



## The next Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 10.30am

Held in the front room of Westerham Hall, these events provide an excellent opportunity to chat and get to know other members.

## The next Open Meeting is on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April in Westerham Hall at 2.00pm

### Curiosities of the City of London by Stuart Robinson

Having worked in London for several decades, Stuart found the city so interesting that he qualified as a guide in order to share with others the knowledge he gained. During his many walks around the city he came across a random collection of curiosities and items and he will share details of these with his audience in this talk.



## Dates for your Diary

May 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday - Coffee Morning

May 9<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Open Meeting – “The Man who lived in Darwin's Shadow” by Ray Hale

## Replying to Beacon emails

When receiving an email from Westerham u3a via the Beacon system, **please do not automatically click on REPLY**. If you need to reply, there will be an email address of the person dealing with the issue in the body of the message. This will ensure that your reply goes directly (important when booking an event) and avoids the sender of the Beacon message (usually Tony) being involved. If the email is about something that you are not interested in or cannot make the date, **please do not respond if you are not participating** – potentially receiving 300+ emails apologising for a negative response doesn't go down well! Thank you.

## Holiday To Wales 29<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> May - contact Gary

Anyone who would still like to join the group please contact Gary on 07879635742 to enquire as it will depend on room availability/



## Outing To Brighton – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May - contact Penny

Please can those booked on this trip make payment promptly so that everything can be confirmed. This trip is now fully subscribed but do ask Penny to put your name on the waiting list in case of last-minute cancellations.

## Basildon Park Outing, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Contact Val



For our summer outing this year we are visiting Basildon Park, Berkshire, a National Trust property sitting in 400 acres of historic parkland and gardens. The 18th-century house contains fine furnishings whilst the parkland offers glorious seasonal colour and wonderful views. Cost is £20 - plus £16.15 for entry to the house if you are not a member of the National Trust. There are still a few places left so contact Val at once.

## Riviera Travel [www.rivieratravel.co.uk/u3a](http://www.rivieratravel.co.uk/u3a)

Now that Spring has arrived you may be thinking about holidays? Mention your u3a when booking any city break, tour or cruise through Riviera and they will donate 10% of your holiday cost to the u3a when you travel. Take a look at their brochure or call 01283 742300.

## South East u3a Summer School 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Do you fancy a short break in the beautiful cathedral city of Chichester, whilst learning something new? If so this summer school is for you! There is a variety of subjects on offer including Art & Mythology, Crochet, Living History, Bridge and many more. Booking opens at 10.00am on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April so visit <https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/events>



### Drama for All

**Operation Mincemeat, Fortune Theatre** - contact Jan

This production is now fully booked for both June 18<sup>th</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup> but if you are interested please let me know in case of last minute cancellations.

## News from the Groups

**West End Musicals** - contact Chris

'The Michael Jackson Story' will be the October trip so, if you are interested in this amazing spectacle, with all his classic songs, contact Chris for further details. He has something special lined up for December so watch out for details.

**London Explorers** - contact Liz



20 members of London Explorers recently visited the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and joined an expert guide to learn about the history of the theatre. Rehearsal studios, costume and production workshops were visited and in the auditorium a full dress rehearsal of Swan Lake was taking place, inspiring some to see a future performance!

**Canasta** - contact Pam

The inaugural meeting of the new Canasta group took place on 25<sup>th</sup> March at Westerham Hall with 20 attending, many of them complete beginners. The more experienced players assisted the newcomers and by the end of the afternoon everyone had enjoyed a game. Meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, in Westerham Hall, at 2pm and cost £2pp per session. If you would like to join them contact Pam for further details and to confirm the starting date.



**Birdwatching** – contact David



The March outing was to Ashdown Forest, a heathland site of gorse and heather. Despite a foggy start, the sun came out but, sadly, the birds we hoped to see did not! However, we did have good views of a large flock of lesser redpoll, a woodlark and a herd of fallow deer which made up to some extent for the absence of Dartford warblers and crossbills.

**German Conversation** – contact Rosemary

Starting at the beginning of 2023, the group now has 7 members but would like to have more! With this in mind we have linked up with the Caterham group, who meet in Sanderstead, and we have arranged to meet up once a month, with the next visit taking place on the 4<sup>th</sup> April. These two groups are not for beginners, although some of us are a bit rusty! In the meantime, we have had some very enjoyable meetings in Westerham, including playing German scrabble, and our own version of the TV programme of yesteryear 'What's My Line'. If anyone learnt German, even at school years ago, and want to try their conversational ability, please get in touch.

**Crafty Crafters** – contact Stuart

Sadly, the group has suspended their activities following the death of their coordinator, Maxine Hardway. She had been ill for some time but still managed to create amazing craft projects for the group members. Her funeral is at 1.30pm on the 17<sup>th</sup> April at All Saints Church, Oxted.

*You are receiving this as a member of Westerham u3a Charity Number 1178122*

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