



**'This United Kingdom'
24 October, Ryarsh Village Hall @ 2pm**

We will have the delight of welcoming Andrew Baker in person for our meeting this month - we saw him on our screens in January 2021 during lockdown when he spoke on 'No Turning Back - how have we changed?', a talk which was much appreciated by our members and which produced a real dialogue between Andrew and his audience.

Andrew is a fluent, engaging and entertaining speaker with a particular interest in social, cultural and political change since the First World War. He gives lectures to a wide range of audiences and is a regular and highly acclaimed cruise ship lecturer.

Andrew taught in Grammar Schools for over 40 years and is the author of a best-selling book on Contemporary British Politics. Drawing on his experience of over 22 years as Headmaster of Westcliff High School for Boys, he recently published a further volume on Education and the Pursuit of Values: A Headmaster's Reflections.

In his talk to us this month Andrew will present a vivid portrait of the English (or British); their culture, beliefs, attitudes, enthusiasms and eccentricities to set alongside the often different characteristics of other countries; is Britain still united?

Derek Carpenter

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Christmas Lunch is being reinstated after a long break and provides a perfect opportunity to round off the year in the company of u3a friends. This year we are returning to West Malling Golf Club which provides a superb setting for a relaxed and convivial occasion.



We hope to see many of you there.

Wednesday 6 December from 12.30 at West Malling Golf Club.

The cost will be £27, for a 3-course meal, fantastic value!

Followed by Mince Pies and Tea or Coffee.

Sally Brailsford

Committee Chronicles

In September your committee spent time discussing how we can better serve the needs of our housebound or less mobile members. We wondered if there would be any interest in reviving the virtual coffee mornings that we used to run on Zoom during the lockdowns. If you would be interested in joining a regular session to chat to other members (supply your own coffee!) please let me know. If you would also be willing to help organise these sessions, it would be great to hear from you.

Following the success of our Astronomy Study Day we would like to organise a similar event next year. If you have any suggestions for topics for future study days, please let any member of the committee know.

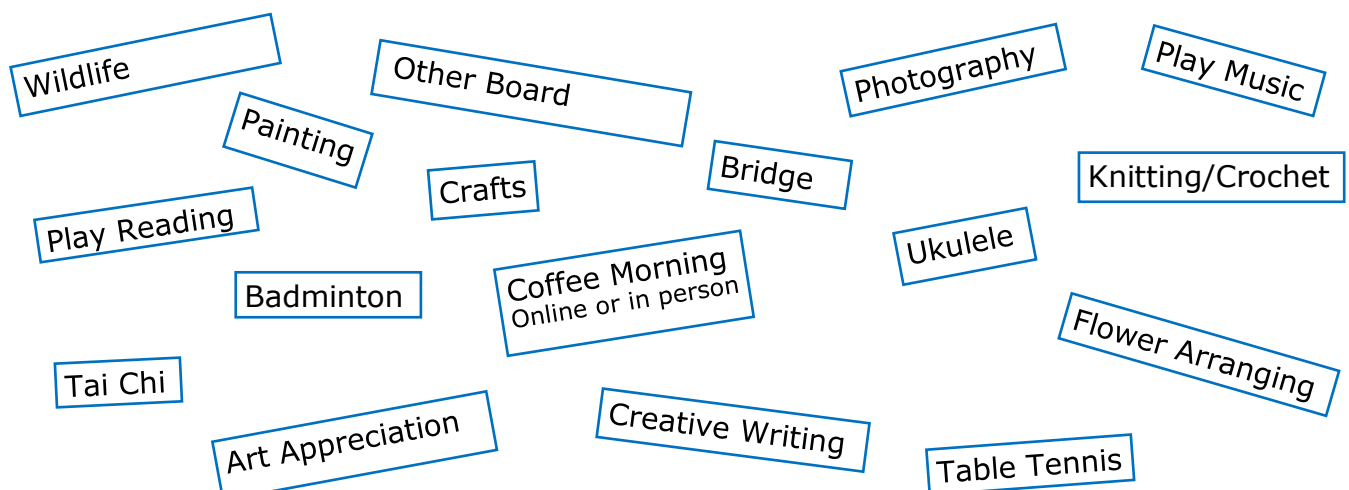
As you know, we are having to stop the Zoom transmission of our monthly meetings. It may be helpful to explain why the decision has been taken. Broadcasting the monthly talks is very different from organising an online chat or interest group meeting. We have to cater for the needs of a live audience in the hall and at the same time make the speaker and their presentation accessible to those using zoom. Without going into too much technical detail, in order to have a presentation available to both audiences at the same time, a separate video camera has to be installed to film the speaker and a computer has to be setup which can show the presentation in the hall and in the home. In addition two sound systems are required, one for the live audience and the other on Zoom and a robust wifi system which is not always the case. There are added complications such as some speakers will not allow their talks to be broadcast. If music is involved, as was the case recently, that required a wholesale reset of the system to ensure that the picture and the music were synchronised. As you can imagine this is a complicated and often stressful task which requires four members of our Tech Team to achieve, and on occasion there have been more people involved in broadcasting a talk than the number of people that have been viewing it on zoom. It is worth noting that the numbers using zoom have diminished significantly with very few viewing at home, usually in the single digits. Add to this the fact that our Tech Team has some members that need to step down for health reasons, and there are no new ones coming forward to replace them and I hope you can understand why the committee was forced to take this decision.

Valerie Willsher



Would you like to see new groups?

Please let us know what would interest you. Here are some suggestions:-



Italian Extra

Our Italian Extra group has been going for some years, so you'd expect us to be pretty fluent by now, and most of the group are, they've made great progress. They can even correctly pronounce *bruschetta*!

We still meet on the first and third Monday afternoons each month and before each session members prepare a short speaking piece about what they have been doing recently and will all have done a bit of homework, most likely a translation from English to Italian - they'll probably moan it was too difficult - and then after that we usually translate a piece from Italian into English or do some listening practice, all interesting stuff, usually about Italy or something connected with the country.

We're just about to start on a new book for advanced learners and it looks inviting and not too difficult. One of our members is so keen that he has just gone off on a week's jaunt to Italy where he will be on an intensive course with real Italians. It's his second visit and he has gone from strength to strength with his Italian ever since he came back from his first course.

As the group has been going for so long, we've all become very friendly and have a great deal of fun while we plug away at our imperfect subjunctives and our past participles.

Nevertheless, we have just welcomed a new member who came to sit in at our last meeting and has decided that she wants to join us!

Carole Lawrence



Lunch Club

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month in a pub or a restaurant, which we choose the month before. We now have 21 members, but they don't all come every month! Members are phoned as to the place, date and time and everyone pays their own bill. We don't meet in December.

Molly Potts



Mah Jong

You don't need to speak Chinese to play Mah Jong. We manage on two words - "Pung!" and "Pow!".

The Group meets twice a month in the Davison Room and, although we are not particularly competitive, we enjoy the morning playing this fascinating game.

New members and complete beginners are always welcome as more experienced players are on hand to help and advise.

Gerry Hunt

Singing Group



In September our singing group took part in a concert in Leybourne. We will also be taking part in a concert at All Saints Church in Maidstone on 5 November with many other groups and choirs.

Anne Sargent

Tea Rota

October

Gerry Hunt & Alan Fowler
i/c Beth Minall



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



Thank you to all who came to our Open Day in September. It was a good turn out and we had several new members signing up.

Thank you to all who provided cakes, they were delicious. Thank you to Beth Minall for organising the refreshments, to Steve Fisher for the technical input, to the Singing Group and Joe Shepherd the Musical Director.

Anne Sargent



It was the perfect way to spend an October morning in the company of my absolute favourite author and her books, enlivened and presented by local author, Linda O'Byrne. She encouraged the audience to contribute to the discussion with our views on the primary characters, but bringing us back again and again from views which may have been gleaned from films and television series, to the texts themselves.

No one was in any doubt that Mr Darcy was a hero, but our view of bumbling Mr Collins was challenged by the author's description of him as 'a tall heavy looking man of five and twenty. His air was grave and his manners were very formal.' And could we see Mr Bennet's treatment of his younger daughters in the light of parental abuse? He is certainly very cutting in his remarks about them. And how did we view Willoughby's treatment of Marianna? Was General Tilney the only real villain in Austen's books? What did we think of Mrs John Dashwood and Mrs Elton?

It was an excellent morning, informative and entertaining. I shall be re-reading the six great novels again soon.

More mornings like this please.

Dianne White

The Malling Revue



In April we plan to have an afternoon of entertainment and so we are asking if any of you would like to take part.

Can you do a magic show, tell jokes, recite a story or poem or produce a sketch? If you prefer not to perform, we also need backstage help with compiling a programme and putting on the production. If you have any other ideas please let us know.

Without your active contribution we will not be able to put on this Revue. We need suggestions for sketches, performers, help with the staging and front of house support. So do get in touch if you would like to take part.

Ruth Brind

Tracey Crouch MP OVER 55s FAIR

Retired or approaching retirement?
Come along to meet new people, discover the best societies and clubs, and find information and advice from a range of services.

OVER 50 STALLS CONFIRMED

- Housing
- Utilities
- Sports
- Hobbies
- Charities
- Council services and more

FREE admission **FREE** tea/coffee and biscuits

Monday 23 October 2023 10am – 1pm

Come to

The Holmesdale School
Malling Road
Snodland ME6 5HS
Free Parking or 71/151 Bus
(Stop: The Holmesdale School)

For more information

0207 219 5507
@tracey.crouch.mp
@parliament.uk

Covid & Flu Jabs Available

Tracey Crouch MP *Here to Help*

Every year Tracey Crouch, MP for Chatham & Aylesford, runs an Over 55s Fair. Our u3a always advertises there. We have a table with information about our group, hoping that we can interest people to join us. Come along and see what other groups you might find of interest.

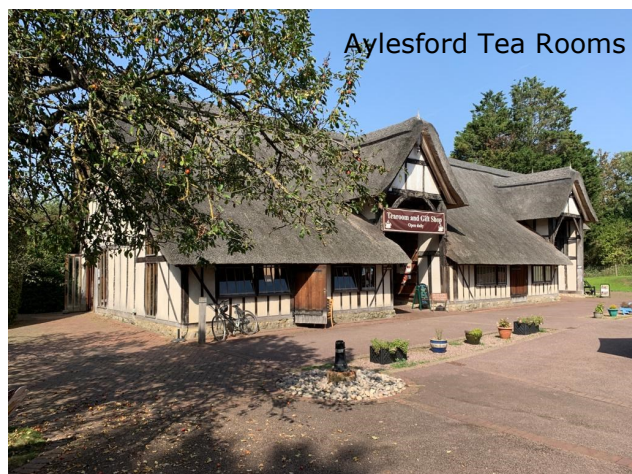


NEW MEMBERS' COFFEE MORNING

All the new members that have joined us since the beginning of the year are invited to a Coffee Morning on **Wednesday 1 November** in the Tea Rooms at Aylesford Priory from 10 am.

There will be committee members there to welcome you and answer any questions you may have and we hope you will make some new friends.

Anne Sargent



Malling u3a

A cup of tea
& a slice of story
makes everything
better.



Enjoy a large slice of story. From folk and wonder tales to myth and legends, two storytellers will fill up your imagination as they serve up local tales & from around the world..

*January 26th, 2pm
Ryarsh Village Hall
£7, with tea & cake
Contact Sally Brailsford*



Malling u3a



Quiz Night

Saturday 17 February

7 pm ~ doors open 6.30

Ryarsh Village Hall, ME19 5LS



£5 per person

Tables of up to 8

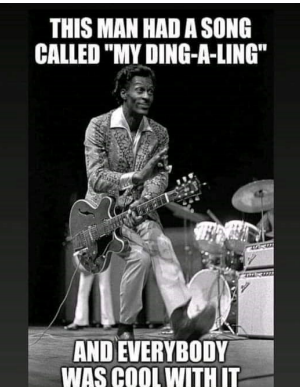
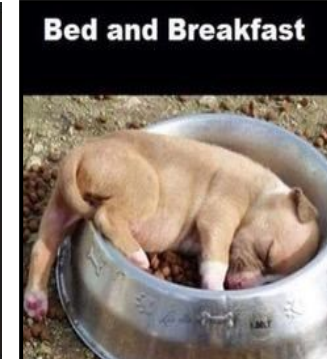
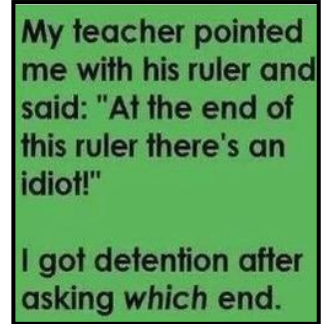
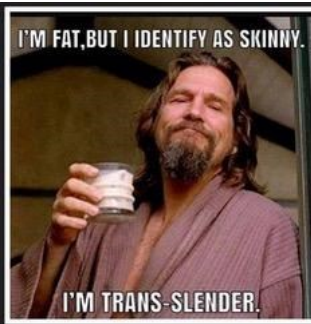


Individuals & Couples
& Your friends are welcome.

Bring your own food and drink
A free raffle

To book, contact Anne Sargent





Mick Jagger is 80, Mitch McConnell is 81. The benefits of a life of sex, drugs and Rock'nRoll should not be ignored!



Growing up in the 1950's & 60's.

1. Pasta was not eaten
2. Curry was a surname.
3. A takeaway was a mathematical problem.
4. A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.
5. Crisps were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.
6. Rice was only eaten as a milk pudding.
7. A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.
8. Brown bread was something only poor people ate.
9. Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.
10. Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.
11. Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold. Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.
12. Fish didn't have fingers.
13. Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.
14. None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.
15. Healthy food consisted of anything edible.
16. People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.
17. Indian restaurants were only found in India.
18. Cooking outside was called camping.
19. Seaweed was not a recognised food.
20. "Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food.
21. Prunes were medicinal.
22. Surprisingly, muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.
23. Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock!
24. And the things that we never ever had on our table in the 50s and 60s: elbows or phones!