

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Wadhurst & District

NEWS

December 2024

Wadhurst & District u3a

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To contact a member of the Committee, please telephone **01580 200647** or email using the links in the **'Contacting Us'** page on our website:

www.wadhurst.u3asite.uk

TO JOIN Wadhurst & District u3a

Download a membership application form and a Gift Aid form from the **'How to Join'** page on our website.

You can either

print, complete the forms and return them with a cheque for the annual fee of £25 to our membership secretary by post,

or

fill in the forms electronically, email them to our membership secretary, and pay the annual fee of £25 online to Wadhurst & District u3a.

Further details are given on the application form. Ring Sheila Jemmett at **01580 200647** if you have any questions.

ONLINE PAYMENTS TO Wadhurst & District u3a

Lloyds Bank, sort code: 30-98-77, account number: 48499968,
In name of: *Wadhurst u3a*

NEWS Magazine Editor: Philip Cheung

COPY DEADLINE for the April 2025 issue: 20th March 2025. Please email copy to 'NEWS Editor' using the **'Contacting Us'** page on our website.



*We wish You a Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year !*

The Trustees of Wadhurst & District u3a



For Your Diaries

Christmas Party

Commemoration Hall

2.00 pm, Thursday 12th December 2024

By the time you have this copy of NEWS in your hands, you should have received an invitation to this member only event. Be sure you are there to join us for some good cheer, and be entertained by the amazing magical skills of James Sheridan.

You will not be asked to bring anything except your good selves. Once you receive your invitation please reply as soon as possible as the numbers are limited.

Spring Social Event

Friday 4th April 2025

Please keep the date for an event open to you and the general public. Details will be announced in due course.

Group Convenors' & New Members' Party

Jan Whiteley & Sara Irwin

On a lovely sunny evening in September Sara and I prepared the Sparrows Green Pavilion for an influx of around 60-70 people. New members were joining right up to the evening before!! Might have had something to do with the prosecco and canapés/finger food on offer. Haha!

We hadn't had a similar function for more than four years, for various reasons. As there would not enough room to include every new member who joined our u3a during this period, we decided to invite only those who joined us in the last 18 months.

The new members turned out in force which was heartening, as we promoted it as a relaxing way for them to meet each other and get to know the convenors of all the different groups of which there are now 33. We welcomed nearly all the 23 group convenors (some lead multiple groups). Only three couldn't make it, so a really great turnout!

After an update from me, a new member, David Spreadbury, took on an amazing job of serving prosecco, beer, juices and soft drinks, which was a huge and very busy task for a few hours - a huge thank you from Sara and myself to David.

Sara had provided a lovely, colourful array of food platters, with lots of different canapés and finger food, which went down really well with everyone. Absolutely delicious and yummy they were too...

The noise level had risen enormously and everyone was mingling really well, chatting with the group convenors, who said they had renewed interest in their groups. The three new groups had attracted much attention, with people signing up.

All in all a really enjoyable and successful evening, I think! A few people did ask "When is the next one?" as they walked out the door smiling and laughing!!!

Many thanks to everyone: trustees, group convenors and new members, you all made it fun and worthwhile.

Selected Group News

Wadhurst & District u3a has some 35 interest groups to offer. Here are news items from some of them. Do not hesitate to contact the convenor if you are interested in an interest group. Contact information can be found on the Groups Table on pages 13-4. You can also email convenors using the links bearing their names on the group pages in Wadhurst & District u3a's website:

www.wadhurst.u3asite.uk

ART IN TICEHURST

Kris Armstrong

Ticehurst Art group meets monthly, usually the last Friday afternoon at 2pm.

We're a small group painting mostly in watercolour. Our tutor is Tim Burnham. He sets us a homework subject which we discuss at the next meeting.

BOOK GROUP THREE

Jane Austin

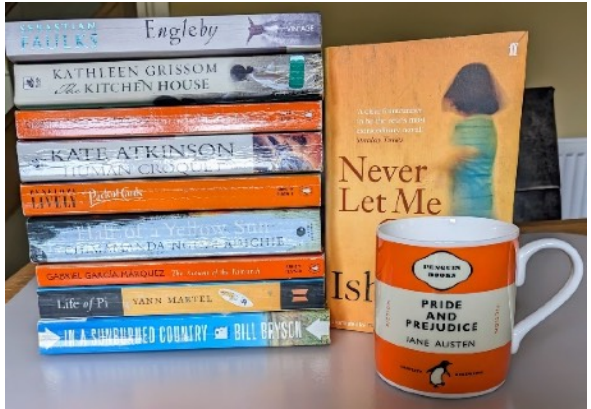
A relative newcomer to the u3a book group scene, it's hard to believe that our group has now been operating for a full year during which time we have discussed the relative merits and shortcomings of a variety of books and authors (see our reading list below).

Our members' tastes vary considerably so there is always plenty to talk about. Some like a story with 'excitement and action' (e.g. *Slow Horses*); others are more attracted by well-formed, credible characters who secure our empathy (e.g. *The Music Room*). Some of our group enjoy books with a strong sense of time and place (e.g. *Years of Wonder*) and, for others, books with humour and a

poignant message carry more appeal (e.g. *Lessons in Chemistry*). Many books from our 2024 reading list also focus on family dynamics which always generates lots of discussion.

It is this variety that make book groups so popular world-wide, and on TV, radio and social media. Everyone has their favourite authors and genres but it is through book groups that we are introduced to new writers, hear different views and interpretations, and gain new insights.

We meet on the second Monday of the month (unless otherwise stated) and we have recently re-located to the new Hub Room in the Institute Building on the High



Street. This new venue has enabled us to extend our membership to 12 places. We communicate via email and WhatsApp.

All the details can be found on our website.

Our 2024 Reading List

Slow Horses by Mick Herron

Instructions for a Heatwave by Maggie O'Farrell

Stoner by John E. Williams

The Storied Life of AJ Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks

The Salt Path by Raynor Winn

A Spell of Winter by Helen Dunmore

Plain Truth by Jodi Picoult

The Music Room by William Fiennes

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

Violeta by Isabel Allende

CROQUET End-of-Season Celebration

Jane & David Austin



After wind and rain in the first few weeks of October, the sky cleared for our croquet end-of-season celebration and awards ceremony in the Wadhurst Cricket Pavilion. It turned out to be a warm and sunny afternoon and we were delighted that so many of our members joined us to celebrate the end of our second year. Sadly, we missed Gina, Pauline, Philip, Tessa and David, who were unable to come due to diary clashes and holidays.

After tea and cake, we opened the bottles of bubbly to toast our season winners. Special congratulations to the champions for 2024:

- **First Place** and Gold Medallist - Graham Burden (runner up in 2023)
- **Second Place** and Silver Medallist - Geoff Daddy (just one point difference!)
- **Third Place** and Bronze Medallist - Celia Turner.



Well Done to all our Croqueteers!



Finally, on a personal note, we cannot close without special thanks to:

- Wadhurst Cricket Club for maintaining our lawn area and kindly allowing us to use their pavilion;
- Graham and Cindy for holding the fort whilst we were in Canada;
- Geoff for introducing us to ‘Pirate Croquet’ which greatly added to our enjoyment of the game;
- Deirdre who once again surprised us with a selection of lovely hand-made gifts;
- And everyone else who helped serving tea, washing up and moving chairs.

Croquet really is a team effort – thank you.

We are so pleased that Croquet has proved to be so successful with our u3a members and we look forward to seeing everyone again in 2025.

Remember, no prior knowledge or expertise is required and beginners are always welcome.

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Philip Cheung

The revived group took off at last in November, after a hiatus of four years! We had a lively morning with at least 80% of the conversation in French. That will increase to 99% soon, *j’espère*.

The aim of the group is to have fun speaking French, all the while learning to speak more fluently. At our meetings, we usually start a conversation with a prompt such as “*Parlez-moi de votre dernier voyage en France*”. A cup of coffee, with perhaps a croissant, will lead to more exchanges. You need not be fluent to join the group. However, as we learn from each other, fluent speakers are most welcome.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month. Members are notified each month about where we meet (at a member’s house) and what the ‘prompt’ will be for the conversation. The group is currently full with a waiting list of two.

PLAY READING

Philip Cheung

In 2024, we read nine plays over ten months instead of the usual a play a month. This was because Alan Ayckbourn's *House and Garden* consists of two plays that take place simultaneously. In an actual performance, the audience goes into one of two auditoria to watch one of the two plays. They would follow the same story as seen at two different locations while the same cast of characters move from one play to the other, and vice versa. Very clever stuff, Mr Ayckbourn! For play reading, there is a catch. If we read Scene 1 Act I of play A, followed by Scene 1 Act II of Play B ... etc, it will take two afternoons to read the whole play(s). This is what happened!

Having read our plays from February to November, we take a well-earned rest in December. In January, we shall launch into the New Year with lunch at the Rose & Crown in Mayfield, during which we shall entertain each other by each person bringing a short piece to read to the others.

If the above sounds fun to you, join us! More information on our website: www.wadhurst.u3asite.uk.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Philip Cheung

Nuclear Now, a film made by Oliver Stone, and based on the book *A Bright Future*, by Joshua Goldstein, political scientist, and Staffan Qvist, Swedish engineer and scientist, was the centrepiece of our November meeting. Nuclear is of course a crucial player in *The Transition To Carbon Zero*.

The film begins by documenting the history of nuclear fission reactors. In the years after WW2, many countries embraced the technology enthusiastically, in both the civilian and military spheres. Progress was however brought almost to a halt after three accidents, at Three Mile Island (1979), Chernobyl (1986) and Fukushima (2011). These are covered in great detail, including interviews with many of those who were closely involved, notably at Chernobyl. The anti-nuclear protests in various countries are also covered, as well as Germany's decision to close down all its nuclear

power stations in 2011. On the ‘pro-nuclear’ side, the success of France, where 70% of electricity comes from nuclear power stations, is highlighted, together with the successes in Sweden and Canada, and more recently, China and Korea. Special attention is given to the small reactors used in submarines, aircraft carriers and icebreakers, notable for their safety and reliability records.

The case is then argued that our fear of nuclear energy is unjustified, not least because of misleading propaganda by the coal and petroleum industries, who saw nuclear as a mortal enemy in the 50’s and 60’s. Nuclear is in fact much safer than generally perceived, if safety records are examined objectively. In the context of the climate crisis and the need for carbon-free electricity, the reality is that only nuclear can supply a constant, substantial and carbon-free electricity ‘base-load’ alongside intermittent renewable sources such as wind and solar. Small modular reactors (SMRs) that can be factory-built quickly and simply for ‘routine’ installation almost anywhere, are put forward as an alternative to large nuclear power stations. A remote settlement on the Siberian Arctic coast is already supplied with electricity from essentially a SMR. [Incidentally, the UK is currently building a large nuclear power station at Hinckley Point, with a similar one at an advanced stage of planning at Sizewell. At the same time, four firms, including Rolls Royce, have just been approved to bid for a fleet of SMRs.]

Nuclear Now drew an audience of 16, including two new members. Everyone enjoyed the film, impressed by the mass of information it managed to convey, even-handedly, in a lively style that always brought the human element to the fore. We thank Neil Lynn, Paddock Wood u3a, for making the film available to us.

‘The Greenwich reactor’, which hit the newspaper headlines many years ago, came up in the subsequent discussions. Neil Lynn was teaching at the Greenwich Naval College at the time, and he confirmed that there was indeed a reactor at Greenwich. It was a small teaching reactor that “could not boil a cup of tea” but was good enough to train naval officers ahead of service in nuclear submarines.

In December, we continue our meetings on *The Transition to Carbon Zero* with ‘What Can Be Done in a Home with Solar Panels, Heat

Pumps and Batteries'. In January, members will make presentations on innovative ways to store energy on the grid scale.

If you are interested in our meetings, visit www.wadhurst.u3asite.uk for more information on what we do and how to join the group.

Alan Goddard 1942 - 2024

We are saddened to hear that Alan Goddard died in June at Oban, while on a cruise. Alan was an enthusiastic member of the Science & Technology Group, as well as the Art Appreciation Group of our u3a.

Solicitor by profession, Alan had an open and inquisitive mind. He had numerous interests and hobbies including sailing, bird-watching, astronomy, model making, computer programming, music and opera. His keen interest in science and technology led to many technological innovations in his work place. He led a discussion on the legal aspects of AI for our group. He brought his sextant to our meeting on "Your Favourite Gadget". He wanted to know about transistors, dark matter... We shall miss him.

SINGLES SUNDAY LUNCH

Mary Brewer

The lunches have now reverted to the third Sunday in each month during the Autumn/Winter.

During the past year we have gathered at various locations: The Elephants Head, Hook Green; Aroma A21; The Old Vine, Cousley Wood and The Greyhound, Wadhurst. Numbers have varied between 10 and 15 members.

There is always plenty of cheerful chatter, new friendships formed and 'Sunday Roasts' enjoyed.

Consideration is always given to any dietary requirements when we are advised of these.

We are always pleased to welcome new faces from our u3a, and ask members to telephone either of the convenors (see Groups Table on p13) on the preceding Wednesday to confirm attendance.

STRICTLY FITSTEPS

Sara Irwin

Fitsteps Class in Ticehurst Village Hall is always pleased to see new members for fitness and fun at 11.15am on Wednesdays, except the first Wednesday of the month. £6 per person.

Amanda, our qualified Instructor, chooses great music and teaches us many ballroom steps in an energetic and joyful way. This is the perfect way to learn the Strictly moves!!

TEN PIN BOWLING

Lynda Emberson

The bowling group goes from strength to strength. We are now having to open two lanes (2 groups of 6) to accommodate everyone.

We meet on the last Friday of the month at Hollywood Bowl, Tunbridge Wells, Knights Park, Longfield Road and enjoy a reduced rate of under £8.00. We gather in the foyer from 2.00pm for a 2.30pm start.

It is not competitive, everyone is at a different level but it is a lot of fun and very sociable.

We are taking a break for Christmas and will restart in January 2025. If you wish to join us, or if you do not have transport, please let me know in advance. My contact details: **01580 201994** or **lynda@embersons.net**.

Meanwhile I would like to wish all members of the u3a a Very Merry Xmas and Happy New Year.

YOGA

Sara Irwin

Yoga on Zoom every Monday morning at 9.30am is a small friendly class run by our professional instructor Becky Sperring. £8.00 per person including a recording to use for the week. The luxury of this class is you work out in your own home! Delighted to welcome new clients and receive any inquiries.

Wadhurst u3a Interest Groups

Interest Group	Convenor	Day of Month	Time	Venue
Active Plus 1 20-20-20	Jane Austin	Thursdays	10.05	Uplands Sports Centre
Active Plus 2 20-20-20	Jane Austin	Tuesdays	11.05	Uplands Sports Centre
Art Appreciation	Margot Yeo	<i>See website for latest news</i>		
Art at Ticehurst	Kris Armstrong	last Friday	14.00	Ticehurst Village Hall
Art at Wadhurst	Sheila King	2nd Tuesday	10.00	Carillon Cottage
Book Group One	Margaret Jones	<i>check with convenor</i>		
Book Group Two	Janet Pelham	4th Wednesday	14.00	Carillon Cottage
Book Group Three	Jane Austin	2nd Monday	14.00	The Hub
Bridge	Geoff Daddy	Thursdays	10.00	Sparrows Green Pavilion
Chair Yoga	Jane Austin	Wednesdays	12.30	Uplands Sports Centre
Croquet	Jane Austin	Summer only	14.00	Wadhurst Cricket Pavilion
Eating for Health	Helen Pratt	<i>See website for latest news</i>		
Family & Social History	Sheena Carmichael	Wednesdays	14.00	<i>check with convenor</i>
French Conversation	Philip Cheung	1st Wednesday	11.00	<i>check with convenor</i>
Friendly Computers	Philip Cheung	<i>contact convenor for individual sessions</i>		
Gardening	Sheila Jemmett	3rd Tuesday	10.00	Orchard Room
Historic Building Visits	<i>See website for latest news</i>			
Kindfulness	Susie Swift	4th Friday	10.30	<i>check with convenor</i>

Knit & Natter	Kate Metcalfe	1st Tuesday	14.30	<i>check with convenor</i>
Life Writing	Jessica Brown	alternate Tue	10.00	<i>check with convenor</i>
Mah Jong	Norwill Hazell	2nd & 4th Thu	14.00	<i>check with convenor</i>
Modern Architecture	Jane Austin	<i>See website for latest news</i>		
Play Reading	Philip Cheung	<i>See website for latest news</i>		
Poetry Reading	Val Smith	3rd Friday	14.00	Carillon Cottage
Poetry Writing		quarterly	<i>check with convenor</i>	
Science & Technology	Philip Cheung	1st Tuesday	14.00	Sparrows Green Pavilion
Show & Tell	Eileen Ramm	4th Tuesday	14.00	<i>check with convenor</i>
Strictly Fitsteps	Sara Irwin	Wednesdays except 1st	11.15	Ticehurst Village Hall
Sunday Singles Lunches	Mary Brewer & Iris Glover	3rd Sunday	<i>check with convenors</i>	
Table Tennis	Philippa Standley	Tuesdays	12.30	Uplands Sports Centre
Tai Chi	Uplands u3a Tai Chi	Mondays	11.30	Uplands Sports Centre
Ten Pin Bowling	Lynda Emberson	last Friday	14.00	Hollywood Bowl, TW
Walking	Sarah Parry	2nd Thursday	10.00	<i>check with convenor</i>
Wine Appreciation	Jane Austin	4th Wednesday	17.00	The Hub
Yoga online	Sara Irwin	Mondays	9.30 /11.00	Zoom

To email convenor: On the u3a Wadhurst website (see below) select the Group concerned.

Click on the **link** bearing the name of the convenor.

To leave a message: ring **01580 200647**. State your name, tel number and the group(s) of interest.

*** Consult our website: www.wadhurst.u3asite.uk for up-to-date information. ***

Rewilding at Knepp Safari Park

Jan Whiteley

After a wonderful talk by Matthew Phelps from the Knepp Rewilding Project at the Speakers Meeting in May, I managed to arrange a private tour for 12 people on 16th August. The public tours had sold out a long time before.

It just happened to be a glorious sunny day, but not unbearably hot. We made our way down to Horsham in three cars and arrived at 9am. All very excited about our morning ahead!!

We checked in and wandered past the Campsite set in a wildflower meadow and made our way to The Cow Barn. Here we were met by our driver and guide, the lovely Sarah. She took us through the safety aspects, what we were likely to see (as nothing is guaranteed, being roaming animals) and that we would stop and have freshly made brownies and refreshments half way around.



We boarded our open-sided Austrian Pinzgauer vehicle and set off with Sarah giving us a commentary on the Rewilding Project that was started in 2001 by the Burrell Family, who have owned the farm and the land since 1787!

First stop was a tree viewing deck, where you got to appreciate the size of the area and when most of us were pleased we hadn't decided to do the walking safari, which takes about 2-3 hours!!!

Shortly after returning to ground level, out of the woods came a family of Tamworth Pigs, a sow and her three piglets, which entertained us for the next 15 minutes or so, as we realised we were standing under an oak tree and the ground was covered with acorns. What a delightful sight and they just completely ignored us all and kept snuffling around.



My main wish was to see the storks and we did along a trail, as they were flying around. Then we were able to get down from the truck and observe them in a field, as a tree in the middle had a nest with a stork sitting on a brood. Another was flying around, so great to stand and watch them for a while.

Caught a glimpse of some young stags charging along, some had antlers and when they paused momentarily it was a wonderful sight, seeing the two bigger ones standing shoulder to shoulder with their antlers touching, staring at us. Then they were off....

Visited the Beaver area, which at the moment is fenced off, but there is talk of releasing them altogether in the future, as there is a lot of water around with streams, boggy areas and ponds. They are nocturnal, so didn't see any of course!



The Exmoor ponies eluded us, as did the Longhorn cattle, believe it or not?!! But they do have 3,500 acres of land to roam in, of course. I did have a Longhorn burger for lunch at the café and it was delicious.

There is an abundance of bird life, butterflies, bats, small mammals, red and fallow deer to look out for too, as well as wild plants and different trees and the views are fabulous at times.

One bit of excitement on our return was we got stuck in some very deep mud and I mean DEEP! On my side it went over the wheels and up to the bottom of the truck, hopefully it might show in one of the photos! We all thought it might be exciting to get towed out, but Sarah wasn't having any of that, so miraculously she got us out...haha!



All in all a very enjoyable day was had by all. It was well worth the effort to get twelve people together on a day that suited the Knepp staff, as we couldn't have done it without Sarah, who was brilliant.

A small point at the end. The price has gone up to £90pp in 2025, which I predicted it probably would due to demand, so great value for us at £75pp!

JANE LARCOMBE



A memorial service entitled *Celebrating Everything about Jane Larcombe*, took place at Tidebrook Church on 1st November. It was organised by Freddie Barcombe, Jane's husband, who wrote:

"The service highlighted her international reach. The congregation of 90 included guests from South Africa, Norway, and others who travelled from Swansea, Birmingham, Cheshire, Rutland, Hampshire and London. They all attended a champagne dinner later at Ashdown Park Hotel."

Jane was of course Wadhurst u3a's first chairman. She was one of a small group of Wadhurst residents who formed a standing committee to prepare Wadhurst u3a for its inauguration in August 2013. At the inaugural meeting, Jane was elected the u3a's chairman. After serving the statutory maximum of three years, she stepped down in 2016, but continued her committee involvement until she became seriously ill. She died of multiple myeloma in September 2020.

The following is a tribute written by Jacqui Harman, our third chairman from 2019-21.

My Friend

Jacqui Harman

Jane and I first met in 2013 when, together with other local residents, we volunteered to help form Wadhurst U3A. Although as volunteers we were all extremely enthusiastic, it quickly became very clear that we needed a leader. A person who was dynamic and with the strength of character and experience to organise, motivate and inspire but still managing to keep order and a sense of reality; no easy task especially during our formative meetings! It was unanimously decided that Jane was the obvious choice and she was therefore duly appointed as the first Chair of Wadhurst U3A.

As time progressed and things took shape Jane was always incredibly supportive of us all. Whenever a new interest group was formed, she would personally ensure all was well by initially joining the group to see for herself. Ballroom dancing, mindfulness, tai chi, garden visits, keep fit in collaboration with Uplands gym, where she negotiated a favourable fee and free drink for U3A members, to name but a few. The monthly Speaker Meeting which Jane, as Chairman, presided over was always very well attended and enjoyed; especially Jane's ever so slightly risqué jokes! At these meetings Jane would make sure to chat with as many members as possible but, without being in any way patronising, always sought out those she thought might be lonely or in need of a friendly word. Under Jane's chairmanship, we also organised numerous social events which benefited, and were enjoyed by, not only the membership, but their families, friends and the wider community.

Today Wadhurst U3A continues to go from strength to strength and although successive chairmen have brought their own inimitable style to the table, I think it fair to say that Jane had set such an incredibly high standard that others, myself included, tried but never quite managed to equal. Whenever the motto of U3A, "learn, laugh, live" was mentioned Jane would always add "AND FUN!" and we really did have some incredibly fun and funny times.

On a personal level the greatest gift I received by joining Wadhurst U3A was Jane's friendship and my only regret is that we hadn't met years before. I miss her wise counsel and our 3 or 4 hour long lunches that were filled with laughter. I know she still continues to be terribly missed by us all.

Recollections

Philip Cheung

I first met Jane at a meeting in May 2013 where those who were interested in starting a u3a for Wadhurst were invited to come together to decide how we should proceed. In fact, a small group of people had already met in the months before. At this meeting, we simply voted for a steering committee, to do what was necessary to make Wadhurst u3a a legal entity, in order that an inaugural meeting could follow, when the u3a could take in its first members. Jane was a member of the steering committee. At the inaugural meeting which took place just three months later, on 28th August 2013, Jane was elected chairman of Wadhurst u3a.

I signed up as a member of the u3a at the inaugural meeting. Two years into retirement, my personal ambitions for the u3a consisted of forming a science group and playing bridge. "Better to leave the running of the u3a to those who enjoy doing it!" I thought. That insular attitude did not last long. Eight months later, I was asked if I would like to join the committee. After an interview with Jane at her home in Tidebrook, I was given the role of Groups Co-ordinator, attending my first meeting in July, 2014.

At meetings of the committee, I saw Jane in action more closely. She had vision and she thought big. She wanted Wadhurst u3a to be the best. We set our annual subscription at £25 which was double that of the surrounding u3a's. "That will not be a problem" Jane said. "We'll be a better u3a than the others, and what we offer will more than justify our subscription." She was right. We doubled in size in three years. The advisors from national office, who came to help us to get off the ground, had warned that after an initial

surge, membership numbers would stagnate. That did not appear to apply to us.

What made us better? At Jane's insistence:

- Our members are admitted to our monthly meetings free of charge, with a free cup of tea and a biscuit to induce them to linger longer, to chat with friends (and cut out unnecessary money handling distractions).
- We have two free parties each year, on our birthday in late summer and at Christmas, where members enjoy each other's company to make the u3a an association of friends.
- We have a free magazine, NEWS, which is not a news bulletin, but in Jane's words, "something that is a pleasure to hold in the hand and read".
- Finally, we have interesting and health promoting interest groups. Jane introduced *Fit'n Fun* at the Uplands Sport Centre. She sought out Keith Allen as instructor for ballroom dancing, and she pushed for a ukulele group.

With these guidelines, still adhered to today, our u3a thrived.

It was at ballroom dancing that I first learnt that Jane was not quite herself. She said that a visit to the doctor or physio would sort out her difficulties with certain movements. We were sorry to discover later that there were serious issues with her health. We were also sorry that she died in the dark days of COVID when we could not gather to pay her a well deserved tribute.

Jane was a strong character. She provided a clear leadership that the u3a needed in its infancy. She brought to the amateur world of the u3a the much needed experience she had gained through a lifetime in business and charitable work. I am happy to have succeeded her as chairman, not immediately, but after two others had taken their turns. I am happily confident that we are continuing to move in a direction that Jane had helped to set from the beginning and which will benefit our community of retirees in the years to come.

Monthly Meetings & Events

at The Commemoration Hall, Wadhurst

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month
at 2.30 pm, unless otherwise stated.

<i>Dec 12</i> <i>2.00 pm</i>	<i>Christmas Party (members only)</i>
2025	
Jan 16	FROM FARM TO JUNGLE IN COLOMBIA <i>Jane Scotchmer</i>
Journey through Colombia along sea shores, through botanical gardens, up to a cloud forest.	
Feb 20	THE BAYEAUX TAPESTRY <i>James Dickinson</i>
Story of the Tapestry and some of its scenes explained.	
Mar 20	COCO CHANEL From Pauper to Multi Millionairess <i>Delia Taylor</i>
A fascinating and complex woman with a life story to match.	
<i>Apr 4</i>	<i>Social Event - details TBA</i>
Apr 17	CONCORDE Icon Of The Skies <i>Guy Bartlett</i>
History of the fastest passenger aircraft of all time	

Monthly speaker meetings, with a cup of tea and biscuits, are free for members of Wadhurst & District u3a. Unless otherwise indicated, non-members are welcome, with an admission charge of £3.00.



Oak Trees Through the Year

