



The weather is always important for a leisure cyclist – cycling in the rain is no fun. Yesterday was a bit cloudy, but the forecast was that the morning would be dry – and it was. Actually, it was good weather for cycling – dry and not too hot – I wore my shorts for the first time this year.

Because Kings Hill U3A was having an AGM this afternoon, we cut our ride short by not having a tea break, and we did the whole 16 miles in one go. It was a circular ride starting from behind the

King and Queen in East Malling and going via Offham, Seven Mile Lane, the A25, Ryarsh, Birling, past West Malling and back to East Malling – finishing with a nice downhill section back to the pub.

We had the time to stop for a few photographs, including one of these lovely Peacock gates on Windmill Hill.

**Barry Evans, Convenor Cycling Group**



## Del Boy of the art world

Our speaker, after the AGM, is Dr James Taylor, FRSA, a former Victorian paintings specialist at Phillips Fine Art Auctioneers and curator of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

2022 marked the 100th anniversary of the public opening of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, one of the most fascinating historic houses in England. James Taylor's lively presen-

tation explores the enchanting seaside home and eclectic art collection of Sir Merton and Lady Annie Russell-Cotes in Bournemouth.

Funded by their ownership of the Royal Bath Hotel and astute art dealing they acquired remarkable 19th and 20th century paintings, partly inspired by their world travels. In fact, their home-cum-museum, completed in 1901, features an exceptional range of female subjects by women artists. Discover more about Sir Merton Russell-Cotes who was a colourful character. Some of his business dealings are reminiscent of Del Boy from the popular BBC sitcom 'Only Fools and Horses'

**Derek Carpenter, Speaker Secretary**



## Tea Rota

### June

Shelagh Jones, Pam Wilkinson & Dick Wilkinson

### July

Russ Taylor, Kate Shennan & Susan Collins

**Christine Barrett**

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

**Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum, Bournemouth [above left]:** one of the most fascinating historic houses in England; the home-cum-museum, completed in 1901, features an exceptional range of female subjects by women artists.

**Monthly Talk: Tuesday 28 June at 2pm. Attend in person or view on Zoom**



**Hammer heads:** we have been meeting seasonally for around ten years now at the Medway Croquet Club, Aylesford.

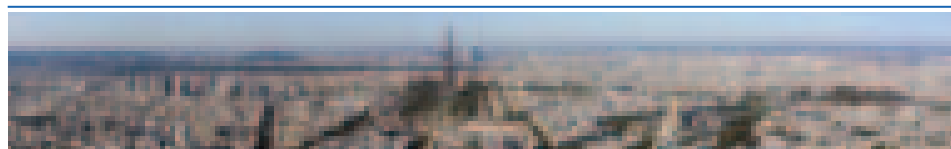
**T**he Malling u3a Croquet Group has been meeting seasonally each Tuesday morning for around ten years now which is hosted by the Medway Croquet Club based in Aylesford.

From May to the end of September people have come to enjoy a fun couple of hours learning how to play and socialising with like minded people. All equipment and tutoring is provided and there is no need to wear whites, just something comfortable for weather conditions.

Over the years quite a number of group members have subsequently joined the croquet club which then provides the benefit of being able to play at any time throughout the year.

One cautionary note ... croquet can become quite addictive!! Please contact me via our website if you are interested in joining us.

**Carole Shepherd,**  
**Convenor Croquet Group**



## Notre group a changé

*Do not read French? Use Google Translate at <https://translate.google.co.uk/>.*

*Copy & paste the text below into the left hand panel for an instant transcription.*

Notre group a changé à d'un groupe des gens qui rencontre pour la conversation et les podcasts à un groupe qui lise des livres français. Récemment nous avons lu le livre classique « Bonjour Tristesse » écrit par Françoise Sagan. C'est l'histoire d'une jeune fille en vacance avec son père et sa copine et une autre femme qui est arrivée et change la vie de notre héroïne. Puis nous avons lu un livre très amusant par une jeune femme de vingt ans qui écrit une histoire d'une jeune fille marocaine qui vit en Marseille. Le livre s'appelle « Kiffe Kiffe Demain » par Faiza Guerne. Faiza nous présente avec les mots des jeunes d'un quartier pauvre. Les livres nous présentent avec mots nouveaux à nous, par exemple savez-vous qu'est-ce que « un maquereau » outre qu'un poisson? Aussi « une meuf » ou « un mec » ? Et avez-vous besoin de « CAF »

Si on veut nous rejoindre on sera bien souhaité. Nous rencontrons à 14 heures sur le premier et le troisième Lundi du mois et nous utilisons Zoom. Les livres que nous choisissons sont faciles à traduire et nous préparons avant les réunions.

**Adrian Bouwens, Convenor French Group**



## the Short view

A reminder that our AGM is on the 28th of June and I look forward to welcoming you whether in person or via zoom. Also, I would like to remind our 'Zoomers' please can you make sure that you are muted, having disembodied voices can be off putting to both the speaker and other audience members, if anyone is not sure how to mute themselves - please let me know and I will arrange for someone to help you.

A thank you to those of you who are bringing their own cups to our monthly meetings, it is really appreciated and makes life easier for those who are doing the teas and is also better for the environment.

And lastly by now you will all have received a copy of our Covid Diary - as you will recall we started to collate this during the first lockdown and continued well into the third. Looking back at the entries is quite a salutary experience and is a reminder of what we lived through, thank you to all who contributed. Thanks in particular go to Valerie Willsher who collected our weekly contributions and to Anne Sargent who pulled the whole lot together into the document we now have. Thanks to them both we have a lasting record of this time.. Let us hope that we never have to repeat this.

**Chrys Short, Chair Malling u3a**



# Interest Groups of the year

A monthly feature to spotlight the interest groups and activities available to Malling u3a members.



**Discover London take a walk in the park**

On a beautiful June morning 15 members of the Discover London group assembled at Stratford International Station to begin an interesting exploration of the Hackney Marsh area and Olympic Park. Stratford up to the mid 19th Century was a village in an agricultural area east of the City of London. The arrival of the railway in 1839 led to gradual industrialization and associated poor housing. During WWII 25% of Stratford and London Docks were destroyed by enemy bombing. As late as the 1990s, 560 acres of what is now the Olympic Park consisted of declining industrial buildings including 52 electrical pylons and huge tracks of disused land.

We walked through modern Victoria Park with its water filtration ponds, tree-lined paths and cafes, towards the River Lee. The Lee rises in the Chilton Hills, Bedfordshire and 42 miles later discharges into the River Thames at Bow Creek. Pre Romans it was an important north/south trade route.

Hackney Marsh East/West, was a marsh of some 340 acres as the name suggests. Hardcore from bombed buildings was used to fill and raise the level of the land for new development,

ie New Spitalfields Market and numerous sports grounds for the newly built housing developments. Dick Turpin made a name for himself in this area.

The Olympic Park: London's commitment to 'legacy' in terms of inspiring future generations of young people, eco friendly environments, water filtration systems and rain water collection.

Catching tantalising glimpses of the 'repurposed' Olympic buildings, we made our way to the Velodrome where we marvelled at its construction. Along the River Lee's tow-path we passed the old Lesney Matchbox Factory site – now housing, past Here East science and technology complex, and Copper Box Arena for Basketball. We walked the boulevard towards the main Stadium, home to West Ham football, admired the Aquatic Centre, designed by the late Architect Dame Zaha Hadid, commented upon the ArcelorMittal Orbit designed by Sir Anish Kapoor and just enjoyed seeing the wide expanse of footpaths lined with trees, cafes and water features.

The attractive new development, Stratford Waterfront, is to be an Education and Culture District.

**Patricia Sutch, Discover London**

## Current Affairs

The Current Affairs discussion group meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2pm for a friendly chat and a cup of tea for a couple of hours. Those who have the space and easy parking take turns to host it in their homes. Before the meeting members send suggestions for topics, so that people can be prepared for a good discussion.

The politics of the day is large on the agenda but there is no limit to what members can suggest. We don't always stick to the list of suggestions; whatever feels right on the day. For example at the last meeting we discussed the jubilee celebrations, the future of the Monarchy and the energy crisis.

There is always a wide range of political opinions which often makes for a lively discussion, but we always respect each other's views.

We are a friendly group and make sure the chat is enjoyable as well as informative. We have room for one or two new members. Contact me via our website if interested

**Steve Fisher, Convenor**

## Trip under threat

This is the last call for the Merriments gardens & Bateman's trip on July 6.

The overall response has been poor, despite some bookings from friends in Kings Hill u3a, so it looks likely that we will have to cancel. That would be disappointing but of course we cannot run the trip at a significant loss.

**Contact Dianne White via our website.**





# Anne's knee slappers

Lord of the Flies tells the story of a bunch of public schoolboys who take back control of an island cut off from the rest of the world and then collapse into vicious in-fighting. It's a work of fiction, apparently.



When you realize that 1970 and 2022 are as far apart as 1970 and 1918 ..... I'm just going to need a minute .....



Someone said "30 years ago", and my mind went "Ah yes! The 1970's", but they meant 1992, and now I need to lie down.

