

u3a learn  
laugh  
live

# Bexley Newsletter

March 2024

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

Reg. Charity 1044195

National Office [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

Dear Members

Hope you are all managing to keep warm and dry with the changeable weather. Hopefully we will soon be in Spring and the weather might improve.

There is a change of topic for our March meeting. It is the same speaker but he no longer does the Churchill subject but I am sure the talk he is going to give will be very interesting as it is the life story of Glen Miller, the truth on how he died and how he got his musical sound together with a musical interlude of his most famous music.

Subscriptions are due from 1<sup>st</sup> April so if you have not got a renewal form please pick one up at the March Meeting and remember to include a stamped addressed envelope to receive your new membership card.

**A reminder about the New Members Get Together on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am at the Brewers Fayre, Bexleyheath. All new members in the last year are welcome to come along for a chat and if you have any questions hopefully you can get them answered. Jenny, Group Liaison, has organised this meeting so please go if you can as she doesn't want to be there on her own like "Billy no mates!!"**

We are still looking for a prospective Treasurer and IT bod to take over from Keith in November. Hopefully there are one or two members out there who are thinking about coming forward if so please do it sooner rather than later to ensure that Bexley u3a can continue. If you are unsure, please ring either Keith or I and we can answer any questions you may have. Committee meetings are only held 4 times a year and you would not be left alone to do the job there are people here to help you. Keith took it on 3 years ago and knew nothing about the job and had never even been on the committee but thanks to the previous Treasurer and Committee members he has coped well. **PLEASE, PLEASE THINK ABOUT COMING FORWARD.**

I look forward to seeing you all at the March meeting. Don't forget it could still be cold so please come prepared with extra layers of clothing etc.

Wendy

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## Future Meetings at Christ Church Bexleyheath – Dates for Your Diary

**14<sup>th</sup> March** - Howard Slater. Life story of Glen Miller

**11<sup>th</sup> April** - Robert Keable. Utterly Immoral WW1 Chaplain

**9<sup>th</sup> May** - Mary Smith. A schoolgirls war

**13<sup>th</sup> June** - Nick Higham. Mercenary stream

**11<sup>th</sup> 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	Rosey Case		
Secretary	Maureen Wright		
Treasurer	Keith Scott		
Membership	Douglas West		
Speakers	Paul Morris		
Group Liaison	Jenny Cosser		
E-mail & IT	Keith Scott		
Social Secretary	<b>VACANCY</b>		
Catering	Vi King		
Database	Keith Scott		
Meet & Greet	Liz Salter**		
Non Committee Role - London Regional Rep	<b>VACANCY</b>		
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

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**London Region Events Team** has decided to try something new this year instead of the conventional 2-3 day Summer School. They are offering an exciting programme of 31 guided walks and visits to museums and galleries around central London between **May 21st and July 23rd**.

**Bookings will be launched Friday 22 March.** They will upload the Programme to the [Events](https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/events) page of the London Region website. <https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/events>

## A LETTER FROM DEVON

Dear All

Where has time Gone?? I have now been in Devon for almost Two and a Half Years Amazing! My Life seems to get better all the time. I am pretty well known around the area now it is rare I can go somewhere and I not see someone I know.

The South Devon Railway has just had a week for Half Term during that week although not rostered for any duties I done two days standing in for others that had to cancel. It was nice to be recognized for doing it by the Top Management who thanked me for standing in. I even gave up a Singing Group afternoon!

In my last Article for this News Letter, I mentioned that I was looking to join a Male Voice Choir. I eventually went along. It was a cold wet Tuesday evening I had to drive to Torquay not knowing where this Church hall was. The Sat Nav took me all over Torquay eventually telling me "you are at your destination". I found a parking spot and waited to see if someone came along. After a few minutes a man came along, I jumped out of my car and confronted him, "Is this the Torbay Police and Community Male Voice Choir?" Yes, he said, follow me. I had arrived and indeed was made very welcome. A folder was thrust in my hand with the songs they were practicing I was shown to where the Bass Singers sat and we were off.

That is now six weeks ago and apart from the journey to Torquay and back which takes around 30 minutes each way, I am really enjoying it.

I have now put my name down to spend a weekend at the Severn Valley Railway, spinging at Kidderminster Station and maybe on the train. Well how could I not do it ? Trains and singing!! The Lady who does the drinks now knows how I like my Tea !

They are now trying to find a Red Blazer to fit me, I am sure they will !

I still go along to another Singing Group which is a lot of fun similar to The Bexley Group.

The Weather in Devon recently has been typical of Devon, wet and sometimes sunny. Looking forward to more sunshine though. I am told the wet is what makes Devon very Green ! I would rather a little more sunshine.

Best Wishes to All

Keep Safe and keep Smiling

Terry from Lovely Green ( and Wet!) Devon