

Bexley u3a Committee

Having been a member of the Committee for almost four years I know how difficult it can be to recruit new members. At the last AGM, for example, we lost our Chairperson, Treasurer, Speakers Secretary, Hall Keeper and It Expert, and would have lost our Secretary if Maureen Wright had not agreed to soldier on for a while longer. Fortunately, the others were replaced at the last minute by a great bunch of people who did not want to see our u3a close.

In November you will have another chance to join the committee, this time as Group Liaison Officer, as I shall have done my three years in that job, plus another year as a committee member without a specific post. During my time as Group Co-ordinator, I have tried to streamline the job, so that it should be easy to take over.

Please think about it. Every time we lose a committee member, we fear that our u3a will have to close. If think you might be interested, do let me know and I shall tell you exactly what you would be letting yourself in for - i.e., meeting new friends and companions, enjoying the committee meetings (yes, really!), and learning a lot more about the groups available. *And* you will be doing your bit to keep our u3a afloat.

Cynthia Allen

Current Bexley u3a Groups

Alternative Book Group; Armchair Travellers; Choir; City Explorers; Crochet; Decorative Arts; Family History Advanced; French Conversation; French Intermediate; Gardening; German Conversation; Heritage Railway; Italian; Jazz Appreciation; Life Story; Listening to Music; Micropubs; More of London; Photoshop Workshop; Play Reading; Poetry Reading; Ramblers; Reading for Pleasure; Rummikub; Scrabble Self-Help Art; Spanish Conversation; Stitches; Strollers Tea, Cake & a Chat; Wartime Memories

NEW MEMBERS MEETING

We will be holding a short meeting to welcome all new members to our u3a on Thursday 9th June at the end of our normal meeting. Some of the Group Leaders will be present and they will be able to give information about their groups and it will be a chance for new members to ask any questions they may have. The Committee will also be available to discuss any queries. Hopefully all the new members who have joined either during lockdown or since we have returned to "normal" will be able to attend.

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**NEW GROUP**

TEA/CAKE/CHAT - run by Doreen Trudgill & Vi King

This will be an opportunity to meet and socialise with other u3a members. It will be an open group for 10 people which will be on the **last Tuesday of each month from 10.00am to 12 noon**. There will be a cost of £1.00 per person and it is to be held at Doreen's house which is on the 422-bus route from Bexleyheath. Doreen and Vi will have a table in the vestibule of the church at each monthly meeting for you to give your name if you are interested and get more information. **Please support this new group**

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AUDREY LAPPIN

I am sad to inform members that Audrey Lappin died on the 12th April and her funeral was held at Falconwood Crematorium on Friday 27th May. Audrey was keeper of the cheque book for Town and Around for many years and kept all in good order. Mobility problems made life difficult for her in later years, but she always retained her dry sense of humour. RIP

Margaret Collins
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**The u3a Radio Podcast**

The u3a radio podcast, set up in 2020, showcases the amazing things happening across the movement. It's created by a team of u3a members who all have radio experience and features interviews with members, interest group leaders, Trustees, national volunteers and Subject Advisers.

The entire series is available to listen to on our **YouTube channel**, and since January 2022, has also been available to listen to on podcasting platforms.

The team are always looking for more stories – **please get in touch** if you'd like to contribute.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/component/contact/contact/communications?catid=169&Itemid=490>

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**Craft Market at The Exchange**

Erith Library Walnut Tree Road Erith

Sunday 19 June 11 am to 3 pm

**Admission**

Free

The Quarterly Craft Market is back. Join us as we support enjoying the handcrafted things made, grown and designed by local artists and creators. Why not grab a coffee from The Bookstore and enjoy perusing!

Plus: Artist duo YoHa will be holding an Open Day at The Exchange where they will be displaying some of their local wasted finds and inviting you to

bring in your own curious wasted object found locally. Join us, and share your own story

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### **Book reviews**

From Jenny:

#### August is a Wicked Month by Edna O'Brian

A simmering tale of a woman rediscovering herself on the French Riviera. Separated from her husband and with her young son away, Ellen leaves behind the loneliness of London for a new life of excitement and sexual freedom. But she soon learns independence is not quite so straight forward.

First published in 1965 and banned in several countries, it is well written but not an absolute favourite of mine – many issues.

She has written lots of books so I will try something else probably.

#### One Minute Later by Susan Lewis

With a high-flying job and beautiful apartment, Vivienne Shager is living the dream. But on the afternoon of her 27<sup>th</sup> birthday one catastrophic minute changes everything. Forced to move back to the small seaside town where she grew up, Viv remembers the reasons she left. There are secrets, lies, and questions that must be answered before it's too late.

Loved this book and the intrigue!

#### The Chilbury Ladies Choir by Jennifer Ryan

In the village of Chilbury, the Vicar closes the choir after the men leave for the front - until the arrival of music professor Primrose Trent, who resurrects the Chilbury Ladies Choir to support each other during the war.

As I sing in various choirs, I really enjoyed this book

#### The Gypsy Madonna by Santa Montefiore

When elegant Anouk, a dealer in American antiques, dies unexpectedly and leaves the Metropolitan Museum an uncatalogued, multimillion dollar painting by Titian, her son Mischa becomes determined to discount the story behind the painting.

This mystery sends him on the trail of his own history, back to the French village of his childhood. There he hopes to uncover the origins of the Gypsy Madonna and the story of his own past.

A lovely book, well written.

From Cynthia:

#### Hitman Anders and the Meaning of it All by Jonas Jonasson

Written by Jonas Jonasson, the author of *The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared*, this follows just as quirky a concept and is every bit as funny. Hitman Anders is just that – a hit man who murders or maims his victims for money. Then he discovers

religion and is persuaded to set up his own church by an ex-priest and her boyfriend, looking to make a fortune from the collection plates.

The book is peopled by as many oddball characters as it would be possible to find in a novel, including an assortment of criminals to whom Anders owes money, as he has not carried out the contracts that he has already been paid for, owing to his conversion.

I cannot wait for Jonasson's next book.

### Lethal Game by Charlie Gallagher

A young woman is found on a quiet country road in Kent. She has been brutally murdered. She is just the first of several victims.

The central character of the novel, DI Joel Norris, along with DS Lucy Rose, sets out to discover the reason for the deaths,

Many books are described as having twists and turns aplenty. This one really *does*. Just as you think you are on the right track, something else happens to make the plot even more complicated. It is well planned, well written, truly gripping. Highly recommended. I shall certainly be reading more of Gallagher's books.

From Norma:

### The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes

I have read other books by Jojo Moyes, but they were all contemporary novels, and this one for a change is historical fiction. It is based on the Packhorse Library Project which ran between 1935 and 1943 in eastern Kentucky, USA, where it was estimated that over 30% of the population was illiterate and 63 Kentucky counties had no access at all to library services. The Works Progress Administration funded "book women" to carry books on horseback or by mule (which they had to provide themselves) to people who lived in the most inaccessible areas of the state, where there were few roads or established towns. They were paid \$28 dollars a month to work 5 days a week riding difficult and dangerous trails, with hazards such as steep cliffs, thick forest, and deep water. I had never heard of this scheme before and the story is about the small band of dedicated women involved in one Packhorse Library, the opposition they encountered, the people they helped and the relationships that developed between them. Highly recommended!!

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**Executive Committee 2021- 2022**

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|----------------------------|-----------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chair                      | Wendy Scott     |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Vice Chair                 | <b>VACANCY</b>  |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Secretary                  | Maureen Wright  |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Treasurer                  | Keith Scott     |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Membership                 | Douglas West    |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Speakers                   | Paul Morris     |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Group Liaison              | Cynthia Allen   |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| E-mail & IT                | Keith Scott     |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Social Secretary           | <b>VACANCY</b>  |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Catering                   | Vi King         |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Database                   | Keith Scott     |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>NON-COMMITTEE ROLES</b> |                 |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Meet & Greet               | Edna Sutton     |  | Please let Edna know of personal events e.g. significant birthdays, anniversaries, condolences, etc. so that she can send cards. |
| London Regional Rep        | Sandra Goulding |  |                                                                                                                                  |
| Newsletter Editor          | Mary Jupp       |  |                                                                                                                                  |

All contributions for **July newsletter** to be submitted by  
Midday **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July**

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