

The saying 'Mad as a March Hare' originated because females 'box' the males during the mating season! Sounds like a sensible idea to me!



Don't forget!
Clocks change
on Sunday
March 29th!



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

If you are new to Westerham u3a, one of the best ways to get to know your fellow members is to come along to the monthly coffee mornings. Welcomers and committee members will be able to supply any information you need, and they will introduce you to other members so you can chat over coffee/tea/biscuits. If you are an established member then go along and welcome the newcomers to the group by sharing your experiences.

The next Open Meeting is Thursday 12th March at 2pm in Westerham Hall

"Mrs Thatcher" by Tony Harris. You may have seen Tony in a myriad of disguises – Henry VIII immediately springs to mind – but this is his first visit as the 'Iron Lady'! Prepare for a hilarious afternoon as he sweeps into the room clutching the famous handbag and takes us to Downing Street! If you've not been to one of his sessions before you are in for a real treat, he is very amusing and, surprisingly, educational!



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 1st April - Coffee morning

Thursday 9th April - Open Meeting "Without Reserve, The World of Antiques" by Janie Ramsay

U3a Surrey Network Study days at Yehudi Menuhin Centre, Stoke D'Abernon

We have been invited to join the events organized by the Surrey Network. Each Study Day consists of 4 well-illustrated, high quality 45-minute presentations, short Q & A sessions, tea/coffee breaks and time for a packed lunch! Take a look at the website <https://surreynetwork.u3asite.uk/events>

Please follow the links below to get full details of the programme and booking forms

Friday 20th March - [Global Warming & Your Grandchildren's World](#)

by Dr Colin Summerhayes & Professor Jan Zalasiewicz

Friday 15th May - [Truth, Lies, Risk & Reason](#) by Philip Harris

Thanks to volunteers! contact Chris westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

A big thank you to all those who turned up early for the February Open Meeting to put out the chairs. It was done very efficiently and in record time. Such help will be needed every month so please give Chris your details so he can organize a rota.

Outings/Events Organisers contact Chris westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

Chris is looking to set up a group of 2-3 members who would be willing to come together to organize trips to places of interest, a festival or a Christmas event. If you are willing to get involved with this project, please contact him for more details.

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

In March, Ian will be holding 2 sessions on Excel Spreadsheets at Westerham Hall, starting at 2pm. On Wednesday 11th he will cover the basics so is ideal for beginners but also valuable for those who have used them in the past but may be a bit rusty. On Wednesday 25th there will be a more in-depth exploration of the topic for those who need more applications covered. You are welcome to attend both sessions, for which there is no charge. If you have not yet registered your interest, please let Stuart know so he has an idea of numbers.

Northumbrian Holiday June 1st – 5th contact Gary garyaz100@gmail.com

Only 1 room now remains but this could be a double, twin or single so whatever your requirement we can supply it! If you have been hesitating, act now and ensure you are part of this brilliant holiday. The 'Meet your Fellow Guests' event has been booked for May 13th when full details will be available.

British Sign Language contact Jan westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

As previous attempts to start this group have stalled, mainly due to high costs involved, I am now looking at arranging a combination of Zoom sessions and face-to-face meetings. The idea would be for members to enrol on the BSL online course - <https://www.british-sign.co.uk/learn-online-british-sign-language-course>. This is a self-study course and costs £15, giving access for 2 years. Members study at home but prepare for a proper meeting, say once a month/fortnight, when an expert would be present to offer advice. Check the website and let me know if this is of interest.

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

Sadly, I have had no feedback about plays you would like to see and no details of local productions! If you want plays to be offered, then you will have to take an active part in the planning!

As a change from the London venues, I am proposing a trip to 'Midsomer Murders' at the Churchill Theatre in Bromley on May 14th at 7.30. Everyone loves a good murder and there's never a lack of those in the villages around Midsomer! Come along to 'The Killing at Badgers Drift' and see if Daniel Casey (Sergeant Troy), who has been promoted to the top job of DCI, is as impressive in the role as John Nettles or Neil Dudgeon! Tickets are just £41! Let me know if you are interested.

Back in London, at the Aldwych Theatre, group tickets to 'Shadowlands', starring Hugh Bonneville, are being offered at £60. It is the story of C.S.Lewis of Narnia fame, whose orderly life at Oxford is upended by the arrival of a spirited American poet. If enough are interested I will fix a date.

News from the Groups

It has often been repeated that the success of the groups is dependent on every member playing a part - but the message does not seem to be getting through! More and more group leaders are getting very dispirited about being left to organise everything and if things don't change you will be left with very few activities to choose from! Make 2026 the year when you will give something to the Group instead of just taking part!

London Explorers contact Liz westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

Last month the group visited the Royal Albert Hall for a behind the scenes tour which lasted about 1½ hours. Rachel, our excellent guide, took us up into 'the gods' with a superb view of the setting for 'Cirque du Soleil' and then down to the basement, containing a mountain of equipment for their stay! The enormous trucks carrying the gear can drive directly into - and under - the hall to offload! We sat close to the Royal Box which has a superb view! The visit was much enjoyed by all.



Musical Theatre contact Chris westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

The latest show on offer is 'High Society' at the Barbican starring Felicity Kendal and Helen George. It is for the matinee on Tuesday 16th June and tickets are £69.50. By now it is likely all the tickets have been sold but it is always worth going on the waiting list in case of cancellations. On the agenda for this summer is 'Sinatra-The Musical'. Tickets for the matinee on 8th August are £50.

Architecture contact Jan westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

Following on from my piece last month, we are starting with a tour of St Mary's Church, Westerham, when Bruce will be introducing you to the treasures inside on Tuesday, 14th April. A minimum donation of £5 will include light refreshments. Some may have walked past many times but not ventured inside but apart from the religious aspect, churches are magnificent and give a fascinating insight regarding life in past times. If it is your first time or you are a regular visitor, there's sure to be something new to learn. Places are limited so book your place now!

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

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