



Learn, Laugh,
Live

Pier Views—September 2024

Part 1— Group news and Events

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From the chair:

Back from the summer break, grandchildren are back to school so traditionally the weather should now improve after the fairly dismal August. Some of our groups have continued throughout the summer and I am pleased to see that but I am now hoping that groups will start up again and perhaps some new ones will emerge. I know that I constantly say this but Eric Midwinter's, one of our Founders, words still ring true, 'that members of the u3a are not there to be served but should expect to take part'. So, if you have some ideas tell Mike as quickly as possible. We had a very successful day at the Middleton fete and a big thank you to those members who came along to sing the praises of the u3a in general and Bru3a in particular. We 'found' some speakers for the programme next year and received invites to attend other fetes next year such was the impact of our display and enthusiasm!

It is a great shame that other events that we have been present at in the past seemed to have fallen by the wayside, due to a lack of interest, help or enthusiasm. Young people don't have the time, old people have done it and want a rest, whatever the reason it is something we have to guard against in the u3a, and the reason behind trying to recruit younger members.

Changes in u3a governance are afoot, to be ratified at the AGM, later this year in Nottingham. They will have minimal effect on us here in Bognor but I will endeavour to report on the main issues once they become clear.

I don't know if this comes out before we go on the Waverley, the last remaining paddle steamer, or afterward, so I will refrain from commenting.

I hope to see many of you for Hot Air Ballooning in September but that too will depend on when this edition hits the newsstands!

Iain

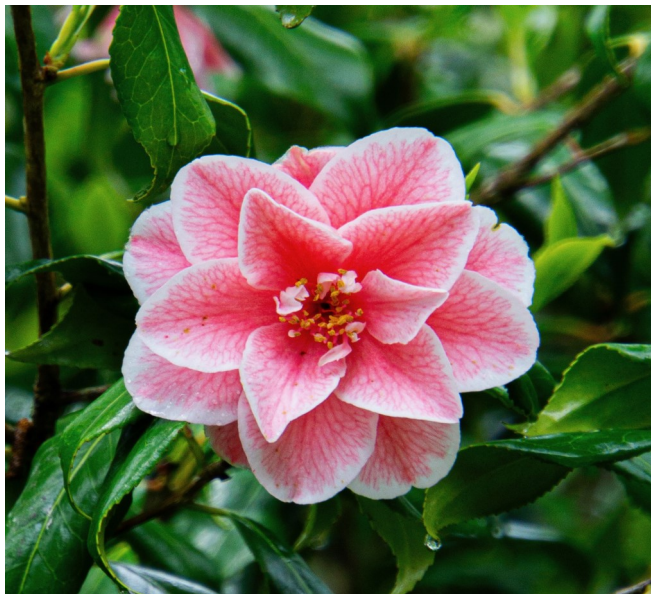
Bognor u3aCamera Club

Our Camera Club meets twice a month, on the first Thursday each month we meet at Bersted Jubilee Hall, Chalcraft Lane to enjoy viewing members images and learn a little about improving the quality and composition ready to try and put into practice when we meet at an interesting location on the third Thursday each month. We are more of a photography group but members are happy to share their experience to help others to achieve the best from whatever level of camera a member owns.

Unlike last year when the weather made several of our visits impossible, we have had a full programme in 2024 and visited some beautiful public gardens, the Tulip Festival at Arundel, Portsmouth Dockyard and a Goodwood Track Day – all providing a great opportunity to improve our skills. We have visits to Bosham, Slindon Woods and Boxgrove to look forward to.

We welcome new members – just come along at 2.15 on the 1st Thursday of the month to enjoy sharing a love of ‘taking pictures’ and a cuppa! All for just £2.





Visit to Selhurst Park Gardens

The Gardening group visited this lovely garden recently, as their chosen monthly NGS garden.

17 of us met in the wonderful conservatory for coffee and homemade cake, provided by our owner host, Sarah.

Sarah gave us a potted history of the house and her arrival there, after her father in law had purchased the property.

A large photograph album showed the restoration of both the house and garden and then we were free to wander around the beautiful grounds.

160 ft Herbaceous border in the walled garden, full of interesting and unusual plants and trees. A swimming pool and pool house, with exotic borders, greenhouse, parterre with herbs, a pond with fountain and hosta beds.

And the most wonderful view across the countryside beyond the cloud pruned hedging!

Plants for sale too, with lots of information about the unusual ones.

A worthwhile visit, enjoyed by all. Patricia Dawson





Middleton Fete



Flower Arranging—July 2024



Today at flower arranging was making proper bouquets



U3A NATIONAL FESTIVAL 2024



The sun shone on York University's beautiful campus, the venue for the U3A's first Festival event, which ran from Thursday 18th to Saturday 20th July 2024. Hundreds of U3A members from all over the country took part in a fun, entertaining and informative few days, with activities ranging from arts and crafts through musical workshops and performances to a wide-ranging series of talks.

I hadn't played my treble recorder for quite a while, but the Recorder Workshop on Thursday afternoon prompted me to locate it, dust it off and find some practice tunes on the internet before joining the other eleven players at the Festival. With all four types of recorder being played, and the music aimed to challenge but not intimidate, the hour-long session flew past – and we sounded quite good after several runs through each tune!

Other musical groups were brave enough to perform in front of others, again with a wide range of instruments and styles to listen to. There were guitar groups, singing groups, flutes and ukeleles, plus the Whitby U3A Whaler Band – a group formed with the aim of dusting off the neglected instruments you could listen to the music all day if you wanted to – but there were a variety of talks on offer too, most of which were (of course) delivered by knowledgeable and enthusiastic U3A members, with topics such as 'Environment and Climate Change', 'Astronomy', and 'The Development of the Seaside'. Historical periods covered ranged from ancient to (relatively) modern, with a good deal of medieval in between. Instruments languishing in members' homes (just like my recorder!).

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Historical periods covered ranged from ancient to (relatively) modern, with a good deal of medieval in between. In an impressive “scoop”, the organisers had also arranged a talk by Professor Joann Fletcher, Honorary Professor of Egyptology at the University of York, and the presenter of TV documentaries on Ancient Egypt. Her talk was entitled ‘Ancient Egypt and Yorkshire’ – who knew that Ptolomaic coins had been unearthed in the wilds of South Yorkshire, along with Egyptian mummies and figurines of their gods?

If the music and talks didn’t appeal, there were also sports on offer – croquet, badminton, walking football, cricket, netball and more. Or perhaps the “Solar System Walk” that stretched over a mile through two campuses might be of interest?

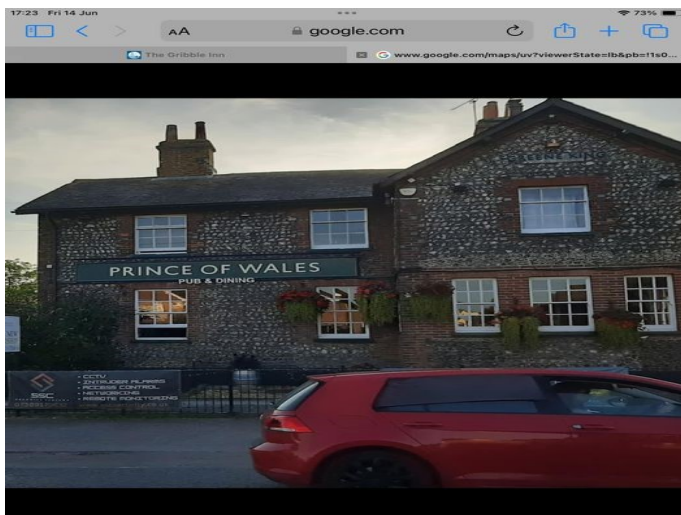
There was something for everyone, and the chat over breakfast, lunch and dinner indicated that all those who attended had a very enjoyable time. The on-campus accommodation, though basic, was en-suite and included tea/coffee-making facilities; and York was a straightforward, non-stop journey from King’s Cross, which took less than two hours (i.e. not much longer than it takes to get from Bognor Regis to London by train!) With the success of this first Festival, it’s likely that there will be more – keep an eye on the National U3A e-newsletter and hard copy magazine for information, and give it a try next time!



Supper Club

Supper club were a happy bunch when we visited the newly managed [The Beresford](#) for our monthly gad about. A very varied menu and staff were great. Recommend

This was our supper venue for June and another really good meal was had by all. Well done that pub. This was our supper venue for June and another really good meal was had by all.



Our supper club visited The Gribble Inn in Oving in July, a really great venue. Everyone enjoyed the splendid food even though it was very busy everywhere.



Friday Cycling Group

We're a very friendly group who enjoy cycling together but also look forward to a catch up chat over coffee.

We meet every Friday, weather permitting at the Butlins side of the entrance to Hotham Park at 10am. We have changed the format slightly to enable all members to take a turn of leading if they wish to. We've all been keeping in contact through WhatsApp which has been very successful and members seem to enjoy keeping in contact that way.

We cycle between 12 and 20 miles, sometimes using the train to explore further afield.

We'd welcome new members coming to see if they like what we do.

Although all members take part in the running of the group, I'm still the leader and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Carol Anderson. chartercottage@talktalk.net.

The picture below is Bob Reddie who started the group 5 years ago and had to give up due to health issues. But you can't keep a good man down, and at 95 still joins us when he can. We're not sure if it's our company or the Millionaires shortbread at coffee time he really enjoys!!

