year's Summer Programme with more guided walks and visits during the warmer months. These are listed on their events page, linked below. London events programme



Online Learning Events
u3a members can access talks, workshops and courses on Zoom at no extra cost. These events are led by members with a passion or talent to share or specialist guest speakers.
[View our Learning events](#)

Workshops
All u3a members can attend our online workshops. They have been developed in partnership with u3a members to provide support, information, and advice.
[See our online workshops](#)



Shepway and District

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of Shepway & District U3A will be held on Wednesday 14 May 2025 at the Tinernacle at 2.00 pm.

Agenda

1.	Welcome	Steve O'Neill
2.	Apologies	Steve O'Neill
3.	Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 May 2024	Steve O'Neill
4.	Matters arising	Steve O'Neill
5.	Chair's report	Steve O'Neill
6.	Treasurer's report	Katherine Robinson
7.	Membership Secretary's report	Tony Scofield
8.	Election of new Committee members	Steve O'Neill
9.	Group Coordinators' report	Roger Wood
10.	Members meetings report	Steve O'Neill
11.	Film matinees report	John Hubbard
12.	Events and Visits Report	Jacqueline Mack
13.	AOB	Steve O'Neill
14.	Meeting Close and tea	Steve O'Neill

SON 14.03.2



Shepway and District

AGM WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2025 2.00 pm

Nominations for the Committee

There are vacancies for three of the officer posts – Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Business Secretary – and four vacancies for other Committee members. Those nominated must agree to their name being put forward, and be proposed and seconded. One form per nominee please. All positions are voluntary and unpaid.

We are looking for people for the following areas: setting up and managing our groups and sites; taking charge of our centrally organised social activities; taking charge of our members' meetings; membership secretary; minute secretary.

Officers – brief summary of main duties

Vice Chair Deputises for the Chair to ensure the effective, and lawful running of the Shepway and District U3A. Additional duties (see above) will depend on the makeup of the Committee.

Treasurer Responsible for the finance of the U3A and for keeping monthly accounts. Produces the annual accounts. Handles the banking.

Business Secretary Third Age Trust contact. Ensures the Committee complies with its constitution and manages changes. Additional duties (see above) will depend on the makeup of the Committee.

Other Committee members

Expected to attend monthly committee meetings and assist at members' events, eg coffee mornings. Each committee member accepts specific responsibilities, agreed after the AGM (see above).

To be completed by the person standing for election

Which vacancy are you standing for? (delete as appropriate)

- Vice Chair
- Treasurer
- Business Secretary
- Other committee member

Your name Signature (if returning this by post)

To be completed by the two members proposing and seconding you

Proposed by
Signature (if returning this by post) (Print Name)

Seconded by
Signature (if returning this by post) (Print Name)

The closing date for nominations is 30 April 2025. Return to: The Chairman, 7 St John's Way, Densole, Folkestone CT18 7DW, or email to: u3achairmansteve@gmail.com

Shepway and District U3A

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 8 May 2024 in the Tin Tabernacle

Present:

Committee:

Officers: John Hubbard (Chair), Tony Scofield (Vice Chair), Katherine Robinson (Treasurer), Steve O'Neill (Secretary),

Members: Jacqui Bray, Roger Curd, Linda Fellows, Gehad Homsey, Christine Hughes, Jacqueline Mack, Eileen Presland, David Warren, Roger Wood

Others: 60 other U3A members attending.

Apologies: 11 U3A members

1. Welcome

John Hubbard welcomed everyone to the AGM, and thanked everyone for coming.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 May 2023

The minutes of the 2023 AGM meeting were agreed as a correct record

3. Chairman's report

John Hubbard, who was stepping down as Chairman, gave his farewell report. Key points were that:

- Subscriptions had stayed the same at £35, although some hall charges had had to be introduced.
- Three group coordinators were now in place: David Warren (Tin Tabernacle); Roger Wood (RHDR); and Christine Hughes (all other groups and venues), with Gehad Homsey acting as Registrar
- The Tin Tabernacle had been secured for another year; the RHDR for at least the immediate future
- More groups had been started on the Marsh
- The Folkestone coffee morning was now at the Clifton Hotel
- The Swing band had held two concerts, one for the Turkey earthquake appeal
- The music and drama group had entertained us with the Show at the end of the Pier
- About 400 people had come in for tea at the Hythe festival
- The annual holiday, this time in Belgium, had been a great success thanks to Katherine Robinson.
- Thanks were due to Tony Scofield for his work as Membership Secretary and on the newsletter and website. Also, to Katherine Robinson for her excellent work as Treasurer, and to Steve O'Neill for his work as Secretary. Thanks were also due to all the many people who volunteered their time and energy to help the Committee, and of course to all the group leaders.
- Finally, John thanked Eileen, his wife, for her support, and wished Steve O'Neill every success in succeeding him.
- The meeting expressed its appreciation by giving him a round of applause

4. Treasurer's report

Katherine Robinson's report for the year ending 31 March 2024 was approved, although it was noted that the accounts were, as usual, still with the auditors. Total income was: £52,938. Total expenditure was: £49,455. This resulted in a surplus of £3483. The current balance was over £28,000.

There had been one donation from Riviera Travel of £308, and Katherine reminded the meeting that booking holidays direct with this company resulted in their making a donation to the U3A

Katherine discussed details of both income and expenditure, and answered questions about Gift Aid and the hall charges that had been introduced

She was thanked for her presentation and good work.

5. Membership report

Tony Scofield said that membership at 31 March was 807. We had started the year with 775, and the subsequent combination of joiners and leavers had brought the total to this number. Nearly half of members were from Hythe, and still only a small number came from the Marsh area. Tony was thanked for his report, and work during the year.

6. Election of Committee members

There were vacancies for the officer positions of Chair, Treasurer, and Business Secretary.

Nominations had been received and seconded as follows:

Chair – Steve O’Neill – eligible for a 3 year tenure

Treasurer - Katherine Robinson – eligible for a 1 year tenure due to previous service in this role

Secretary – no nominations received

There were no other nominations for these officer roles.

There were also four ordinary committee member vacancies: Nominations had been received and seconded as follows:

Linda Fellows, Gehad Homsey, Helen Peverett, Roger Wood

There were no other nominations for these posts.

As the number of nominations equaled the vacancies, all the candidates would automatically be appointed to the committee, but the AGM confirmed its unanimous endorsement of them with a show of hands. The four ordinary members would decide how long they would serve for at the next Committee, as the tenures for the vacancies varied between 2 and 3 years.

Under the constitution, the Committee was able to coopt two additional members for up to a year, and the Committee hoped to take advantage of this.

7. Presentation to John and Eileen Hubbard

At this point a presentation was made to John and Eileen Hubbard in appreciation of all that they had done for the U3A, and Steve O’Neill, the new Chairman, made a short speech. John then kindly continued chairing the meeting to enable it to be minuted by Steve.

8. Groups report

This was presented by David Warren on behalf of the group coordinators. He mentioned the group leaders meeting on 29 February, which had been very successful. There were 83 groups all together, and 56 of these met in various halls. The average group membership was 24. Particular thanks was due to the 72 group leaders for the time and energy they spent preparing for and leading their groups.

9. Members meetings report

Steve O’Neill read out a report from Nick Taylor who had taken responsibility for the members meetings in November 2023. Each meeting now had a speaker and a quiz after the refreshments, which seemed a popular format. He apologized for not being at the AGM. Nick was thanked for the good work that he was doing.

10. Film Nights

John Hubbard reported on behalf of himself and Eileen that the afternoon film matinees had been well attended. There would be the usual break from July until October.

11. Events and visits report

Jacqueline Mack was the Committee member responsible for these, but it was becoming clear that a radical rethink was necessary for external trips, which were becoming difficult to organise and with little support.

12. AOB.

- The point was made that as ever, the vitality of the U3A depended on its members, and their ideas. Suggestions to the committee would be well received.
- In addition, the U3A depended on volunteers. Anyone able to join the new volunteer group should talk to Linda Fellows.
- A new leader was needed for the Sunday lunch group

13. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was closed, and followed by refreshments, for which the team providing them was thanked.

SON 06.01.25

GROUPS

Afternoon Tea on the Marsh
Art - Mixed Media
Badminton
Bird Watching
Bolivia (Canasta alternative)
Book Circle - 1 - Hythe
Book Circle - 2 - Folkestone
Book Circle - 3 Romney Marsh
Book club
Bridge
Chess
Climate in Crisis
Computer Users
Crafting Club
Cribbage
Critical Analysis of Poetry
Current Affairs - Folkestone
Current Affairs - Hythe
Current Affairs - New Romney
Cycling
Early Evening Drinks
Earth Science
England-From 1066-1272
England-Norman/Angevin Kings
Family History
First Friday Coffee
First Monday Breakfast Club
Flora,Fauna and Foraging
Flower Arranging
Food-Cultural Culinary History
French - Beginners
French - Conversation
French - Intermediate
French - Online
Gardening 1
Gardening 2
Golf
Kurling
Line Dancing
Local History 3
Local History 4
Mahjong
Meditation
Mid Week Supper Club
Music - Classical
Music and Drama
Novels 1
Patchwork & Sewing
Petanque - Elham
Petanque - Folkestone
Philosophy
Photography
Photography 2
Pickleball
Pilates
Play Reading - Folkestone
Play Reading - Hythe
Poetry
Rummikub
Saturday Dining
Science, Philosophy, Spiritual
Scone Rangers
Shakespeare
Singing for Life
Swing Band
Table Tennis
Tai Chi - Class 1 - Form
Tai Chi - Class 2 - Qigong
Tai Chi - Class 3 - Qigong
Tai Chi - Class 4 - Sticks
Tai Chi - Class 5 - Form
Ten Pin Bowling (Friday Group)
Ten Pin Bowling (Tuesday Group)
Ukulele
Walks - Long
Walks - Short - West
Walks - Short -East/Central
Whist & Other Card Games
Writing Circle 1
Writing Circle 2
Your Favourite Poems