

**Welcome** back to all of you who have made the decision to renew your subscriptions to Midhurst u3a. We have an exciting year of activities/groups planned for this year but before all of that I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank your wonderful committee for continuing to keep u3a functioning so brilliantly during my 'absence'. As some of you will know I had a heart attack in early February leading to surgery in March, but I am pleased to say that my recuperation is going well, and I am also looking forward to the program we have on offer this year at u3a.

Thanks also to all of you who attended this year's AGM and gave us such brilliant feedback about what you enjoy about u3a but also areas where we can improve. We spent our Strategic Planning Day finding ways that we can implement some of your suggestions, an example of our motto 'by the members, for the members'. If you were unable to attend the AGM, please feel free to send us your own ideas and suggestions. Let's make this the best year yet for Midhurst u3a!

Odette (Chair).

### **AGM**

Our AGM this year, held on 19<sup>th</sup> May, followed a different format from usual. Rather than



having tea & biscuits beforehand, then the formal part of the meeting followed by a talk and pictures, we firstly completed the formal AGM business and followed it with a delicious afternoon tea: tasty sandwiches and home-made scones and jam topped off with a generous dollop of cream. With the addition of a traditional cuppa – and, of course, plenty of conversation – this all seemed to go down rather well!

Thus fuelled, members were invited to discuss, in small groups, how we might rejuvenate our u3a: the factors which contribute positively to it; those which are less successful; and things we may not have considered which might be worth exploring. The responses to the questions were noted on paper and left with the committee at the end of the afternoon.

The atmosphere was excellent throughout, with animated discussions providing useful notes for committee consideration at their Annual Strategic Planning Day – which has just taken place and information will be available in due course. Our sincere thanks to our members who attended and contributed.

## Group Roundup

The **Local History Group** had their annual outing in April. Judy Fowler, who is both a member of our group and a guide at Cowdray, took us on a bespoke tour of Cowdray Ruins and the kitchens. Even though it was, for most of us, quite close to home, there was much to learn about the glory days of Cowdray House, and the challenges of providing hot meals to Viscount Montague, his family and entourage.



They will be back to their normal format in May, with Carol Brinson talking about her research into Helen Hinkley, a professional calligrapher and enthusiastic photographer who was active in the communities of Midhurst and Easebourne.



The **Science and Technology Group** on their recent outing to the Farnborough Historic Wind Tunnels, actually inside the 24-foot wind tunnel, now a Grade 2 listed building.

The S & T Group has regular monthly meetings, (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in the morning) with speakers on various topics of scientific interest, and occasional trips.

The **History 1 Group** went on a visit to Christ's Hospital. This is a school founded in 1552 by the young King Edward VI after responding to an impassioned sermon on the needs of London's poor, following which he set up a school in Newgate Street providing food, clothing, lodging and education to poor men's children including girls.

In the 1560's it sent its first pupils to Oxford and Cambridge.



The school moved to Horsham in 1902 and parts of the old building were dismantled and rebuilt on the new site including the archways and portico by Christopher Wren.



We watched the band play the pupils into lunch in the grand Verrio Dining Room, then had a guided tour followed by a delicious high tea. A wonderful day out.

## **History Books Group** – by Group Leader Penny Holland

The idea for the History Books Group was a bit of a punt but it seems so far to have paid off. I wanted an excuse to read more history books and more fiction, and to share with and learn from others. So I came up with the idea of a book group with a difference - we would each read a different book (fiction or non-fiction) on a historical theme, and report back to the group for 10-15 minutes at a meeting held every 2 months so we had plenty of time to do the reading.

At our first meeting we agreed that we would be international in our coverage and have a break off date of 1970. Our first two topics were the formation of the modern Middle East and the U.S. civil rights movement, with Spain before and after Franco as our topic for July. The group is full, and people seem to be enjoying themselves. I certainly am.

The **Art, Architecture and Design Group** went to Champs Hill in May to see the Newlyn School Exhibition. As you can see they had a glorious day for it.



Now settle down with a Cocktail:



Great success once a month at the new **Cocktails and Mocktails Group**. Informative, very tasty and fun!

Monthly on Thursday  
afternoons 4:30 pm-6:00 pm  
Last Thursday of the month.  
£5 for cost of ingredients

And breathe out slowly, with a deep sigh at the cuteness factor:



Marilyn Ridgway is the leader of the **Dog Walking Group**, which meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 10am.

The group walks at various locations within a 30 mins drive of Midhurst and the walks take approximately 1.5hrs – 2hrs of easy walking for both dogs and owners alike.

Non dog owners are most welcome to join the group.



## Upcoming Events:

### Midhurst u3a Open Day / Coffee Morning

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2026, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

at the Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, GU29 9DH



Our event this year for the National "u3a Week" will be a Coffee Morning for new and prospective members to find out more about Midhurst u3a. So, if you are interested in getting to find out more about many of the Interest Groups, meeting the Committee or meeting other new members, please put the date in your diary and bring along a friend or neighbour.

### Quiz with Fish & Chip Supper

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2026

£16 per member at the Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre.

Tickets will be on sale at the July and August Monthly Talks.

### RUG – Really Useful Group

If you are able to help at the monthly talks by serving tea, setting out chairs or welcoming visitors and new members, please contact the RUG Leader Jenny Peters ([bigboyben1@icloud.com](mailto:bigboyben1@icloud.com), 07919 318938) .

We often also need people to help with admin. tasks such as taking bookings for social events and outings, assisting with publicity tasks or delivering envelopes to members 2 or 3 times a year. Please contact any of the Committee if you think that is something you could assist with.

Keep up to date with what is happening in Midhurst u3a by checking the web site at <https://midhurst.u3asite.uk/>

Contact details for Committee members and Group Leaders can be found in the Programme of Activities or they can be contacted directly via the website.