

A very belated Happy New Year to all members!



*Last year's Spring Lunch*

I can't believe we are at the end of February already. If we spent a lot of time looking back and celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year, now is the time to look forward and plan the next ..... let's not get carried away, let's plan THIS year.

The Outings Working Group are planning some fantastic excursions for us this year, unfortunately the Songs of Tim Rice concert in April is already sold out but look out for details of our [Spring Lunch](#) at The Unicorn in Heyshott that same month. Booking now.

**Contact details for individuals are listed in the email accompanying this newsletter or can be obtained by clicking on the web link for each event or group (in blue type underlined in blue as in [Spring lunch](#) above) where you can click on the name of the organiser and get a contact form to fill in and send off.**



In May we are planning a [Coach visit](#) to the fabulous Art Deco Shoreham Airport and totally different architectural style of Brighton Pavilion which sounds like a really interesting day. Booking now.

## **Group Round-Up.**

Do you know what goes on in our different groups? Each edition of Happenings will have news from a selection of our groups, perhaps you might like to give one of them a try?

**History 2** Bi-monthly on the second Monday at 1.30.

We are a small, lively participatory group coming together to discuss topics that interest us and welcome new members. We are presently looking at 18th century events in Europe and people who have captured our imaginations. It's a century of challenges and rapid change and we have been spoilt for choice.

Discussions have ranged from the fascinating correspondence of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu to the feats of Catherine the Great, the achievements of the Lunar Men who propelled Britain to the forefront of technology and the extensive power of the Dutch East India Company. The Agrarian Revolution, Clive of India and Frederick the Great will be discussed during the spring and summer months.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Christine Musgrove.

## **Book Reading**

I've run the book group for 13 years and we haven't lost any members yet except for very good reasons! We have 8 members which I feel is the right number for everyone to have a say and to look at characterisation, themes, style of writing and more. We meet once a month at The Blue Bell pub in Cocking. The books for a year ahead are mainly chosen by me but members are invited to recommend books. I try to include many genres including science fiction, classics, thrillers, family sagas, historical, books that have won the Booker prize and other prizes and recommendations from various sources.

Sometimes we get together to watch a film of the book after reading it or to see one at the cinema, for example we read then saw "Small Things Like These" by Claire Keegan. After we'd read "A Little Life" (a Booker prize winner) we saw it on the stage at Haslemere. We're more than a book group; we didn't know each other at all before the formation of the group and its lively discussions often leading to relative subjects. We often have different opinions about books which is a healthy book group I believe. We have no spaces now but there is a waiting list if you're interested.

**Creative writing** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10.30

How would YOU respond to these writing tasks? Look at a given picture, decide which character has a hidden secret and write about it. Write a story including ten given words. Look at a picture/photograph and let your imagination take over. These are recent tasks, and it is always amazing to see the really different paths that each member of the group takes. Last month one stimulus resulted in; the story of a medic working in war-torn Sudan, the memories of a young otter, musings and

reminiscences of water in a person's life, a mother reaching her son not to take things at face value and \*\*\*\*\* .

We have a month to write our response to the stimulus and then we meet and share our stories/written pieces in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. Sometimes our efforts lead to interesting recollections and discussions. We have places available now, so if you are interested, please contact Odette Marshall.

## Craft

- Do you enjoy crafting?
- Do you have unfinished projects which you would like to complete in the company of like-minded people?
- Do you love the idea of crafting but don't know where to start?

Why not come along to a venue with inspiring country views. Enjoy tea and biscuits and plenty of chat and laughter.

Plenty of inspiration will be available along with guidance & help from other members if needed.

The Craft Group, having been dormant for a few months following the sad demise of June, the Group Leader, last year has recently started meeting again. We remain a social group where members bring along their current project to work on but are open to shared/group projects or a workshop type session on an ad hoc basis.

We meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 2.30 - 4.30 in Easebourne. A dining table is available for those needing a table to work on. Contact the group leader, Jeannine Murphy, for further information.

## Local History

Where you there? Members of the Local History Group are seeking information on the following:



Judy Fowler is researching Conifers school in Easebourne, which as you know closed its doors for the last time recently. She is interested in the building and its history and it becoming an educational establishment as well as recollections of pupils and staff. All contributions are for u3a use only and will be treated as anonymous.

Did you play with fire? More specifically, were you involved in the Midhurst Community Play in 1993 – “Playing with Fire”? Carol Brinson (Hawkins), who was in it and helped with the organisation, is gathering some material about it – photos, the script, press cuttings, memories. She would love to hear

from you if you have any.

Contact the group leader, Penny Holland, if you have any information and she will pass it on.

We have no spaces now but there is a waiting list if you're interested in joining the group.

### **Mah Jong** Fortnightly on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday afternoons



The Mah Jong group is going from strength to strength. We are getting more players every month and are now up to needing three tables to fit us all in. We have a variety of competence. Some people played years ago, and just needed a brush-up, whilst others are complete beginners, whom we take delight in introducing to the game.

It is a surprise how quickly our beginners have started to cotton on to the minutiae of the game, much helped by the U3A

handbook which is given to each new player.

Male, female, older and younger, we have room for more players if they would like to see if it is a game they would enjoy.



### **Change for March**

Our speaker for the monthly talk on 18<sup>th</sup> March is now Nico Dekker, who is a chartered engineer and director of the company Railway Systems Consultants Ltd based in Midhurst. His topic is "A life and career in railways".

His illustrated talk will cover aspects of his past involvement in planning, design and technology, procurement, building and operation of manually and automatically operated railways in the UK and overseas. He will touch on railway-specific technical design considerations with examples and the multiple financial, economic, environmental aspects coming into play when a new railway system is to be created.

### **Dates for your diary**

Tickets for 3 matinee performances at Chichester Festival Theatre have been booked:

- ❖ The Government Inspector – 22 May 2025
- ❖ Marie and Rosetta – 2 July 2025
- ❖ Top Hat – 28 August 2025