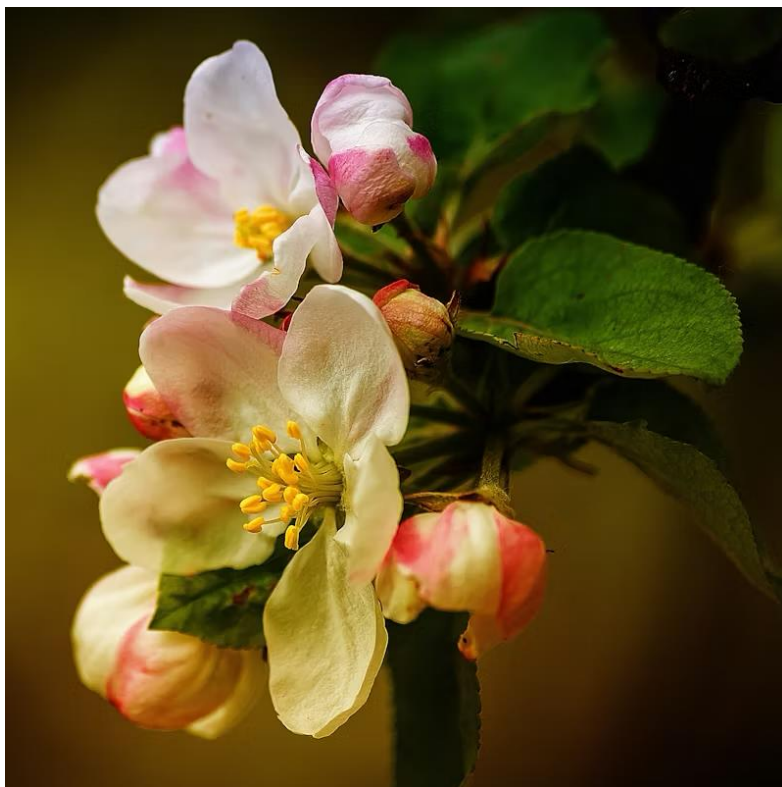




WELCOME TO THE
APRIL 2026 EDITION
OF MAYFIELD AND
DISTRICT u3a



*****FORTHCOMING EVENTS*****

Mayfield and District u3a monthly meetings are held at 2.30pm in Five Ashes Village Hall. TN20 6JA. on the third Thursday of the month.

16th April : Kirkles, Corsets and Curtains - the Costumes of Georgian England, presented by Sarah Slater.

21st May : Marianne North - Adventurer, Botanist and Artist by Teri Sayers Cooper.

18th June : Living and Nursing in India with Dee Larcombe.

Heathfield and District monthly meetings are held at 2pm in The Community Centre, TN21 0XG on the third Tuesday of the month.

21st April - Basic, Better, Best! with auctioneer John Laurence

19th May - Churchill's Secret Army by Gilly Halcrow

16th June - The Inn at the Top - Neil Hanson on the Highest Pub in Great Britain

Chairman's Chat

We have already had some lovely warm spring days and the gardens are looking wonderful. I hope you have been able to enjoy the sunshine and to keep out of the cold wind.

I notice the bluebells are already in bloom so we may be too late when we have our next SWAP at the end of the month.

It is unbelievable that it was 6 years ago that Covid started and we were under so many restrictions. I learned many new walks during the first lockdown and we are fortunate to have so many footpaths in this area.

We have a committee meeting on 22nd April so if you would like us to discuss anything, please let me know. marybrentnallu3a@gmail.com

Science Group

The next meeting of the Science group will be at 2.00pm On Monday 20th April. It will be hosted by Brian and Deveda Redman in Fir Toll Road, Mayfield. We welcome new members and you don't need to be a scientist.

We discuss current scientific issues or anything in the world of science that has caught our interest. Please contact Deveda for further details and directions. devedaredman@gmail.com

P.S. Trevor Devon who has led the group for many years has been in hospital for some weeks, but I am glad to report that he is now home again.

SWAP (Short Walk and Pub)

The next SWAP will be on Sunday 26th April. Meet at St Margaret's Church, Buxted Park, TN22 4AY at 10.30am. for the walk or at Buxted Inn TN22 4LA at 12.15 for lunch.

Please let me know if you would like to join us.
marybrentnallu3a@gmail.com

Kirkles, Corsets and Curtains

a talk by Sarah Slater on the costumes of Georgian England.

Five Ashes Village Hall

April 16th 2026 at 2.30

Coming from a life in retail banking to now being an expert historian and Blue/ White badge guide, Sarah Slater will probably have us all sitting up a little straighter by the end of her talk.

Corsets have that effect, as anyone who has been involved in period Am Dram will understand, so even if we will not actually be given any to try out, the idea will have been planted.

The curtains will have a place somewhere too. Perhaps it will be the fabrics, their importance for keeping out draughts, or for showing off wealth and status. Time will tell, and they may of course have some other purpose entirely.

Kirkles? Think anything from Georgian thermals to complete dresses, depending on circumstances.

Sarah's passion for history also includes art and architecture, but she is particularly interested in the human stories behind the headlines and the glamour of court life.

Talks like these are always fascinating as it's lovely to be reminded that history is full of ordinary people, probably struggling with similar issues to ours, but with even worse potholes and more mud.

Tea and cakes will of course be provided after we've had a chance to quiz our speaker.

Anna Thompson.

Here are some useful links for our u3a online offerings.....

Do give them a go when you are having a coffee break.



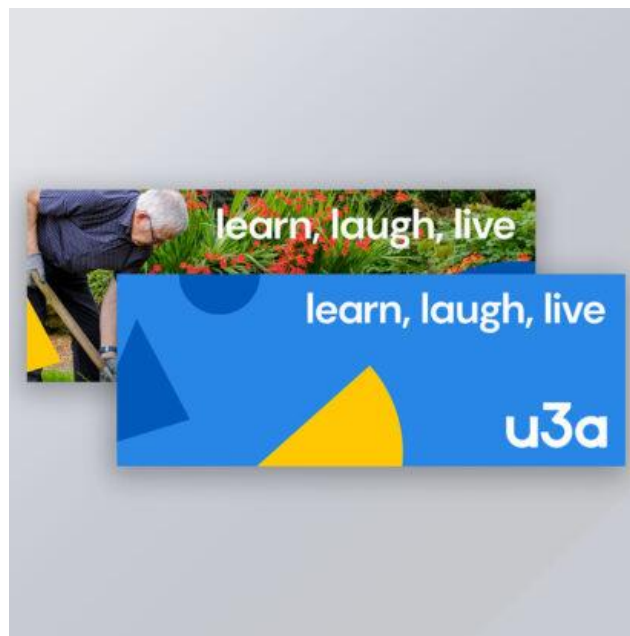
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/u3a-matters>

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/members-area/subjects/online-science-network>

and finally

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/learning/u3a-radio-podcast>

It reminds us that we are part of a huge global organisation of folk who still enjoy learning and sharing skills and enthusiasms.



- and here is a link to the concept of slow looking - sounds odd doesn't it? but it is simply the practice of allowing time to appreciate art or music or literature without rushing (or in our pressurised modern world - scrolling....)

<https://www.positive.news/lifestyle/for-the-love-of-appreciating-art-slowly/>



“ An endless cerulean ocean, the pure notes of an avian chorus and the soaring green vaults of this, the most natural of cathedrals. A paean to an English springtime”

Sandra of Cornwall

“It was such a spring day as breathes into a man an ineffable yearning, a painful sweetness, a longing that makes him stand motionless, looking at the leaves or grass, and fling out his arms to embrace he knows not what.” – John Galsworthy

“A kind word is like a spring day.” – Russian proverb

“I enjoy the spring more than the autumn now. One does, I think, as one gets older.” – Virginia Woolf