

<p>Death of one Queen - Ann Boleyn was beheaded on 19th in 1536</p>		<p>- and birth of another! - Victoria was born on this date in 1819</p>		<p>The month for maypole dancing, Oak Apple Day - and cheese rolling!!</p>		<p>'Cast not a Clout 'til May is out!' So better keep your thermals handy!</p>
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Next Coffee Morning is Wednesday 6th May at 10.30am in the Hall Front Room

If you are a long-standing member, why not go along and welcome the newcomers to the group. I'm sure you recall that it was quite daunting when you first joined so share your experiences to break the ice. If you are new to the group, don't worry, there will be many to show you the ropes, as well as tea/coffee/biscuits to make you feel at home!

The next Open Meeting is on Thursday 14th May at 2pm in Westerham Hall

'The Acting Lark' by Tim Baker-Bartholomew who guarantees that his talk will generate gales of laughter! He shares his insider's knowledge about appearances on TV, in both commercials and dramas, involving glamorous ego-boosting triumphs as well as large amounts of money! He will also cover the downside! Audience participation – indeed heckling – is encouraged!

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 3rd June - Coffee morning

Thursday 11th June - Open Meeting – Mike Grillo 'The Day The Music Died' (the story of Rock 'n' Roll). Combining his experience as a qualified lecturer in further education, with his extensive knowledge of the music industry, Mike talks about the story of Rock 'n' Roll, following the death of Buddy Holly, Ricky Valance and the Big Bopper in 1957.

REMINDER: Your membership renewal is now due, please pay promptly.

July 15th Summer Outing to Waddesdon Manor contact Chris westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk



This year our summer trip is to this National Trust property, built by the Rothschild family in 1874, to house their extensive art treasures. It also has an aviary, used nowadays for the conservation of endangered species. The French Renaissance style chateau is frequently used for film and TV series. An email with further details will follow shortly.

'Without Reserve' April Open Meeting

Janie gave an interesting and amusing talk about her life as a professional antique dealer. As director of Sotheby's, she met many famous people and was especially impressed by Elton John – and Queen Elizabeth, when everything went wrong!

South East u3a Forum Summer School

From 7th-10th September 2026, at the University of Chichester, this u3a residential course offers a variety of topics to suit all tastes. Booking opens on May 8th so for full details [see website](#).

Sevenoaks Health & Wellbeing Roadshow at The Stag Theatre on 14th May

Organised by Sevenoaks Primary Care Network this FREE event will consist of stalls, talks and mini health checks. [Take a look](#) at the poster and book your place.

Horticultural Society contact Marge westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

Member, Marge, attends the Biggin Hill Horticultural Society's monthly talks on a Wednesday evening and finds them very interesting. Would any other gardening enthusiasts like to join her?

News from the Groups

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

Tickets for the matinee of **'The Cherry Orchard'** at the Harold Pinter Theatre on Thursday, October 21st, were sold within a few days and no more are available! If you would like to go on the waiting list in the event of cancellations, let me know.

You can also join the waiting list for **'Cyrano de Bergerac'** at 7.30pm on 2nd July.

If you fancy something more local, **'Shrewed'** by Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society is an open-air production at Archbishop Palace Field, Otford, from 21st – 24th May. It is a bold, high-spirited adaptation of 'The Taming of the Shrew', reimagined against the backdrop of wartime Britain. A battle of wits packed with fixation, fire, and razor-sharp humour. Book [here](#)

London Explorers contact Liz westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk



Our visit started with a ride on the 'Mail Rail Train' (not for anyone suffering from claustrophobia!) which carried post underneath London for 76 years but closed in 2003. In 2017 it was given a new lease of life when it became part of the Postal Museum. The commentary, during the 15 min ride, gave an insight into what went on under the busy streets of London. Inside the Museum we found out how post codes came to be, the story of our stamps and watched some interesting videos.
(Report by Liz)

Architecture contact Jan westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

Having temporarily rebranded 'Architecture' as 'Discovering Churches' we began with a tour of St Mary's Church, Westerham led by member, Bruce Nuttall. Having lived in Westerham for 40 years he seemed to know everything there was to know and he shared the fascinating history with a group of 14. Highlights of the church



are the spiral staircase, one of only 2 in the country that twist left, and the rare Edward VI coat of arms. The etched glass 'Resurrection Panel' was created to celebrate the Millenium. It depicts not only the Resurrection but also worshippers past and present, illustrated by fashions through the centuries. It was much admired and we were astounded to hear that Bruce had drawn the image for the etchers to work from and it even included a Spitfire! Also featured are some swifts, once common around the tower and now being encouraged to return by the inclusion of nest boxes!



Walking Group contact Elaine westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

On April Fools' Day, 19 members of the Walking Group went on a delightful 5 mile circular hike from the Church in Shipbourne. The weather was dry and warm, the terrain flat and some lovely Spring flowers were out, for most people it was the first show of bluebells seen this year. We walked through fields, woods and the tiny hamlet of Coldharbour. Just outside



Coldharbour we saw the unusually named 'Cataract Cottage' built by Mary, Countess of Derby, to commemorate her successful cataract operation in 1892! At the end of the walk, refreshments were taken at 'The Chaser Inn', located next to the Church.



(Report by Linda)

Tai Chi contact Lionel westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

New member, Caroline, joined Westerham u3a after a discussion at the new Saturday morning Weight Watchers Session in Biggin Hill. One of the first groups she joined was Thursday Tai Chi as she had always wanted to 'have a go'! It appears that losing weight encourages you to try new activities! She found Lionel's tuition very helpful, especially his breathing techniques – they subsequently helped her get through a gruelling dental appointment!