

January 2024

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

Reg. Charity 1044195

Dear Members

I hope you have all had a good Christmas with family and friends.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who attended the Christmas Social and I hope you enjoyed it.

I would like to thank everyone who helped get the hall ready and clear up after. A very special thank you must go to Doreen and Vi for the great refreshments they provided.

You will be pleased to know my note is short this month as I will be on holiday from 29th December. Paul will be looking after you all at the next meeting.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like you to wish a Happy and Healthy 2024.

Wendy

[illegible]

Future Meetings at Christ Church Bexleyheath – Dates for Your Diary

11th January - Sarah Slater. Secrets, Scandal, and salacious gossip from the Royal Court 1660/1830

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.

Write for your Newsletter!

Are you running a group? Are you a member of a group? Would you like to let other members know about your group? Drop your editor a line! Members would like to hear about your 2023 activities, adventures, stories and successes and plans for 2024.

Please email the Editor

Book Reviews

From Jenny:

Warleggan by Winston Graham

Ross plunges in to a highly speculative mining venture which threatens not only his family's financial security but also his turbulent marriage to Demelza. When Ross and Elizabeth's old attraction rekindles, Demelza retaliates by becoming dangerously involved with a handsome Scottish cavalry officer. With bankruptcy an increasingly real possibility, the Poldarks seem to be facing disaster on all fronts. Another lovely Poldark book.

The Shadow Hour by Kate Riordan

Harriett Jenner is just twenty-one when she walks through the gates of Fenix House. Reeling from a personal tragedy, she doesn't expect her new life as a Governess to be easy. But she certainly doesn't foresee the spell Fenix House will cast.

Almost 50 years later Grace, Harriett's granddaughter follows in her footsteps. For Grace, raised on Harriett's stories, Fenix House is a fairy tale.

Now it's grandeur is faded, and as the holes start to appear in Harriett's story, Grace finds herself in a place of secrets and shadows. For Fenix House hides truths about her family and everything she thought she knew is about to change.

A Secret Garden Affair by Erica James

July 1981. As the country prepares for Prince Charles' wedding to Lady Diana, Libby flees London and her cheating fiancé Marcus for the Suffolk countryside.

At Larkspur House, she hopes to put the pieces of her life back together. And Libby's great Aunt Bess and renowned garden designer socialite Elfrida are happy to help. But for lifelong friends Bess and Elfrida Libby's arrival has stirred up the ghosts of the past. And before they can help her rebuild her shattered future, they must confront their own secrets, lost loves and tragedies.

The book goes backwards and forwards in time. A lovely, easy book to read.

Guppies for Tea by Marika Cobbold

Amelia Lindsey was an exceptional young woman. She had a grandmother whom she loved, a mother whom she bore with patient fortitude (Dagmar spent much of her time scrubbing the backs of wardrobes and wiping clothes-hangers with Dettol drenched J-cloths) and Gerald.

Gerald had fallen in love with Amelia two years earlier, when he was in his artistic phase and had begged her to move in with him. Now (no longer in his artistic phase) he was showing signs of irritation.

And then Selma, the talented and much loved grandmother who had given Amelia all the background of family and home that poor Dagmar could not give suddenly became old. As life – and Gerald – began to collapse all around Amelia, she determined that the one person who would not collapse would be Selma. Fighting a one woman battle against Cherryfield retirement home, against Gerald's defection and her mother's obsession with germs, Amelia found herself capable of plots, diversions and friendships she had never encountered before.

Still Me by Jo Jo Moyes

Lou Clark knows how many miles lie between her new home in New York and her new boyfriend Sam in London. She knows her employer is a good man and she knows his wife is keeping a secret from him.

What Lou doesn't know is she's about to meet someone who's going to turn her whole life upside down. Because Josh will remind her so much of a man she used to know that it'll hurt.

Lou won't know what to do next but she knows that whatever she chooses is going to change everything. A good read – I didn't want to put it down.

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	Please let Liz know of personal events e.g. significant birthdays, anniversaries, condolences, etc. so that she can send cards	
Non Committee Roles			
London Regional Rep	VACANCY		
Newsletter Editor	Mary Jupp		

All contributions for **February newsletter** to be submitted by
Midday ***Monday 29th January 2024***

Please ensure you contribute before the cut-off and have an email acknowledgment from me that I have received your contribution! Thank You