



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newsletter May 2018

Registered Charity number 297529

Chair's message

I am writing this editorial on the first day of really Spring-like weather, which makes you feel hopeful even if the world around us seems to have completely lost its senses. Our small world is thriving based as always, on the selfless work of volunteers. We recently had a successful meeting for **Group Leaders** and members of the **Really Useful Group** and a number of ideas arose out of that session. The discussion about what makes a successful group led to the suggestion that we should offer a session for new group leaders and for anyone who might consider leading a group. I don't underestimate the work of the group leaders, but it was felt that it may seem more daunting than it actually is to a new or potential leader. There is always a need for Group Leaders. You will find more about this on page 4.

The **Really Useful Group** provides a valuable service in the smooth running of events and activities. We have a need for people to volunteer for specific tasks such as car parking for the monthly meeting. This is a good example of how the system works. We have a list of people who have indicated that they are willing to undertake this task. Those on the list are asked, each month, if they are available on a particular day so the commitment is not even for every month. The minimum requirement is that people on the list respond either positively or negatively to each request. You will see to the right a list of those tasks for which we need volunteers.

Members sometimes give lifts to other members in their cars. For short journeys costs are minimal, but for longer or regular trips, passengers usually want to make a contribution. We thought it might help if we had some entirely voluntary guidelines for this. You will see the suggestions on page 8.

Finally, you will I hope, be aware that there are new regulations coming into force on 25 May regarding the collection, storing and use of personal data. As an organisation we have to show that we comply with those regulations and there are further details on page 4.

Michael Cockett

Really Useful Group requests for members to join rotas for the following tasks

- Car parking for the monthly Friday meeting
- Setting up/putting away chairs and tables at the monthly meeting,
- Writing reports of monthly meetings for the website and archives

We would also like to hear from anyone who would like to join a team managing communication with members.

You don't need to be an expert – willingness to learn to produce publicity or use Social Media or MailChimp is all that is required.

Please contact the newsletter editor
pat.cockett@rru3a.org.uk

Committee 2017-2018

Chair

Michael Cockett

07703 842233

michael.cockett@rru3a.org.uk

Vice Chair

Colin Mitchell

01737 246589

colin.mitchell@rru3a.org.uk

Hon. Secretary

Elizabeth Gurteen

01737 247791

elizabeth.gurteen@rru3a.org.uk

Hon. Treasurer

Alex Hunter

01737 642324

alex.hunter@rru3a.org.uk

Committee members

Jan Brown

01737 225681

jan.brown@rru3a.org.uk

Pat Cockett

01737 760310

pat.cockett@rru3a.org.uk

Elizabeth Collins

01883 371894

elizabeth.collins@rru3a.org.uk

John Hopkins

01737 832803

john.hopkins@rru3a.org.uk

Hilary Loney

01883 346735

hilary.loney@rru3a.org.uk

Dennis Oakley

01737 765342

dennis.oakley@rru3a.org.uk

Tina Pankhurst

01293 430649

tina.pankhurst@rru3a.org.uk

Heather Phipps

01737 359009

heather.phipps@rru3a.org.uk

Welcome to new members



We would like to welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

John Barker, Veronica Booth, Lynne Brameld, Jennifer Bratza, Anthony Brown, Anthony & Diane Bryant, Gillian Clark, Shirley Cotton, Celia & John Davis, Jill Day, Margaret Deloford, Julian Divall, John Earl, Tania Gray, George & Heather Holdstock, Alan Hornblow,

Paul Houston, Linda & Thomas Langdale, Jackie Martin, Kathy Morrow, Angela Potter, Janis Radford, Joanna Scott, Elizabeth & Nicholas Stoy, Jan Wastell, Rosaline & Stephen Weil, Dallas White, Keith Willey, Julia Woollard, Marjorie Wright

We hope you enjoy the learning opportunities and friendship that U3A offers.

If you have any questions please ask any of the Committee, who can be identified by their badges at the Friday meetings, or contact them directly.

Welcome meetings for new members

Welcome meetings are held regularly for new members to meet the committee, to hear in more detail about what U3A has to offer and to get to know other new members. All members joining since March will receive a personal invitation to the next meeting at 10.00am on **Wednesday 18 July** in the meeting room at Reigate Park Church.

We would love to hear from you if you joined Reigate and Redhill U3A recently, have not yet attended a meeting and would like to attend the next meeting in July. Please contact Elizabeth Gurteen on elizabeth.gurteen@rru3a.org.uk or 01737 247791 and she will put you on the list.

Friday meetings

At Reigate Park Church, Park Lane East, Reigate at 2 pm

Friday 1 June: Fake or Fortune – to hallmark or not to hallmark?

David Merry

The Goldsmiths' Company Assay Office is where hallmarking began, and they have been testing and hallmarking precious metals for over 700 years.

Across their London offices they hallmark 3 million articles a year, in 100,000 packets, and are proud to apply the leopard's head townmark of London to each and every one. This forms part of the Full Traditional UK hallmark.



Dave Merry will give hints and tips about what to look for and how to read a hallmark, and speak about the hallmarking process, and the fakes and forgeries he has come across in his 47-year career.

Friday 6 July: Blessed are the Cheesemakers

John Pearson



John Pearson has spent all his working life in the Food Industry, primarily with Marks & Spencer. Since retiring in 2008 he has consulted for a number of suppliers and retailers.

He is an international cheese judge having travelled throughout Europe visiting dairies and selecting dairy products for M & S. He also judges for Which? Magazine.

In 2011, John was appointed Cheese Personality of the Year by the British Cheese Board.

Friday 3 August: Secret Serbia/Albania

Janet Parsons

Janet Parsons travelled through Serbia in 2016, a country rich in history and ethnic diversity, visiting many of the Orthodox monasteries in remote locations as well as its historic towns where the Turkish influence remains strong and minarets pierce the skyline. She contrasts this with Albania, a neighbouring



country also emerging from the long shadow of Communist rule. Both have stunning landscapes

and much to offer the discerning traveller. Janet is Chairman of Guildford Travel Club and as well as enjoying travelling, particularly to countries "where history, culture and archaeology meet" is a keen photographer. Her career spanned Senior Management for local authorities and Trainina & Consultancy.

Bring a friend

Just a reminder – if you think friends might be interested in the topics of the Friday meetings they are welcome to attend. They will be asked to sign in so that we have a record of attendance.

“What did you intend to do when you retired?”

What did you want to do with all that spare time you thought you'd have once you stopped full time employment? What ideas and dreams do you have that have yet to be fulfilled? Can your membership of Reigate and Redhill U3A help you achieve your goals and make your dreams a reality?

Well of course it depends a bit on what they are! If you'd like to drive a Formula 1 car, take a turn in the Space Centre or learn skate boarding tricks then we might find it a challenge too far. However, if you have a desire to learn a new skill, take a hobby or interest to the next level then why not share your plans with us and we may find others who'd like to learn with you or even offer skills they've already acquired.

U3A groups are the most rewarding when like-minded members get together to pool their knowledge and enthusiasm for their subject. So, here's a challenge, email me your thoughts and we'll see if we can come up with some new active groups. Although we can't guarantee we'll be able to satisfy all of them at least we'll try.

As usual for anything to do with groups you can contact me, **Jan Brown – Group Coordinator** at groups@rru3a.org.uk.

Visit the [Groups page](#) of the website rru3a.org.uk to discover all the groups that are looking for new members.

Data Protection and Privacy

The General Data Protection Regulations come into force on 25 May 2018. A Data Protection and Privacy policy that outlines how Reigate and Redhill U3A will comply with the regulations will be found on the website in the **About Us** section once it is complete.

We hold personal information that is essential for the effective management of Reigate and Redhill U3A, the management of groups and other activities.

All volunteers who access that information on the secure data management system, whether Committee members, officers or Group Leaders will be made aware of their responsibilities under the new regulations.

A **workshop for Group Leaders** to address this issue in relation to using the Beacon data management system is planned for Monday 11 June from 11am to 12 noon at St Joseph's Community centre in Redhill.

Please contact **John Hopkins** if you would like to attend at data@rru3a.org.uk

Group Leadership

We'd like to hear from any new Group Leader or any member who'd like to learn a bit more about becoming a Group Leader. If there is interest we will organise an informal workshop so we can explain a little bit more and hopefully answer any questions you may have. Please send an email to groups@rru3a.org.uk.

Events



Wednesday 20 June £50

Visit **Charleston Farmhouse**, home and country meeting place for the Bloomsbury Group, and **Firle Place**, home of the Gage family for over 500 years with a celebrated collection of paintings, porcelain and furniture. Morning refreshments at Charleston and lunch at Firle Place included.

Outings



Advance notice

Thursday 20 September

Visit to Kensington Palace

Contact Jane Rayner on outings@rru3a.org.uk or 01737 240973



Thursday 19 July £57
Chichester Festival Theatre
Me and my girl

with Caroline Quentin and Matt Lucas

The outing includes free time in Chichester and time to buy refreshments at West Dean Gardens in addition to the matinee performance. There are a few tickets left.



Coffee mornings and computing help

St Joseph's Community Centre, Ladbroke Road, Redhill, RH1 6SY

Everyone is welcome to attend the coffee mornings held once a month from **10.00am to 11.30am** on different days of the week to avoid clashes with group meetings.

There is usually a theme for each meeting and there will be **Help with Computing** tables at each meeting. So, bring your computing device with you if you need some advice.

The dates and some of the themes for the rest of the year are as follows: **Thursday 17 May - plants/cuttings/gardening books swap, Tuesday 12 June – Craft kits/models, Thursday 19 July - holiday books and magazines, Tuesday 11 September, Tuesday 16 October, Thursday 22 November.**

If you have any queries, please contact elizabeth.collins@rru3a.org.uk or 01883 371894

Holidays

The Historic Houses and Heritage of Lincolnshire



Lincoln Cathedral

5 days from £449 departing 11 October 2018

We stay 4 nights on a half board basis at the centrally located 4* Double Tree Hilton hotel in Lincoln.

Visits and tours include Lincoln Castle, Cathedral and Medieval Bishop's Palace, Newark on Trent with river cruise, Doddington Hall and Gainsborough Old Hall.

Contact Sally Baker on holidays@rru3a.org.uk

U3A Evenings

Reigate Manor Hotel, RH2 9PF
Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Wednesday 23 May: Quiz night

£6

Come in a team or come on your own and join a team on the night. Variety of categories to suit everyone. Fun and laughter guaranteed.

Thursday 28 June: A Taste of South America

£10

Come and taste the food and wine and learn about the music, history and art of South America.

Tuesday 24 July: Encounters - meetings and mayhem

£6

Have you ever had a memorable encounter in an unusual setting or with a celebrity or a loved one? We are looking for contributions to a display for this U3A Evening. Please send a brief description and a photo, if possible, to [Mike Cockett](mailto:Mike.Cockett@rru3a.org.uk).

Tickets now available from Sally Baker: sally.baker@rru3a.org.uk or 01737 221766

National U3A offers for members



7 June – 11am to 4 pm £25
The Post Impressionists to Picasso

Join National Gallery experts for a day of talks exploring the radical diversity of late 19th and early 20th century painting. From the blazing visions and emotional intensity of Van Gogh to the quiet stillness of Hammershoi, discover what happened in the wake of impressionism.

To find out more and book your place on any U3A National event, visit the Events section of the new website
<http://www.u3a.org.uk/>

Summer Schools

23 to 26 July
National Summer School
Harper Adams University
Shropshire

31 July to 2 August
London Summer School
St Bride's Foundation

6 to 9 August
Science Network annual meeting
Nottingham

11 to 14 September
National Summer School
Royal Agricultural university
Cirencester

15 September
Family History Conference
Buxton

Study Days

Organised by the Surrey Network of the U3A

Friday 18 May Hoaxes, Magic, Cartoons and Satire

Ian Keable, Lecturer for the Arts Society and Member of the Inner Magic Circle.

The golden age of political satirical art was from 1780 to 1820 and the two leading proponents were James Gillray and George Cruikshank. The lives and works of these two masters are covered in this study day. Both of these men were involved in the Bottle Conjuror Hoax that took place in 1749. It is an amusing episode that throws light on the gullibility of 18th century theatrical audiences.

From 1820 onwards, satirical art began to disappear, and Cruikshank had to reinvent himself as an illustrator of books - most notably with Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*. For the final talk, a lesser known skill of Dickens is considered: for a period in the 1840s he was an amateur conjurer. The day will finish with a suitable flourish with a couple of Dickensian magic tricks.



Planned Study Days

Friday 21 September Major Infrastructure Projects

John Kennedy and U3A members

Friday 19 October

Music Therapy and U3A Singing

Friday 16 November

The Development of Agriculture

Study Days are usually held at the Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon from 9.30am to 4.00pm. To reserve a place, complete the slip on a Study Day form (available at Friday meetings from Jan Brown, or download from the [Surrey Network website](#)). Send the slip with a cheque for £10 (£12 for non-members) to the address shown on the form enclosing a SAE or email address for confirmation.

Friday 15 June Prehistoric Britain: new discoveries about our ancient past

Professor Mike Parker Pearson, University College, London

Recent breakthroughs in archaeology have come not just from excavations but also from lab-based specialists. Our understanding of Britain's prehistoric past has advanced dramatically in just a few years, thanks to techniques ranging from the analysis of DNA to the study of food residues in ancient pots. We now have new evidence about where ancient Britons came from, and why they built extraordinary monuments such as Stonehenge. The topics covered today do not require any scientific knowledge – this is about how the results are revealing the lives of people in the past.

Mike Parker Pearson is a Fellow of the British Academy who has written widely on many aspects of world archaeology. His interests include the archaeology of the Outer Hebrides, Madagascar and the prehistory of Europe. In recent years his research has focused on Stonehenge.

South East U3A Forum Summer School 2018 – 18 to 21 June Chichester University

You can download a [Summer School 2018 flyer](#) or a [summer school 2018 Poster](#) by clicking on these links. [Full details](#) of all thirteen courses and an [Application Form](#) can also be downloaded.



SHARING OF PETROL/DIESEL CAR TRANSPORT COSTS

PURPOSE OF GUIDELINES:

- i. To encourage members to offer to share the use of their own transport to attend U3A events,
- ii. To allow members to accept transport without embarrassment by paying a fair contribution toward fuel costs

Members giving lifts to other U3A members to any U3A event may ask for a voluntary contribution to help cover fuel costs. The following guidelines may be used when doing this:

- Passengers' share of costs could be paid to the car owner during the trip or when leaving the car at the end of a trip.
- Total mileage for a shared trip could be calculated from the car owner's home and back to the car owner's home. This total mileage will be shared between car owner and passengers.
- Fuel costs of 30p per mile could be shared by all the members travelling, including the car owner.
- Costs could be shared as follows:

Driver and one passenger: 15p per mile each

Driver and two passengers: 10p per mile each

Driver and three passengers: 8p per mile each passenger, 6p per mile - the driver

Driver and four passengers: 6p per mile each

Please note: The monetary contribution is towards fuel costs only and the car owner will also pay a fair contribution. As there is no payment towards car maintenance costs nor for the owner's time it will not impact on the car owner's insurance cover.

Invitation to Reigate and Redhill U3A members

Jim Palmer of **Horley U3A** runs regular workshops on **Improv Comedy** ("*improv*" for short) and is inviting members of Reigate and Redhill U3A to join him.

The workshops are usually held on the first Monday on the month, although, the next one is on **Monday 21 May**. They run from 2pm - 4pm at the Community Room in Hookwood Tesco. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided and it is all completely free.

Absolutely no experience is necessary and you do not need to be "naturally funny" or anything like that. **Improv** will develop skills such as listening, supporting each other and being positive about other people's suggestions. But, the main thing is **to have fun**.

If you are interested, please contact Jim on jimp1951afcw@hotmail.co.uk or 01293 784313.