



‘Fish & Ships’ old school presentation this month

Nick Willoughby's talk is a 'Show and Tell' presentation – he uses no computer, power-point, or graphs! What he has is a series of anecdotes of his life and times in 50 years of wandering the world, 'illustrated' by objects and artefacts which he has brought home from his travels as a fisheries biologist – hence the title of his presentation, 'Fish and Ships' . . . things like the head of an 18' crocodile which ate two of his fishermen; shark-tooth daggers and clubs from the Pacific; models of different types of boats used in different exploring cultures; an ancient type of crab which has been around for 500 million years . . . well, come and see the rest!

Nick will hand these things round for our members to see and touch them – so an interesting afternoon is in prospect.

Derek Carpenter, Speaker Secretary



Here's looking at you kid:

'Fish & Ships' with the handling of the head of an 18ft Crocodile that ate two fishermen.

2pm, 26 April 2022. This is an in-person only meeting at Ryarsh Village Hall.



Owzat! Spring with the sound of leather on willow

When the first signs of Spring arrive the thoughts of the good people in this Group start to once again turn to the anticipation of the sound of leather on willow, long summer days, convivial chat round the Lime Tree Cafe while watching the last pair blocking out for a draw, or retreating to the bar as the rain sweeps in. We've just about kept going through the dark winter months with a few Zoom chats, mainly focusing on the demise of the England XI down under, and ideas for the much needed improvements. We have just ventured forth into the fresh Spring air with a meeting outside the Village Hotel for coffee and an exchange of cricket books, including thumbing

Sisters Are Doin' It For Themselves:

A study by the Women's Sports Trust revealed that 33 million people watched domestic women's sport in 2021

through a delicate copy of the 1949 Wisden kindly donated to the group by Chrys Short. We are organising a trip to see Kent v Surrey on Friday 13th May, so hope the weather improves, and then some discussions (Zoom or f2f) of current topics or past cricketers during the season, and beyond. Its been a tough couple of seasons where we've had little access to live matches, and have suffered a larger than average number of illnesses and injuries, so we could do with some new recruits to get us back up to a full strength team – volunteers welcome.

John Russell, Cricket Appreciation convenor

The Short view



Well at some point it was going to happen – I tested positive for covid. I am fine now but don't believe those who tell you that it is just like having a cold. But luckily I was able to spend a few days in Wales – walking – and seeing family and even managing to use my beginners Welsh in shops and restaurants.

Thank you to those group leaders who have written about their groups in the Newsletter this month. This is a new feature where we will highlight the different interests and activities available for our members to enjoy. We are still looking for volunteers to either help or join the committee – so please do give some thought to this.

Also a reminder that, if you have a friend or neighbour who might be interested in joining u3a you're welcome to bring them along to a monthly meeting – it would be helpful if you could let us know in advance so we can make sure that we don't go over our numbers.

Chrys Short, Chair Malling u3a



Watch my stride

The area was named after Queen Victoria the last British monarch from the House of Hanover and the first to reside in Buckingham Palace. The name Victoria is used to describe streets adjoining the station consisting predominantly of commercial property and private and social housing, with retail uses along the main streets. Originally two railway companies decided to pool their resources and back the Victoria Station and Pimlico Railway and access to Victoria was to be reached by the newly constructed Grosvenor Bridge – the first railway bridge over the Thames – designed by John Fowler. To please the rich and influential residents of Pimlico and Belgravia, the railway companies had to enclose with a roof the tracks from the station to protect people from noise, soot and smoke from the steam engines. The Belmond British Pullman departs from Victoria for UK wide tours, as does the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express for its signature London-Paris-Venice route. The bus terminus outside Victoria serves buses to Central London and outside. Grosvenor Gardens is the name given to two triangular parks

Chafing the dream:

The Walk London group went on a tour of Victoria and were surprised by what they discovered.

and The Rifle Brigade War Memorial stands at its junction with Hobart Place. The huts in the southern garden are covered with shells from England and France and are used to store gardening equipment. The northern garden contains the sculpture Lioness and Lesser Kudu by Jonathan Kenworthy dedicated to the memory of Ferdinand Foch, Marshal of France and the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies. According to his biography Norman Wisdom slept near the statue of Marshal Foch when his parents split up. Before going into comedy, he worked as an errand boy in the then grand Artillery Mansions on Victoria Street, which was then a grand hotel.

There are lots of hotels near Victoria station and we saw Victoria's two theatres The Victoria Palace and the Apollo. We concluded our walk with a visit to Westminster Cathedral the largest Catholic church in the UK and the seat of the Archbishop of Westminster.

Pat Bell Walk London 1

Tea Rota

April: Christine Garrett, Pat Lander & Jan Holdsworth.

May: Kate Adds, Carole Lawrence & Chris Harnett

Christine Barrett

Fill your own: Help the environment & our volunteers by bringing your own reusable cup

e: newsletter@mallindistrictu3a.org.uk



Something to spark your interest



Astronomy

This is a very new group and as yet we have only had a couple of meetings. We are currently looking at the planets of the solar system. So far we have discussed Mercury which is of course the nearest planet to the sun but has the largest variations in temperature of any of the planets; Mars where various rovers and even a small helicopter are trying to find more information about the planet but so far scientists have still not established if it has or had any form of life on it; Jupiter the large gas giant which can be seen with the naked eye from Earth (will be looking at its moons this month) and Saturn with its beautiful rings.

We have found someone who has a telescope and we intend to visit a rural spot where there is less light pollution and explore the night sky using the telescope. We will need to have a clear sky free from clouds.

We also intend to visit the Planetarium at Greenwich and Herstmonceux Observatory in Sussex.

Helen Strotton ▲



Ambling

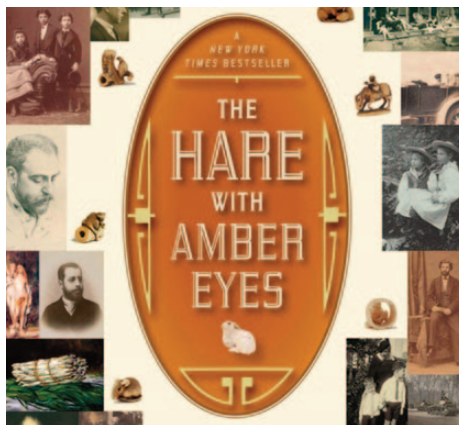
We have ambled throughout the winter fairly locally – West Malling, Larkfield and Golden Green being some of the places we have been to. But as the spring and

A new monthly feature where we spotlight the wide range of interest groups and activities available to Malling u3a members

summer come on we'll travel further out into the Kent countryside.

Join us if you like walking, talking and enjoying the scenery – and don't just want to get miles under the belt! Third Wednesday in the month at 10.30! Contact me via the website if interested.

Ruth Brind ▲



Book Group 1

I have been going to this book group since February 2013 as far as I can tell. We meet on the second Monday of the month at Jocelyn Granville's house in West Malling which has a room big enough for all of us and the highlight is always Jocelyn's delicious home-made cake!

We are led by the indomitable Valerie Willsher who always manages to get us a book different from the last one despite the challenge of what is available at Borough Green Library. She works from a list of books suggested by us but at the end of the day has to take whatever they have.

I enjoy the book group because it makes me read books that I wouldn't normally choose. Sometimes we agree on whether we like or dislike a particular book but the best meetings are always the ones where opinion is split

which inevitably leads to a lively discussion.

What has the book group done for me? It is interesting and stimulating. We are all different and each one of us brings a different perspective to the book of the month, helping us to see things we might not have noticed otherwise. It has also given me friendship and support. We are all there for each other in times of need.

Books that have stayed with me include *The Hare with the Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Waal, *Empress Dowager Cixi* by Jung Chang, *H is for Hawk* by Helen McDonald and *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, but there are many, many more than that.

I hope we can continue for many years to come.

Jenny Tomlin ▲

Next month: We will be featuring Book Group 2, *Computing Advanced & Circle Dancing*



Batemans and Merriments Gardens & Nursery visit

A day visit to the 4-acre gardens and then to the Jacobean home of Rudyard Kipling has been arranged for 6 July 2022 and bookings are still being taken. The trip includes travel from a local pickup as well as pitstops for teas, coffees and scrumptious cream cakes for the wicked.

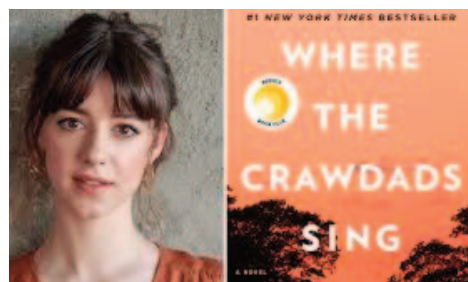
Please find full details of the visit including a booking form attached.

Pat Bell, Malling u3a Social Committee

Last month we asked what you had been reading, this is what you said



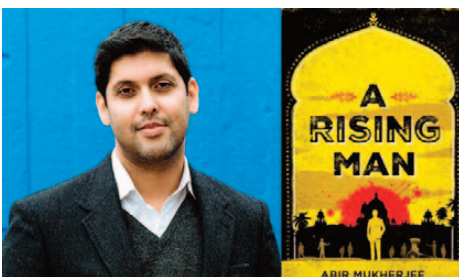
Thank you to everyone who contacted us to tell us what they had enjoyed reading recently. Some fascinating and very varied books were recommended. ***The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri** was Maggie Bishop's choice. She says that it changed her outlook on victims of war. Very well written, it contains



love, darkness, courage, tragedy and hope. Isobel Macdonald's best read in the last two years was ***Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens**, the story of a young girl abandoned by her family and living in the swamps of southern U.S. She says it is absolutely gripping with a won-



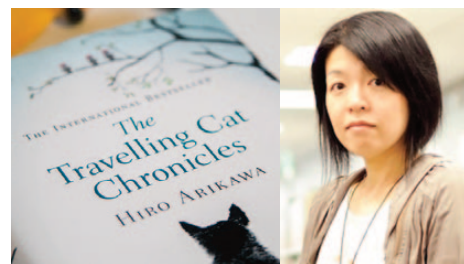
derful twist at the end. Get past the first 20 pages and you'll be hooked! Anne Sargent enjoys detective novels and recommends ***Holding* by Graham Norton** (currently being serialised on ITV) and a series of books by **Jacqueline Winspear** set in the 1920s and '30s about an ama-



teur detective called Maisie Dobbs. Ruth Brind's current favourite author is **Abir Mukherjee** and she suggests ***A Rising Man***. It is warmly humorous, interesting from a historical point of view – it takes place in the 1920s and starts as the Spanish Flu epidemic has finished in Europe – and the characters are attractive personalities. ***The Book of Two Ways* by**



Jodi Picoult is, says Jill Browning, a clever book massively researched into the mysteries of Egyptology. It deals with death, both as found in the tombs of ancient Egypt and in modern America, as well as with love. Sometimes irritating and occasionally unsettling, it is well

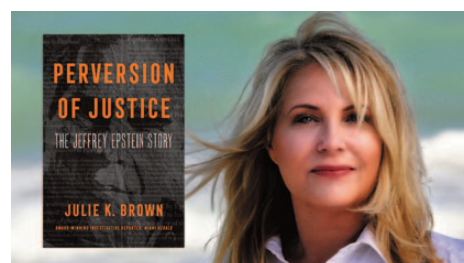


worth the effort. For light relief Jill recommends ***The Travelling Cat Chronicles* by Hiro Arikawa**, a charming story where the cat is the chronicler. But have a tissue ready at the end, she warns. Finally two suggestions from Margaret Ivell: ***The Perversion of Justice: the Jeffrey Epstein Story* by Julie K Brown** and ***The***



***Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles**, a novel about three 18-year-olds who met in a juvenile reformatory and the very bright 8-year-old brother of one of them as they travel in 1954 from Nebraska to New York seeking a better life.

Valerie Willsher, Book Club 1 convenor



News from the u3a Trust

Please note that the Spring edition of Third Age Matters Magazine is expected to arrive on doorsteps early in May. This slight delay is due to the Trust moving to a new printer following the issues experienced with the winter edition. We hope this move will limit any further delays in delivery in the future.

The Spring issue is another fantastic read, with tasty recipes to make your u3a 40th Anniversary Picnic in the Park go with a swing, 40th Anniversary events, members' inspiring stories, your favourite walks and much more.....

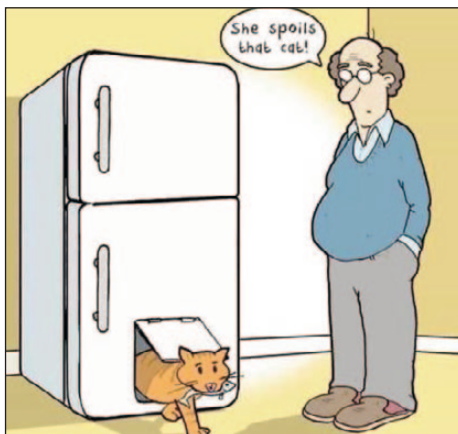


Anne's knee slappers

Best plumber advertising ever



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Five weeks ago
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on the sofa and
I've grown
considerably.**



Funnies supplied
by Anne Sargent

Looking to sell my DeLorean.
Good shape, low mileage.
Only driven from time to time.



Petrol lighter for sale



**£20 without petrol
£180 with petrol**

Proofreading this book couldn't have
been that hard



I hope it's garlic

