Happenings

September 2026

Midhurst u3a Open Day / Coffee Morning – 26th September – A success!

'By the members, for the members' – including some new recruits!



The sun shone, the South Downs Memorial Hall gradually filled with tables, chairs and wonderful displays, and the cheerful bunting and banners linking people's eyes from the bus station and car park to our Memorial Hall venue led a steady stream of people to investigate our special event.

Inside the hall there was a discernible buzz of interest from our visitors and enthusiasm from our groups and helpers.





The colourful and enticing displays by many of our Groups were enjoyed – including two games being played – provoking much discussion and admiration, and several members (new and existing) joined new Groups.

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We gained 13 new members as a result of all this effort. 23 of our groups were represented, which was most encouraging.

Huge thanks are due to all of our wonderful members who took part, in whatever way; we certainly couldn't have done this without you.

As one of our participants observed, it was a very happy event.



Quiz with Fish & Chip Supper

On Monday 21st September we held our annual quiz and fish 'n' chips evening in the South Downs Memorial Hall. 60 members enjoyed their cod (or chicken or sausage) and chips which were freshly cooked in the van outside in the car park, before trying to answer five rounds of questions prepared and compered by the master of ceremonies Ian Woodhams. One round was about familiar, or perhaps not so familiar, places around Midhurst, a test of our ability to remember the details of our surroundings. Good food, a bit of friendly competition, and good company – a nice way to spend a Monday evening.

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Group Roundup

A very happy **MOTO** (Members on Their Own) lunch during August at the Welldiggers Arms at Low Heath, near Petworth.



Watercolour Painting – begin at the beginning and beyond



How can you possibly paint with cling film and a twig? Brushes needn't be the only tool! Why not enrol on one of our occasional Watercolour courses to explore some different ideas?

Veronica Bailey, one of our members whose artwork can be seen in Midhurst, is running introductory courses on watercolour painting.

Keep an eye on our eNewsletters and on our website for details.

The next course is Friday 20th and Saturday 21st November 2.00pm – 5.00pm. There is a charge of £40.25 to cover the hire of the room and materials, depending on numbers attending. The maximum number is 4.

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12 members of the **Climate and Environment Group** had a fascinating visit to Tuppenny Barn in Emsworth during the summer for a 2 hour Tour & Talk followed by tea and cake.

Tuppenny Barn is an educational charity located on an organic smallholding offering unique opportunities for everyone to learn about sustainability in all its forms. This includes horticulture, cookery and eating for a healthier lifestyle. They also run therapy sessions for vulnerable young adults and a whole wide range of educational programmes based in the community.



The latest monthly visit by the **Church Visiting Group** was to see three fascinating but very different churches in and around Steyning. The churches at Coates and Botolphs are both tiny but full of interesting details, while St Cuthman's at Steyning is one of the best preserved Norman churches in Sussex.

The group currently has room for 2 or 3 new members.







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Short Walk in Petworth Park 21st September



We parked in the town carpark and walked through the cow tunnel entrance to the park.

We then followed a National Trust walk of 1.6 miles, making the whole walk 2.2 miles.

We watched the deer herd walk across the park to lay in the shade and spotted a stag hiding in woodland at the top of the lake. A little egret and flocks of noisy geese flying overhead rounded off our wildlife experience.

We were so lucky – a lovely but not hot day.

We rounded off the walk with coffee etc at a Petworth café.



Poetry for Pleasure Group chose poems on Sussex and Sussex writers for their September meeting. One of them was:

I never get between the pines
But I smell the Sussex air;
Nor I never come on a belt of sand
But my home is there.
And along the sky the line of the Downs
So noble and so bare.

Hilaire Belloc from "The South Country"

One or two places are available if you enjoy poetry and would like to join us on the first Wednesday of the month, in the morning. Our October topic is "Autumn" and we will be exploring the War poets in November.
It is a wonderful excuse to go through poetry books or search the web for poems on each topic, and then share them with the group, and hear what others have chosen.

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Very special Birthday wishes to Jean Farguson – 100 earlier this month!

At the September Monthly Talk, Sue Edwards presented Jean with a beautiful bouquet of flowers on behalf of the whole of Midhurst u3a to mark her 100th birthday.

Jean's involvement in Midhurst u3a — over so many years — has been absolutely tremendous and has been a shining example to us all.

We thank her, from the bottom of our hearts, for all that she has done and achieved and for the pleasure and inspiration she has provided for our members with her determined approach to life.

Upcoming Events:

Christmas Lunch – save the date – Monday 7th December

Please note we have a change of venue for the Christmas Lunch this year – it will be held in The Barn at the Park House Hotel, Bepton. NB the date is also a week earlier than previous years.

Further information will be issued in the next few weeks along with booking arrangements. In addition tickets will be on sale at the October and November 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.

We often also need people to help with admin. tasks such as taking bookings for social events and outings, or delivering envelopes to members 2 or 3 times a year. Please contact Jenny as above 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 enquiries can be made by email to midhurstu3a@gmail.com

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