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Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,

I hope your summer holidays were enjoyable and that you are looking forward to more u3a experiences this month as the new Courses and Activities programme swings into action. Welcome to all new members too. u3a's motto is learn, laugh, live and there's no better way to describe what Canterbury u3a is about—new interests, new challenges and new friends. There are many people who still don't know what u3a is. The notion of 'university' is to reflect the provision of an opportunity to learn and study new things, not as students, but as members sharing knowledge and practice in friendly settings. Canterbury u3a aims to foster stimulating and learning activities for primarily retired people of the community. Hopefully all members have found something interesting in the new programme. We are indebted to the many members who lead courses, coming from a variety of backgrounds to share their experience and insight. We are all privileged to be able to enjoy learning experiences, and environments, which are very different from what most people are used to. We are learning amongst equals with no requirement for qualifications or finding ourselves compelled to study something. We are even encouraged and allowed to lead a course or activity, so do contact the courses team to discuss. I hope you enjoy your u3a membership. Encourage your friends to join you. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Robin Terry



Important Dates and Notices

Friday 6 September, 10.30 to 12 noon: Monthly joining session at St. Peter's Methodist Church, High Street, Canterbury. Members are welcome to bring friends who are interested in joining us.

Wednesday 11 September 2 p.m.: Monthly Meeting at St Mary Bredin. —

The speaker will be Chris O'Donoghue on the subject Behind the Scenes at Chelsea.

Saturday 21 September 3 p.m. Film at the Gulbenkian.

Further details will be sent out by Doreen Kalideen when they are available.



Committee News

Unfortunately . . . Christine Hughes has resigned her committee position due to other pressures on her time. Christine was vice chair, due to take over from Robin Terry next April, and Business Secretary. At the moment both these position are unfilled. We wish Christine well.

Jonathan Butchers, who is currently shadowing Ursula Steiger with a view to taking over her role as Course Development Coordinator and is co-opted on to the committee, has declared his intention to stand for election to the committee by the membership at the AGM 2025.

For further committee information please contact Robin Terry, Chair, whose details are on your information card.



Potential Leaders' Workshop

Have you ever thought about leading an activity or Interest Group or running a course? From time to time, we have a get-together in the form of a workshop which is designed to give information, helpful hints and ideas to interested volunteers. But there is no pressure—this is just a friendly and welcoming

gathering. DATE: 3 October at 10.30 a.m.

VENUE: St Peter's Methodist Church Hall in the Blue Room (just straight through the lobby). Please let me know by email or text if you would like to attend. Jonathan Butchers

Interest Sharing Groups: Current Activities

Green Fingers

Monday 16 September at 2 p.m. Quex Park Gardens, Birchington

Contact: Chris Cayley by email or phone.



English Heritage Visit

Friday 20 September. Eltham Palace and Gardens

Contact: Steve Casey by email or phone.



Knit and Natter

Thursday 26 September at 2 p.m. The Dolphin Pub, Canterbury

Contact: Liliad Adamson by phone.



Folk Songs

Thursday 26 September at 2.30 p.m. At the Asda Community Room, Canterbury

Contact: Helen Howard by phone.



Social Bridge Groups

The Coastal Group

Weekly on Thursday afternoons. Dunkirk Village Hall

Contact: Anni Bignold by phone.

The Canterbury Group

Weekly on Friday afternoons. Littlebourne Village Hall

Contact Jane Dennett by phone.



Allotment Group

Contact Len Hinksman by phone.



And here is a new one—

The newly-formed **Photography Interest Sharing Group** went on their first outing to Kearsney Abbey.

Both digital and phone cameras were used, with different ideas and perspectives being shared.

It has not been decided yet as to which day of the week or how frequently we will be meeting. This will depend on how much interest is shown and how active members would like it to be. We need your input. The next trip will be to Folkestone meeting on Monday 23 September, 2 p.m. outside the Rock Salt restaurant. If you are interested in joining the group, whether or not able to come to this event, please contact Keith Kolsteren by phone or email in the first instance. The aim is to learn from each other and we look forward to welcoming you.

The groups are open to all members. If you have ideas for a new Interest Group please reserve the date 3 October when we will have a potential leaders' workshop that will give you plenty of ideas and helpful hints and where you can also meet the coordinator, Chris Plant.



Autumn Walk

3 September, 10.30 a.m. Walk from Littlebourne to Bekesbourne

3–4 mile easy circular walk starting from the Premier Convenience Store, 58 High Street, Littlebourne CT3 1ST (Bus 43) and walking through fields past Garrington Farm to Chalk farm, Mama Feelgoods, for coffee/tea break before returning via Bekesbourne Church. To book a place, text or email Ruth Adams



Courses and Activities

September is the month when many of our Activities and Courses that stopped over the summer will start again. As it is a while since we booked our choices, please check the start, place and time of any you have booked to make sure not to miss the first session. You can check the details under 'my bookings' on the website courses pages.

There are a number of courses and activities that still have vacancies and you can check those out on our Website by looking at the 'courses' pages. Non-email members will have a list sent with their Bulletin.

If need further help or information, contact the volunteers staffing the office on Wednesdays or Thursdays between 11 and 1 pm, either by calling in in person or by phoning 01227 634 569.

And here is a special message from Tony Ullman who runs our Everybody Salsa Classes. The sessions start on Tuesday 8 October and although he has enough members to run the class, more are welcome and will add to the fun!



Two more learning opportunities this summer.

In the August Issue we featured York conference reports from Canterbury participants. Helen Howard and David Reekie attended as contributors. Helen describes her collaboration with other members nationwide on the theme of Globalisation in her report below.

Twelve members of the **Climate Matters Interest Online Group**, from Dover to Edinburgh, were in **York** for the **u3a's 40th Anniversary Festival** event along with 900 other members. We had been planning for a considerable time, having committed to running 2 workshops and a stand for the 3-day event, so as to get noticed, to inform u3a members, and take our concerns to the wider movement, thus giving people opportunities to get involved and do more to help mitigate climate change.

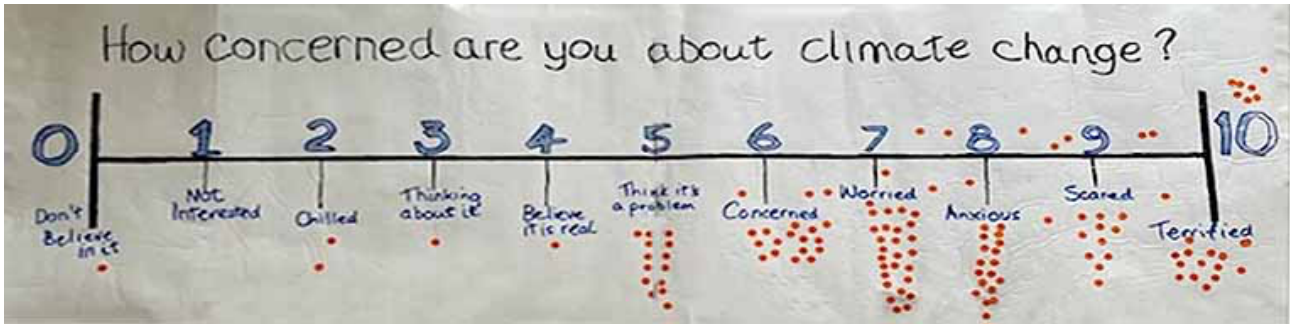


The workshops offered hard facts, strategies, resources, activities, quizzes and a hilarious video about washing machines. We held an interview on the sofa—3 members with Climate groups in their home area u3a were questioned about how they started, and what worked well.

Our STAND had some eye-catching and thought-provoking posters and leaflets, the latter being produced in as ecologically kind a way as possible. The siting of our pitch meant we had excellent footfall—very important when trying to engage with many members. We also made the stand bright and colourful, with bunting, mobiles, a worry chart and posters, so people just couldn't help stopping by.

It's impossible to measure the impact, but we certainly made one. The ten of us were very pleased with the job we had done to take the message of the Climate Emergency to members on their way to other activities.

The Worry Chart part way through the event—says it all!



Book Review: *Our Island Stories* by Corinne Fowler

The sub-title of this book: 'Country walks through colonial Britain', describes perfectly what the book is about and how the content is organised. Corinne walks us and her companion through the history of the countryside around some of the National Trust's properties. She was accompanied each time by someone with links to the colonised country. Between them they described the effects particular British families had both abroad and at home. The family members who became rich through exploiting the resources and people in various parts of the world, used their wealth at home to buy their way into positions of power as politicians and members of the judiciary. In those positions they were able to make laws that benefitted themselves such as the Enclosures Acts. This allowed them not just to build imposing homes, but to move whole villages that spoilt their view, prevent ordinary people from using common land, and transport anyone who objected e.g. the Tolpuddle Martyrs. In this way they not only impoverished and enslaved people abroad, but at home ordinary people became poorer too, often ending their lives in the Poor House provided by their 'benefactor'. I found this book so gripping I couldn't tear myself away, but perhaps I've got a bit of an obsession about colonialism. Those of you who have studied history before may know some of this already but I didn't previously understand the whole picture. The book is highly readable and well worth reading.

Helen Howard

This book is 432 pages long and will shortly be available in paperback from Amazon at £9.99. Alternatively Waterstones sell it in hardback for £25.



Thank you for all your contributions, from a couple of sentences up to 250 words.
 Keep them coming, as this is your News Bulletin.
 Send them to Ursula Steiger: ursulae@btinternet.com.

