



Our speaker this month: Mark Lewis William Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement

Our subject this month celebrates the work of an illustrious poet, artist, and social reformer, who pioneered a movement that reacted against the soulless machine production of the Industrial Revolution and attempted to promote joyful labour, the enjoyment of fine craftsmanship, and simplicity of expression.

Craftsmanship is something in which Mark Lewis himself is particularly skilled. He is a designer-maker, specialising in silversmithing and jewellery, and also a landscape artist. He has a degree in 3-D Design and worked for a major jewellery and silver manufacturer in London before establishing his own workshop. In 1985 he entered full-time teaching while continuing to maintain a freelance consultancy. Until the summer of 2009 he was a Principal Lecturer in the Sir John Cass Department of Art, Media and Design at London Metropolitan University. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Mark lectures part-time at the Goldsmiths' Centre in London, and is a visiting lecturer at Birmingham City University.

This will be Mark's second visit to Malling u3a: four years ago he spoke to us about The Seasonal Customs and Traditions of Kent, and we very much look forward to welcoming him back to Ryarsh next week for what will undoubtedly be a well illustrated, informative, enjoyable and entertaining talk.



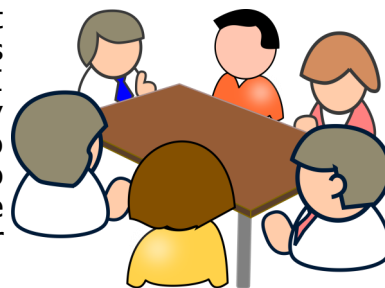
Derek Carpenter

Committee Chronicles

When your committee met in July, the first meeting since our AGM, our chairman S welcomed both new and continuing committee members at the start of what is clearly going to be a busy and exciting year. Apart from various routine matters the main focus of our deliberations was on social events for the benefit of all our members.

A new Events Group has been formed which is enthusiastically planning a programme of activities for the year ahead. As well as our annual Group Convenors' lunch and a coffee morning for new members, our Christmas Lunch has been booked for 6 December – the first since pre-Covid days. Further details will follow but meanwhile keep the date free. In addition we are looking at a variety of events including a quiz, a revue and a jazz evening. Watch this space!

The committee also discussed the provision of Zoom for the monthly meeting. This is now used by very few members and makes considerable demands on our small technical team and so we propose to phase this out over the next couple of months. However, we are very anxious to support any members who are unable to get to meetings. I know that some of you regularly bring friends to our monthly meeting or to Interest Groups but are there others out there who would appreciate being put in touch with another member who could offer them a lift? Please get in touch with any of the committee if this applies to you. We are always pleased to hear your comments and suggestions.



Valerie Willsher

French Reading Group

The group is going from strength to strength. We have two new members and we are now meeting in person rather than on Zoom which adds a more personal touch. We have had some really good books to read, which, fortunately for us, have been written by young authors for the young, 20+ reader which means the vocabulary has not been too difficult although we are now talking like French teenagers!

We have just finished "Les Gens Du Balto" by Faiza Guerne which is an amusing tale of the people who frequent the café Balto in the *banlieus* of Paris and the unfortunate death of *Le patron*. Mademoiselle Guerne has a canny ability to observe and characterise her subjects and to turn them into an amusing and tense whodunit.

Our new book "Le Liseur du 6hr 27" by Jean Paul Didierlaurent is the story of a man who works in a book pulping factory but saves pages and reads them to his fellow commuters on the 6.27 train. Although more challenging than previous books it has introduced us to French Alexandrine verse and engineering terminology of book pulping machinery which I am sure will be very handy on my next trip to Calais!

We would welcome more members and I am happy to send a sample from our books if you are worried about your standard of French. I think our next book will revert to the contemporaries of Faiza Guerne as teenage patois is a lot easier and more useful than component parts of pulping machinery!

A bientôt mes amis.

Adrian Bouwens



Tea Rota

August
Judy Barnsley
& Sally Brailsford



Bring your own.
Help the environment by
bringing your own mug.

Italian for Improvers.

We continue to improve - albeit slowly. As we emerge from covid, the most notable event this last year has been exploring the mysteries of the imperfect tense, interspersed with chat about holidays.

At each session we try to get in some speaking, some reading and some listening in Italian.

We usually meet on the first and third Friday each month between 2 and 4, though the last half hour is always occupied by tea, biscuits and more chat.

There are only a few of us, so more would be welcome. If you have *some* knowledge of the language this could be for you.

Ray Lawrence

Social Cycling

Once again, we set off into the back streets and byways on a very interesting and comfortable ride - this time the weather was perfect Goldilocks weather - not too hot and not too cold.

Expertly led by Tony, and starting from East Malling we soon disappeared into a network of footpaths, walkways and back-streets, emerging at the Medway Malta Inn lock, where we posed for our photo.

The ride on the Medway footpath was really pleasant and we didn't meet any walkers but we did meet a cyclist who by coincidence was a friend of Tony! There are many coincidences in life - some are unbelievable.

We had our tea break at Snodland where we had a very brief five-minute shower of rain as we sat under a huge umbrella for our tea & coffee. We came back home via Birling and from there it was an easy ride back to East Malling. Altogether an interesting ride which we will certainly do again.

Barry Evans



Malling Musings

As mentioned last month, we are planning an ambitious programme of events and activities to help reinvigorate the Interest Groups and increase our overall membership. These events are not only for our existing members to enjoy, but also to generate interest and attract potential new recruits to Malling u3a.

Coming up we have the **Open & Sign Up Day** in September where we would encourage you to bring along friends and neighbours to sample what we have to offer.

In October Linda O'Byrne - a published author - will be presenting, **Jane Austen, Heroes & Villains** which is an interactive session that provides an unusual take on the popular writer.

To round off the year we will be returning to the beautiful setting of the West Malling Golf Club for the **Christmas Lunch** in December. Further details are provided below and some events have restricted numbers so book early.

Our efforts will only succeed with your help and support. Please come along to make the most of your membership but perhaps equally importantly, bring along a friend or two to sample what Malling u3a has to offer.

S,
S Sangha

COMING EVENTS

OPEN DAY/SIGNING UP DAY

Our annual Open Day & Signing Up Day is on **Tuesday 26 September**.

Please come along and make it a social afternoon.

We will have tea & cakes and maybe the Singing Group will entertain you for a short while.

Please advertise it around your neighbourhood and bring your friends and neighbours.

Anne Sargent



CALLING ALL JANE AUSTEN FANS

Jane Austen

Whether you have read all of her novels or only watched adaptations of them on television or the cinema, for a mere £5 come along to Ryarsh Village Hall on **Friday 6 October** at 10am and find out more about this very popular author.

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Helen Strotton

CHRISTMAS LUNCH.

Malling District u3a Christmas Lunch is back, on **Wednesday 6 December** from 12.30 at

West Malling Golf Club.

Put the date in your diary. The cost will be £30-35. The menu will be out soon.



Sally Brailsford

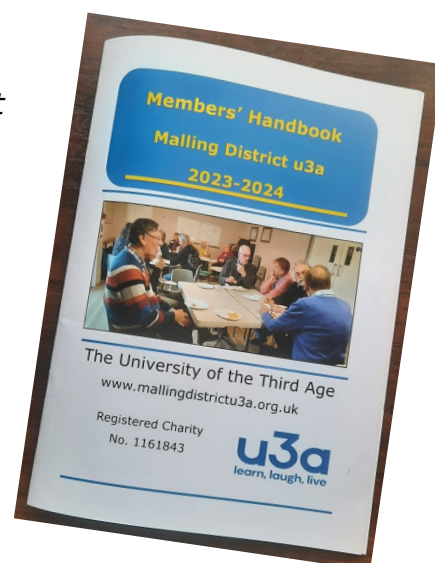
2023-24 HANDBOOK

The new Handbook and Membership Cards are now ready for distribution. They will be available at the next meeting on 22 August.

If you are there please take yours and deliver to your friends and neighbours that are not present.

Just remember that your Membership Cards are also in the envelope, so don't throw them away with the envelope!

Anne Sargent





Just pulled the door handle off, safe to say it was as surprised as I was...



Reflections of a Boomer

I've seen fire and I've seen rain.
I've been through the desert on a horse with no name.

I've gone to Kansas City, I sang in the sunshine.
I've been on the road again, with Georgia on my mind.

Like a rolling stone, I've given peace a chance.
I've put a camel to bed and danced the last dance.

Mr. Tambourine man played a song for me,
I've whispered words of wisdom, let it be.

I've fallen into a burning ring of fire and walked the line,
To all the girls I've loved before, you were always on my mind.

I've been everywhere, I've been so lonesome I could cry,
I've driven my Chevy to the levee when the levee was dry.

I've been to Itchy coo Park in a yellow submarine.
I've made the scene in a time machine.

I've done the Hokey Pokey and turned myself around.
I've welcomed baby back to the poor side of town.

I've followed the tracks of my tears down a long and winding road.
I've kept on searching for a heart of gold.

I've sought shelter from the storm, I've sat on the dock of the bay.
I've rocked around the clock, on a sunshiny day.

I've knocked on Heaven's door, while blowing in the wind.
Joy to the world, those were the days my friend.

Lay lady lay, in crimson and clover.
It's been a hard day's night, the party's over

