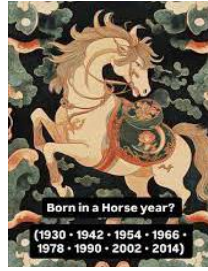


Happy Chinese New Year!
If you were born in the Year of the Horse you are independent, but sociable and friendly, so, with your warm and open nature you can easily make friends!



We all know about Valentine's Day but did you know that the 17th is National Love Your Pet Day? Give them an extra cuddle to celebrate!



Next Coffee Morning is Wednesday 4th February at 10.30am in the Hall Front Room

The Open Meetings are obviously devoted to the Speaker so there is little time to chat to old friends or get to know new ones. The solution is to come along to the coffee mornings held, on the 1st Wednesday of the month, in the front room of Westerham Hall. If you are a new member it is a relaxed way to meet others and discover, over a cuppa, all the activities that the u3a can offer! If you know anyone thinking of joining bring them along – they may join on the spot!

The next Open Meeting is on Thursday 12th February at 2pm in Westerham Main Hall

“Stories of a Female Private Investigator” by Veronica King

Female investigators are a rarity so there will be funny, sad and slightly unbelievable tales, plus an insight into the problems met in carrying out various assignments.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 4th March - Coffee morning

Thursday 12th March - Open Meeting ‘Mrs Thatcher’ by Tony Harris

Trek26 for Alzheimer's Society Please [donate now](#)

Alzheimer's is a cruel disease that will probably touch most of our lives in some way and at some point. Just imagine how it would feel if a loved one didn't know who you were! Management and treatment have come a long way but Bruce is literally taking a very active step by taking part in a 13 mile trek around London! The funds raised will be used to support further research into this life changing disease. After fifty-six years of marriage Bruce's wife, Cynthia, died early 2024 from late onset dementia. He looked after her as long as he could, but when he couldn't cope any more she moved into a local nursing home and died seven weeks later. Bruce says “She was the love of my life and that's why I'm doing this trek for Alzheimer's Society as together we can give hope to everyone affected by dementia”. For further details contact Bruce westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk



Northumbrian Holiday June 1st – 5th contact Gary westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk



The holiday has proved to be a popular choice! For those of you who have booked, Gary will be organising a meeting at Westerham Hall in May so you can get to know your fellow travellers and hear more about the plans. If you have any suggestions for ideas that may enhance the trip, please let Gary know. There are now only 2 places left so contact Gary now!

Quiz Night Westerham Hall 27th February at 7.30

Westerham Hall is considered to be our home and each year the Trust members put on a Quiz Night to help raise funds to maintain and improve the building. These events are always great fun, with a cash bar, raffle and hot supper. Get your ‘table’ of 6-8 together as soon as possible and complete the booking form on the [flyer](#).

Important Please send items for possible inclusion to westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk
Please ensure that you use the above address as jan@jchart.co.uk is no longer active.

Ukraine Appeal contact Ron on 07738245820 or westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

With all the other topics in the news recently, the war in the Ukraine has been somewhat sidelined but the stark reality, as we enter the 4th year of this mindless war, is that conditions for the Ukrainian troops and civilians are worsening. Daily life for troops spending many months on the frontline, and for families whose homes are destroyed and loved ones lost or injured, is difficult to comprehend. Hospitals and homes have power only on a few unpredictable hours each day and no heating! We are making this special and urgent appeal for Priority Items: Incontinence Pants, Sanitary Wear, Medicines for all ages and Camping Equipment. Contact Ron for further information on exactly what is needed and collection/delivery details.

NEW! Spreadsheets contact Stuart westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

We now have enough people interested in learning more about Spreadsheets so Ian will be holding 2 sessions in March. They are on Wednesday 11th when he will cover the basics and then on Wednesday 25th when he will explore the topic further. If you have not yet registered your interest, please let Stuart know in order to give him an idea of numbers likely to attend.

Drama for All contact Jan westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

Following on from the January visit to 'The Mousetrap' we have 'Woman in Mind' in February and 'I'm sorry Prime Minister' in March both of which are sold out - you are welcome to go on the waiting lists. I am now looking at possibilities for the rest of the year – maybe 'Shadowlands' or 'Grace Pervades'? - but would like some suggestions from you! Obviously, I tend to choose things that I want to see but I would like to broaden the range of productions on offer. What is being shown at your local theatre? Would anyone be interested in a visit to the Opera? Please let me know about anything that you think other members may be interested in.

Greenwich contact Liz westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

Following on from Ian's excellent talk at the last Open Meeting, there have been several enquiries concerning the possibility of a visit to this fascinating place. Coincidentally, it has been suggested as a starting point for the potential 'Night Sky' Group, in combination with London Explorers. The entrance fee plus the tour would be £36.40. If you are interested contact Liz



News from the Groups

If you have an idea for a new group, maybe you would like to share your hobby with other members or there is some activity that you have always wanted to try out but don't know where to start? I'm sure we could help so contact Stuart to discuss it further, he would love to hear from you!

Musical Theatre contact Chris westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

Unfortunately, due to its popularity, the trip to Thursford has had to be postponed as the theatre is fully booked! It is hoped to reschedule the visit for Christmas 2027.

'Kinky Boots' in May is now sold out but you are welcome to go on a waiting list.

Architecture contact Jan westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

My Appreciating Architecture Group has been inactive since the lockdown due to a variety of reasons but mainly because members of the group were hesitant about volunteering to organise visits! Last month I went to the Tonbridge planning meeting for 'Discovering Churches' – a group I have just joined. I was very impressed that around 25 members turned up and in less than an hour the whole year's trips had been decided upon, together with the organisers! If Tonbridge can persuade people to take an active part in the running of their group, why can't Westerham? I am considering reviving the group with a tour of St George's Chapel and St Mark's Church in Biggin Hill, both of which have interesting stories. Please let me know if you would be interested.