

August 2026 - Monthly Bulletin

Our website: www.wadhurst.u3asite.uk

Our next Guest Speaker Meeting: Thursday, 20th August at 2.30pm in the Commemoration Hall
Neil Nixon will be talking about 'The World of the Strange', exploring with us some well-known and intriguing paranormal claims. Something a little different from our usual talks, do join us for another entertaining afternoon. As always, if there are any members who could come a little early to assist with setting out chairs in the Hall, your help will be greatly appreciated.

New Trustees/Committee Members sought

It is with great sadness that we announce the retirement of Mike King who has served the u3a in many different officer roles over the last 8 years, serving as Business Secretary, Speaker Co-ordinator and, finally, as our Chair since 2024. We are all indebted to him for his service and loyalty. That said, I'm sure you'll all agree he deserves a well-earned rest!

At the AGM in October, we shall also be saying goodbye to Sheila King (our Treasurer), Marianne Whittingdale (our Business Secretary), Graham Burden (Speaker Co-ordinator) and Sara Irwin (Welcome/New Members Co-ordinator). We thank them all for their support, dedication and contributions over the years. They will be greatly missed and leave a big gap in our committee structure. For this reason, **we are now seeking nominations for new Trustees/Committee members for 2026/7**. Full details are on our website, but if this is something that may appeal to you, please contact our Vice Chair, **Jane Austin**, on **07837 958867** for a chat about the role.

Social Events

There is a flurry of social events coming up:

8th September - 5.00pm Sparrows Green Pavilion. Convenors and New Members Only Evening. Full details will be sent out shortly

Our Birthday Events in Wadhurst Commemoration Hall:

17th September – Afternoon Tea Party at 2.00pm (Bellini mocktails on arrival, musical quiz, buffet and bingo)

24th September – Wine & Cheese Mingle at 6.30pm (non-alcoholic options will be available)

Do ensure you reserve your place at one of our birthday events.

There will be a sign-up form at the monthly meeting **OR** you can book online via our website **OR** by emailing vicechair@wadhurstu3a.org.uk **OR** calling 07837 958867.

Booking is important so we know how many to cater for.

Membership Subscriptions REMINDER

Our u3a Annual subscriptions (£25) are due **by 31st August**, but remember if you joined after May 2026, your subscription carries over to August 2027. You can pay by **bank transfer**, or by **card** (in person at the monthly meeting). Full details are on the website.

Announcing a new “Early Doors” Social Group

We are delighted to announce the start-up of a new group, specifically for our u3a members to meet up socially to enjoy an early evening drink, some lively conversation and strike up new friendships. The group will meet on the first Friday of the month at 5.00pm in one of our 'locals', alternating between Wadhurst and Ticehurst. If you can only come once in a while that's fine. We'd love you to drop in whenever you can. You'll be warmly welcomed. Details will be posted on the website each month.

Launch of our New Spanish Conversation Group

Our new Spanish Group will be starting on 22 September and we are especially delighted to have the support of Esther Sanchez Manso, one of our new members, who will be helping us improve our speaking and listening skills. Esther's first language is Spanish and she has a wealth of experience, having lived in both Spain and Argentina. There will be plenty to talk about! Due to late withdrawals, we now have a couple of vacancies in this group, so if this is something that appeals to you, please contact our Group Convenor, David Austin, via the website, or sign up at the monthly meeting.

Commemoration Hall AGM - 8th September 2026

We are having a stall in the Commemoration Hall on the 8th September, starting at 7.00pm. The trustees of the Hall & Field have invited all local groups to be represented on the evening of their AGM. It's a friendly event so do pop along and say hello.

South London Modernist Architecture Walk - 8th October

Join us for a walk combining South London's mid-century modern architectural gems with a lovely suburban walk between West Dulwich and Forest Hill. Led by Tim Ball, the day involves travelling by train to West Dulwich station, then a 2 hour walk to Forest Hill station and train back home. There are several cafes and pubs near Forest Hill Station for those in need of refreshment!

If you're interested, sign up by (i) contacting Ian Hurst (Walking Group) OR Jane Austin (Modern Architecture) via the Wadhurst u3a website, OR (ii) sign up at the monthly meeting.

Summer Evening Garden Visit

Many of our members have close links with The Gardening With Disabilities Trust so we are delighted to advertise their evening garden visit with music, wine and canapes on Wednesday, 26th August from 6.00pm to 8.00pm at The Copper House, Hinksden Road, Benenden, Kent TN17 4LE. It's a wonderful contemporary garden which showcases successional planting.

Tickets in advance £25, payable online at www.gardeningwithdisabilitiestrust.org.uk/our-events/ or to pay by bank transfer, email: info@gardeningwithdisabilitiestrust.org.uk

u3a Holidays for Members

The national u3a has organised special holiday breaks for u3a members. There are some great places to visit in the programme. Click this link to find out what's on offer [u3a Getaways](#)

Thinking of Booking a holiday/cruise with Riviera Travel?

If so, then do remember to say you're a member of the u3a **at the time of booking**. Through an arrangement with the National Office, our u3a receives commission for every holiday booked by one of our members.

Other Group Information

The next meeting of the **Show & Tell Group** will be on **27 August** at **2.00pm**. The themes are (i) a favourite wildflower and (ii) a herb you like and use, green or dried. If you'd like to join the session, please contact Eileen, via the website or call 01892 785898.

Looking to rekindle an old interest or discover a new one, or simply make new friends? If so, then the following groups are active and have vacancies:

Art Appreciation
Book Group 3

Bridge
Chair Yoga & Balance
Gardening
Play Reading
Science & Technology
Spanish Conversation
Strictly Fitstep
Walking