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Bexley Newsletter

February 2024

<https://www.bexleyu3a.org.uk>

Reg. Charity 1044195

National Office www.u3a.org.uk

Dear Members

The new year didn't start very well weather wise. Keith and I were due to leave Southampton on a cruise on 30th December and we ended up not leaving until 1st January so we spent New Year's Eve in Southampton docks rather than being on our way to sunny Spain due to the extremely heavy winds. When we eventually left, we were surprised the English Channel and Bay of Biscay were not as bad as expected and we had a fairly reasonable crossing.

January has been quite problematic with the weather. I hope you didn't have any storm damage from Isha last weekend. If you were unlucky, I hope it wasn't too bad. We lost four panes of glass from our greenhouse so we counted ourselves as lucky when you heard the winds howling round and compared to some areas with loss of electricity etc.

Belatedly we heard of the death of Joan Wright who was a member of our u3a during the 1990-2000s and the funeral was on 22nd January. I am sure if you knew Joan you would join me in sending our condolences to her family.

It is coming up to that time of year again when subs will be due on 1st April - £15.00. If you are a new member and join between 1st January to 31st March 2024 your subscription paid at the time of joining will cover you until 31st March 2025. We would ask if you could all pay your subs promptly by 30th April 2024.

I have been asked to mention the Strollers Group are looking for new members. This Group meets every Tuesday morning at Danson Park. Meet at the Main Gate (opposite Crook Log Sports Centre) at 10.00am. They walk round the park and usually end up having refreshments either at the kiosk, Stables or Danson House tearooms.

Jenny Cosser is starting a group for new members once a month (starting on 6th March). This will be held at the Brewers Fayre (just round the corner from Bexleyheath Library) at 10.00am. The meeting is open to all new members in the last year. We hope you will come along, have a chat with other new members and you can ask any questions that you may have. If Jenny can't answer them, she will know a man or lady who hopefully can!!!

HOPE YOU DIDN'T THINK I WASN'T GOING TO BRING THIS UP AGAIN – We desperately need either one person or two to come forward to volunteer to take on the Treasurer and Data Base/IT posts from November when Keith stands down. The Committee have hopefully covered the other vacancies. If we don't have a Treasurer we won't have Bexley u3a. If anyone thinks they might be interested please speak to Keith or ring him as soon as possible. If one or two people would come forward now you can shadow Keith over the next 9 months. PLEASE THINK ABOUT THIS SERIOUSLY it is your u3a and we don't want it to close.

JUST A REMINDER – with the weather being so cold it is vitally important that you come to the monthly meetings prepared for this – thermals, clothes, layers, hot water bottles etc. anything to keep you warm so that you can comfortably listen and enjoy the great speakers Paul has lined up for us.

The speaker at our next meeting on 8th February is David Burnell – The underground at War. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Wendy

Future Meetings at Christ Church Bexleyheath – Dates for Your Diary

8th February - David Burnell. The Underground at War

14th March - Howard Slater. Winston Churchill

11th April - Robert Keable. Utterly Immoral WW1 Chaplain

9th May - Mary Smith. A schoolgirls war

13th June - Nick Higham. Mercenary stream

11th July - Melanie Gibson Barton. The Suffragettes and Suffragists- Votes for Women.

Current Bexley U3A Groups

Alternative Book Group (**Vacancy**) ; Armchair Travellers (**Vacancy**); Bexley Book Club; Choir(**Vacancy**); City Explorers; Creative Writing(**Vacancy**); Crochet; Decorative Arts; Family History Advanced; French Conversation (**Vacancies**); French Intermediate; Gardening; Italian; Jazz Appreciation (**Vacancies**); Life Story (**Vacancies**); Listening to Music; Micropubs (**Vacancies**); More of London; Photoshop Etcetera (**Vacancies**); Play Reading; Poetry Reading; Rummikub; Scrabble (Vacancy); Self Help Art; Spanish Conversation; Steam Trains (**Vacancies**); Strollers (**Vacancies**); Table Top Games (**Vacancies**); Tea, Cake & a Chat (**Vacancies**).

If you are interested in any of the above groups, please contact me – email, telephone or leave a message. I will get back to you with details of the group or groups that interest you. If you are a Group Leader, please keep me informed of any alterations to times of meetings, change of leadership details, vacancies etc.

Many thanks - Jenny Cosser (Group Liaison)

Executive Committee 2023 – 2024

Chair	Wendy Scott		
Vice Chair	VACANCY		
Secretary	Maureen Wright		
Treasurer	Keith Scott		
Membership	Douglas West		
Speakers	Paul Morris		
Group Liaison	Jenny Cosser		
E-mail & IT	Keith Scott		
Social Secretary	VACANCY		
Catering	Vi King		
Database	Keith Scott		
Meet & Greet	Liz Salter**		
Non Committee Role - London Regional Rep	VACANCY		
News Letter Editor	Mary Jupp		

**Please let Liz know of personal events e.g. significant birthdays, anniversaries, condolences, etc. so that she can send cards

Editor Note: *The News Letter has been streamlined. Any important announcements, local or National will be included.*