



Journey into Space - exploring worlds beyond our own

A Study Day for Mallingu3a members

Thursday 23 February 2023

Ryars Village Hall

Following the initiative of Helen Strotton, the convenor of the Astronomy Group, the Committee is organising a Study Day on Thursday 23rd February at Ryars Village Hall from 10am until 3.15pm. Because of the nature of various components of the day numbers will be limited to 80, so please make sure you reserve your place now.

The morning session will invite 40 participants at a time into an Astrodome which is being erected in the Hall and in which we will be led on an explanatory tour of the galaxies: and while the elements of Space are being unfolded, the other 40 will be treated, in the Davison Room, to excerpts from a Channel 4 documentary 'Live from Space'. Following coffee the two groups will switch over

so that no-one misses out!

Tea and coffee will be provided while we eat our packed lunches, and two lectures in the afternoon, for an hour each with questions, will complete the day: one of the lectures will be 'Our Night Sky' and will be given by Arthur Fentaman FRAS, and the other will be on 'Exploding Stars and Black Holes' and presented by Ian Hargraves FRAS; both speakers, as you see, are Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society and are also STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.) Ambassadors. Those who are coming to speak are aware that very few of us, if any, are scientists but that we have a real interest in these things, and they will cater for us accordingly. Let no-one be deterred by thinking that all

this is 'beyond our ken'.

Places for the day will cost £10: priority will be given to our own members, but should there be availability we will welcome members of other u3as together with those who are not members of u3a. You are advised to make an early application as, if there are places available, other u3as will be notified in the first week of December – it's 'first come, first served'!

There is a flier as a separate attachment which contains details of how to register and reserve a place.

We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a fascinating day.

Derek Carpenter, Planning Group



The River Thames - stories from Greenwich to Chelsea

Emma Mathew's virtual River Thames London tour starts at Greenwich in the East and ends at Chelsea in the West. Meander along 10 miles of this great river packed with splendid architecture from palaces to pubs and power stations. The talk is a mixture of stories from "then" and "now" against the backdrop of this historic waterway.

Emma has been a London Blue Badge tourist guide since qualifying in 2016. She began her journey to this career by being a Londoner. She grew up and went to school in London then practiced as a Barrister in the Inner Temple, and as a Government Legal Advisor in Westminster and The Royal Courts of Justice. Emma took a degree in History of Art at Birkbeck College whilst founding an art and cultural tours business.

Derek Carpenter, Speaker Secretary

Monthly Talk, 2pm, Tuesday 22 November, Ryars Village Hall

Malling u3a out & about



Science & Technology group visit the Brede Steam Giants

Flick the light switch or turn on the tap and we give little thought to what lies behind our vital daily supplies of power and water. The Science & Technology Group is for ever delving into the whys and wherefores that drive the world around us and, on this occasion, it was a visit to Brede Steam Giants down

near Hastings to see the massive Victorian and Edwardian engineering masterpieces that used to deliver the water to our taps. We were surrounded by gently rotating wheels driving king sized pistons and cylinders – a real ‘boys own’ treat and all immaculately renovated and maintained. Our guides were able to draw on their lifetime experiences to bring it all to life as we toured the pump houses and clambered down into the condenser basements. Being a strategically important installation, the site had its own cold war nuclear bunker to protect up to thirty on site staff from the devastation and to maintain vital supplies of water; as we clambered through the labyrinth of rooms we imagined what life would have been like cooped up there until safe to emerge. The buildings themselves added to the experience with striking architectural baroque and Art Deco styles of the time with majestic arched windows. We rounded off the visit with a delicious pub lunch at the local Red Lion pub in Brede. A good day was had by all in spite of the rain – it was, after all All About Water.

Mike and Eileen Rowe, Science & Technology Group

On Tuesday 1 Nov we held a coffee morning for our newest members at Spadework, Offham. We had eight new members join after our September Open Day alone and about forty of our more recent recruits were invited for a chat with coffee and cakes.

It was very successful and enjoyed by all that came. If anyone is interested in having a regular coffee morning there, please get in touch and we will try to arrange one.

Anne Sargent, Vice Chair & Membership Secretary



Newbie coffee mornings return with an outing to Spadework



Malling u3a raises its profile at Tracey Crouch's Over 55s Fair

Anne Sargent & Christine Barrett attended Tracey Crouch's Advice & Information Fair for the over 55s on Friday 28th November. There were about 80 organisations advertising their charity or company. The morning was well attended and there was a great deal of interest shown in our u3a, so we are hoping that we have attracted a few new members.

Our Open Day in September has produced eight new members so far, with a few more in the pipeline!

Anne Sargent, Vice Chair & Membership Secretary

Make Tea not War

November Tea Rota:

Sylvia & Michael Chapman

Christine Barrett

Fill your own:

Help the environment & our volunteers by bringing a reusable cup.

Malling u3a out & about



Open & signing-up day

Our September signing in/ social afternoon saw over 100 members join us at Ryarsh Village Hall. Thanks to Anne Sargent who organised the event as well as taking part in the interlude provided by the u3a singing group. Thanks also to Christine Barrett and the tea team and for those members who provided home made (or shop bought) cakes. A number of members took the opportunity to join new groups and we have 8 new members too who we look forward to welcoming at our next meeting. So thank you all for your support for what was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Chrys Short, Chair



Malling u3a Singers

Our small but select group took part in a concert in October in aid of Holy Trinity Church, Larkfield. We all had new tee shirts with our own logo on, ours were blue, and we sang many popular songs.

Our leader, Joe Shepherd, leads two other groups too, Larkfield Community Group in light blue, and LARA Music Group in red.

Anne Sargent, Singing Group Convenor

The Short View

It was a pleasure to welcome our new members at the coffee morning, and such a pleasure to be able to do some more normal activities after a couple of years of restrictions. But I don't have to remind anyone that Covid is still with us unfortunately. I have been busy with my new role as Chair of the Kent U3a Network and we are looking at ways in which u3as can collaborate together to provide a wider range of activities for our members – more news about that in the new year. I am excited too that plans are advanced for our first study day in

about 3 years and I hope that you will support this. I know I have asked before but ideas and suggestions (and offers to help) are always welcomed for different activities and events. I know it is early but as we don't have a newsletter in December can I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Chrys Short, Chair

What's in a name?

Would you Adam and Eve it?

Growing up, I lived next door to a girl called Ivy. Bad choice of husband when she married Jack Leaf. Personally I would have given him a miss, but that's love for you.

Dianne White

Pull the other one

In Ealing, when I was a boy, we frequently passed a dentist's (he wasn't mine!) whose name-plate was I Pullem.

Derek Carpenter

Interest Groups roundup



Cycle Group October Ride

The weather at the start of ride day was a bit doubtful; thankfully the rain had stopped, the mist gone before we set off and we had a totally dry ride with a fair amount of sunshine. A 15-mile circular ride from Camer Park, Meopham included about four miles of a cycle path i.e. away from traffic, within a National Cycle Network route. At about the mid-point and as part of the cycle path we had a free look around Cyclopark (cyclo-park.com) a purpose-built multi-sport venue (mostly bike-related) which is an open-air facility catering for all ages, including toddlers. For cycling enthusiasts Cyclopark has a BMX circuit and a race track plus a skate park. For drinks and a bite to eat we stopped at Nell's Café which has a leatherette bench-seat American diner of the 50s feel to it. Being Autumn some of the countryside views were stunning and as there were a couple of hills to tackle we occasionally had extra time to take the views in! There was very little road traffic to have to contend with which is always welcome to riders and, no doubt, to car drivers too. A couple of the riders gave impromptu information about Cobham Mausoleum and Owlett's, a National Trust property, which were on the route.

Trevor Cook, Cycling Group



Music Appreciation

Do you like music? If so, then why not think about joining our group? We meet once a month, on the 2nd Tuesday afternoon at various homes. Please don't be put off by the title which may sound a bit off-putting but what happens is that we take it in turns to choose and introduce a programme of recorded music, and this can be classical, jazz, or anything else. So over the past few years we have listened to music as diverse as a John Dankworth Jazz suite, Mendelssohn's Songs without Words, music played at the late Queen's coronation, and Irish classical and folk music. We also sometimes watch DVDs of concerts and each month there's an opportunity to share our experiences of any live musical events we have attended.

We sometimes vary the format. One year we happened to meet on Valentine's Day so we each came up with short pieces on the theme of 'love', and enjoyed a variety of choices, ranging from John Denver to Chopin and Wagner to Cole Porter.

All of us who go value the variety of music that we hear and, in the spirit of U3A, it encourages us to make new musical discoveries which we can then carry on exploring on our own.

For various reasons, our group has become quite small and we would welcome new members. So if you would like to come and join us you will be very welcome. We won't ask you to present a programme immediately, unless you want to of course; you can enjoy other's choices for a few months first.

If you would like to know more, please get in touch with me.

Chris Almond, Music Appreciation



Malling u3a MOTO

The MOTO Group reflects a group of members who, through no fault of their own are on their own. It maybe they have spent a life time alone, due to separation or bereavement. All passages of life can be uncharted, in some cases very sad, and for some this opportunity represents a chance to meet others and spend some time away from the home. At present the members are drawn from the local area and are simply interested in sharing some part of their lives with others in a similar position. This does not mean we meet to discuss our ailments or the next hospital appointment, which are many given the ages of the participants, but to ENJOY ourselves. We meet monthly at coffee mornings that are held a week ahead of the general U3A meeting, so that it does not conflict. This meeting is usually in a local charity café such as The Friars, RBL Basecamp, Aylesford Pantry or Spadework. Other venues can be suggested by members and we can seek to book tables there. Obviously, events have been curtailed by the Covid pandemic but on resumption we have been able to return to the Offham Cinema and Hythe Venetian Carnival. A monthly Newsletter is sent to all members and we are now looking forward to the autumn and winter where hopefully arrangements will be made for everyone to have an event of their choosing and "something to look forward to" in their diaries.

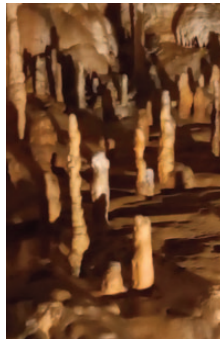
To join us, email me via the website.

Val Valvassura, MOTO Convenor

Malling u3a future holiday



Slovenia in the Sun - are you up for it?



I was fortunate enough to have a trip to Croatia and Slovenia in October with Simply Groups. It was a familiarisation trip for group leaders, a taster for what might be on offer should we decide to organise a holiday there for our members.

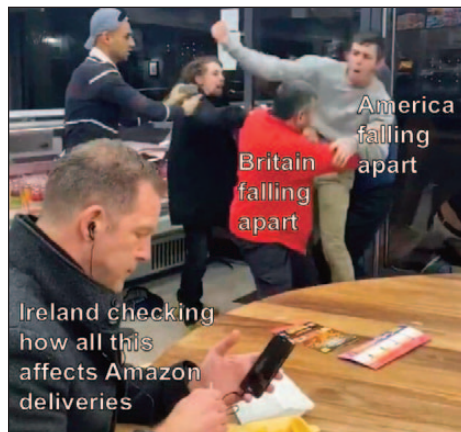
To say it exceeded expectations would be an understatement. From the museums in Zagreb to the stunning lakes and mountains of lake Bled and Bohinj; the Lipica horses; the caves of Postojna and Ljubljana castle, wine tasting and so much more, this was a country I would love to explore further.

Our five days were exciting but frenetic, and any u3a holiday would be at a more leisurely pace.

I'm keen to know if there is any interest among our members for such a holiday. Do email me if this is the case, with no commitment, just an expression of interest.

Dianne White, Malling u3a Outings Supremo

Anne's knee slappers



Funnies supplied by
Anne Sargent