

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

I always enjoy reading the Third Age Magazine and especially the letters from other u3a members. In the latest edition the pros and cons of modern technology were raised again. Your committee has this very much in mind at the moment as we are creating a new website. We aim to have a user-friendly website, simple to navigate, which clearly reflects all EG u3a has to offer.

We also have a Facebook group, EGU3A, of 111 members and I've been pleased recently to welcome some of our new members. It is a private group, so please consider joining. If you are a member, I encourage you to post EG u3a news and photos. Like any Facebook group, it is only as interesting as the members make it.

We also had a Facebook page, which anyone could visit to find out more about EG u3a. This is a really useful way to advertise our u3a and I wonder if we can resurrect this again? If you would be interested in discussing this further do let me know.

Best wishes, *Susan Hodgson*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HUB MEETINGS: 2.30pm – Meridian Hall (Doors open at 2.00pm)

At our monthly Hub meetings you are invited to listen to an interesting talk on a variety of topics, as well as having the opportunity to chat with u3s friends over a cup of tea and biscuits. You can also meet members of the committee and group leaders. We welcome visitors to the Hub, who are interested in finding out what EG u3a has to offer.

Date	Event
Wed 22nd Nov 2023	East Grinstead u3a Annual General Meeting (Members only) 2.00pm MERIDIAN HALL Doors open 1.30pm for registration The AGM will be followed by our monthly talk: "From Sextant to Satnav" Part 1 by Peter Griffiths.
Please can we ask for cake donations for the AGM and also a couple of volunteers to help the Tea Gang in the kitchen , see p. 2	
Wed 6th Dec 2023	EG u3a Christmas Party - more info on page 4 of this newsletter
Fri 15th Dec 2023	Singing for Pleasure Christmas Concert 2.00-4.00pm (see page 3)
Wed 3rd Jan 2024	January Hub Meeting: "Shopping through the ages in England" Gilly Halcrow
February (Date TBC)	Ten Pin Bowling
Wed 7th Feb 2024	February Hub Meeting: "Sextant to Sat Nav Part 2" by Peter Griffiths
Wed 6th Mar 2024	March Hub Meeting: "America's Presidents in Bits & Pieces" by Joe Mendell
Wed 3rd Apr 2024	April Hub Meeting: "The Life of Tommy Cooper", a talk by John Field
Wed 1st May 2024	May Hub Meeting: "A Sussex Farm during the 1950's" a talk by Ian Everest
10th & 13th May 2024	Lawn Bowls: Instruction and a game, tea and cakes
Wed 5th June 2024	June Hub Meeting: "Waterloo" a talk by Rod MacArthur

A big THANK YOU to our Events Coordinator Gary Wood for arranging the recent u3a group bookings to Chequer Mead to see two excellent tribute acts, "The Neil Diamond Story" and "Abba Reunion Tribute Show". We enjoyed our drinks in the very special VIP Green Room reserved especially for the u3a group. Thanks Gary, we are grateful for the work you put in to make them such smooth running events. *Shirley Cross*

Group News

Coffee Club

Coffee Club started up as a new venture in September, with a big gathering in Chequer Mead where we had to compete with other chatty groups! We'll be visiting a different venue each month and October is set to be an exciting and sociable visit to Turners Hill. We already have a waiting list; new members are welcome to join it and we'll be in touch.

Linda Edwards



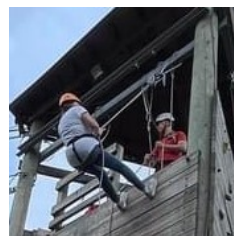
If you are interested in joining any of the u3a's groups, please do not hesitate to contact the Group Leader via our Website online, where full details can be found, or if you do not have access to the internet please ring **Janet Taylor** (Group Leaders' Co-ordinator) on 07771715787, who will put you in touch with the appropriate Group Leader.

Singalong Group

It is with sincere regret that I will not be re-starting the Singalong Group this October. We have had some good times as well as fun times and I have really enjoyed my time taking this group. Thank you Pat for choosing our songs each month and Margaret, Mary and the team for making the teas. I wish you all well and hope someone somewhere will take the group over.

Best wishes, Fay Morgan

The **Try Something New** Group is now up and running with 74 members and a varied programme of activities gradually taking shape. Our very first event was a fun and successful day of Abseiling, Rifle



Shooting and Raft

Canoeing at

Blacklands. Between now and Christmas we will have groups taking part in Archery, Yoga, Glass Art, Bavarian Curling and hopefully Go-karting too.

Sandra Webb



German for Improvers

A few years ago our German for Improvers group formed a link with an Adult Education class of learners of English in our German twin town Mindelheim. Every so often we exchange emails about local events, seasonal topics, our holidays and interests. This enables members to read, translate and learn from the German messages we receive and vice versa. It is thanks to the town twinning association that our group has this contact and can explore Germany's language and culture together.

Vicky Jackson

Water Activities

16 members of the u3a Water Activities group have spent 4 weeks, twice a week, helping Wealden Water Voles welcome children from Lambeth and Wandsworth to enjoy canoeing on Hedgecourt Lake as part of the charity, Parallel Youth Enterprise.

Volunteers on each occasion took on many tasks: issuing kit and settling in boats as well as serving lunch, washing up, and cleaning floors.

The best bit of course was going on the water with them offering encouragement to do something different in different surroundings.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers.

Marilyn Emmett

The **Tea Gang** would like to say a big thank you to all our lovely members who donated cakes for the Open Day last month. There were many compliments on how delicious they were.

Volunteers please 22nd Nov!

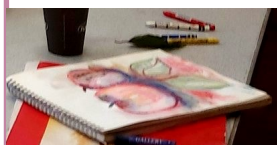
Our **AGM** takes place at the Meridian Hall on Wed 22nd November at 2.00pm and traditionally cakes are offered on this occasion. Therefore we would be so grateful once again if members could **bake or bring a cake** to that meeting. Also on that day, the Tea Gang could do with a **couple of people to help in the kitchen**. If you can **provide a cake or offer help**, please contact Veronica Edney via email as soon as possible :

veronicaedney@gmail.com.



Thank you so much.

The **Monday and Tuesday painting groups** meet in the Forest Row Community Centre and we enjoy relaxing sessions using different media.



Group News



On a warm and sunny day in June **Out and About Group 1** drank a toast to celebrate their 10th Year in the U3A at **Titsey Place**, on the South Downs. We had a guided tour around Titsey which is a beautiful manor house standing in 500 acres of woodland. In September, again in the sunshine, the group visited **West Hoathly**. Following coffee and cakes which were



provided by a group of local ladies, we had a guided tour of the Priest House which dates back to 1430. The curator then took us on a fascinating tour of the village. "Who would have thought that a sleepy little village like this could hold so many dark secrets!"

Jennie Hollins

Science and Engineering Group

The Science & Technology group reborn - a broader reach encompassing all aspects of Engineering, with a new emphasis on History of Technology, Ecology, Transportation, Energy and much more. Our first meeting dealt with worldwide aspects of water supply, focussing on short term fossil source extraction and dangers in a warming world. Our next meeting is on Friday October 20th. We welcome anyone to join our group. Come and try us out! This year we are operating a termly subscription basis which is working well. For more information see our web page or email us at scitech@eastgrinsteadu3a.co.uk

Ray White and John Wells

The Ukulele Group

we were delighted by the level of interest following the Open Day. We had an influx of new members which we have managed to accommodate. Sorry, but we now have no more room but have a waiting list for anyone who is interested.

Robert Everest

The **Singing for Pleasure** choir will be holding its Christmas concert on **Friday December 15th 2:00–4:00pm** at the Jubilee Centre on Charlwoods Road, East Grinstead. Please come to hear us sing, enjoy a delicious tea and help us raise money for the charity **Jigsaw**, a local charity which provides support to bereaved children and young people.

For more than 10 years, the choir has raised money for **Macmillan Cancer Support**, by holding a coffee 'morning' during a slightly extended coffee break at one of our rehearsals. This year we raised an astonishing £320 in only 15 minutes! Thank you for the lovely cakes and your generous donations.

Judy Mendell

Hand Bells

We are regulars at St Swithun's craft fairs, and we enjoy doing change ringing there. This means we play similar bells in the same



sequences on our handbells as the tower bell ringers do with their larger bells activated by pulling on ropes. We are tintinnabulists. They are campanologists. Each change sequence has a different name such as kings, queens, bishops, titums, Whittingtons. In fact, some tower ringers might use hand bells to practise the changes. We use 8 bells for each sequence and everyone can have a go provided they have a leader who knows what they're doing!

Marilyn Emmett

Heritage Transport Group

Launching in Autumn 23, this new group will make visits to examples of Heritage Transport within 90 minutes of EG using public transport wherever possible. We will visit transport facilities that includes rail, air and water so really we have a lot of places to visit! I will aim to arrange one visit each month.

At the end of November I am proposing a trip to London, travelling by train and then on the Uber River Thames ferry from London Bridge to Greenwich where we will visit the Royal Naval Museum and possibly incorporate a visit to Cutty Sark .

Other visits planned include the Gatwick Aviation Museum and hopefully a trip to Tangmere. Next year we will go to the London Transport Bus Museum at Cobham when they will have a huge bus fair with the aircraft exhibits open as well.

Chris Bower

Group Leader

The **British History Group** had a very interesting visit to the Priest House in West Hoathly, followed by a tour of St Margaret's Church.

Veronica Edney



IT matters – (Really!)

A new website

Eight years ago we launched a website. We used a “harness” called U3A SiteBuilder, provided by the Third Age Trust, along with some 500 other u3a organisations. SiteBuilder was pretty limiting in its capability. But in 2023 it begins to look archaic. Our website has grown in complexity and needs radical reorganisation. The Trust is now providing us with a new tool called SiteWorks, which embodies up to date capability and construction. This is due to be released “in the Autumn”, so we await delivery with baited breath. Our web managing expert, Malcolm Francis, is currently supervising the migration.

Our Beacon system

Implemented three and a half years ago, the membership management section works smoothly. Group leaders are managing interest groups and sending GDPR compliant emails to members. There is much untapped capability in Beacon. eg: This year the Trust added the capability for every member to create a personal Membership Account. 300 members have already created their account, which empowers them to join or leave interest groups online, to change personal data – and (next year) to renew online. **To create an account, follow the link to Beacon on our website.**

John Wells – IT manager



East Grinstead 
u3a

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday 6th December
at the Meridian Hall

Doors open at 2 pm Party starts at 2:30 pm, finishing at 4:30pm.

Entertainment will be from the Ukulele and Bell ringing Groups.

We will be serving Mince Pies, Tea and Coffee.

You can bring whatever food or drink you like, including alcohol.
(please bring your own glasses)

Once again, we are having a Beetle Drive with prizes.

Entrance is for u3a members only and will be £5 payable at the door.

If the event is over subscribed there will be a lucky draw.

Please have your membership number ready.

There will be a separate email for you request tickets

Best Wishes
Gary Wood
Events Coordinator

