

# WELCOME TO THE OCTOBER 2026 EDITION OF MAYFIELD AND DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER.

## **********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.

October 15th: What If ? - by Nicholas Henderson

November 19th: How to Survive in Medieval England with Toni Mount

December 17th: Christmas Luncheon Party

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Heathfield and District u3a monthly meetings are held at 2pm in the Community Centre TN21 0XG on the third Tuesday of the month.

October 20th: Heathfield School and Street Pastors by Sue Greener

November 17th: Andy Thomas with a Festive History of Christmas

December15th: At 1.30pm - Christmas meeting with the wonderful Cake and Wine Choir and seasonal refreshments.

**Chairman's Chat**

It was good to see so many of you at the AGM and thank you to Tara for introducing us to Tai-chi. As those of you present know, we welcomed Jelle and Pauline van Gijn onto the committee and subsequently Keith Sinclair has been co-opted. Following our recent meeting the changes look like this:

Chairman/ Membership Secretary: Mary Brentnall

Vice Chairman: Nick Gold

Secretary: Anna Thompson handing over to Jenny Kendall

Treasurer: Carol Bossom handing over to Keith Sinclair

Speakers: Sue Sabine handing over to Madelyn Meredith

Newsletter: Madelyn Meredith handing over to Jelle and Pauline van Gijn

Web Manager: Jenny Kendall handing over to Jelle and Pauline van Gijn

Committee members without portfolio:

John Larum and Sandra Day

Carol has resigned from the committee and I would like to thank her for her hard work as Treasurer over the last six years. She was not looking for the role but she has proved to be an efficient and reliable keeper of our funds and I have been very grateful for her loyalty and support during that time.

*Mary Brentnall*



**SWAP (Short Walk and Pub)**

The next SWAP will be on Tuesday 3rd November. Time and venue to be confirmed.

# News from the Groups

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## HISTORY GROUP

We now meet on the 4th Monday of every month at different houses. We are welcoming several potential new members, and are hoping they will enjoy the group.

We are relaunching with a bang and looking into Revolutions.

Jennifer Smith
jennifer.oakcroft@gmail.com





## Parlez vous français?

**The French conversation group** meets once a month for a casual chat in French, on the second Wednesday.
No need to be fluent but a relatively good conversational level is preferred.
We don't prepare anything, we just chat about anything from current affairs - wildfires this summer in France, French Presidential elections looming next year, what's on in our area, holidays in France etc.




Why not come along and join us ?

A bientôt!

Jenny Kendall
jennykendall@ymail.com

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If you are looking for an entertaining Zoom talk on a cold afternoon look no further - u3a central has a wealth of different topics to choose from - my most recent ones were a fascinating look at the Galapagos Archipelago, and (rather bizarrely) A History of the World According to Sheep !

Madelyn Meredith

https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/educational-events

# East Sussex East u3a Network Thursday 22nd October

## BRING A FRIEND - HISTORY WORKSHOP

Members across our network of 10 u3as are invited to a day of learning and interaction and to 'bring a friend' to find out what the u3a has to offer. (That is, this is not a "members only" event but all attendees must purchase a ticket)

Attend a day of speakers, workshops and displays centred around the theme of History. There will be time for networking across our regional u3as and for non-members a chance to learn, enjoy themselves and consider what the u3a could offer them. Membership forms will be available.

Activities will include: History Quiz, Walking Tours, Military Modelling, Pub Games, Pole-Lathe Turning, The Year of the Normans, Rope Making, The Site of the Battle of Hastings, and a VR experience, as well as displays of vintage documents, fans and other artefacts.

Speakers will give talks on '"Children in Medieval Times", "The History of the Kent & East Sussex Railway" and “”A Musician’s Life” BOOKING HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO 17th OCTOBER

Buy your ticket on the website: https://ese.u3asite.uk/historyday

VENUE - BIRLEY CENTRE, EASTBOURNE COLLEGE, CARLISLE ROAD, BN21 4JR.

10:00 Registration opens at main desk

10:10 Registration opens for Local History Walks and Virtual Reality events

***NOTE: Displays on local history will be available in the foyer throughout the day from 10:00 until 15:30***

10:00 to 10:45 Refreshments available

11:00 to 12:00 A Musicians Life – Jane and Adrian Smith – Viola and Violin – talk in the main auditorium

12:00 to 13:00 Lunch break. Members / Visitors to organise – no facilities onsite

13:00 to 14:00 A History of Kent and East Sussex Railway – Tom Burnham – main auditorium

14:30 to 15:30 Children in Medieval Times – Imogen Corrigan – main auditorium

15:30 Event Close





Happy Tai Chi





and cream tea!

AGM 2026

# How to survive in Medieval England

# by Toni Mount

## Five Ashes Village Hall on Thursday Nov 19th at 2.30pm

Perhaps everyone should bring pen and paper to this talk, to take notes on how to survive without electricity, wifi, Strictly Come Dancing and supermarkets.
Toni Mount is going to tell us how entire populations managed perfectly well without all these fripperies throughout the medieval period, and we should listen carefully.
Hopefully we won't have to live like that in our 21st century, but it's always good to 'Be Prepared', as our doughty Scout Movement would tell us.

Toni Mount is a successful author of both fact and fiction, and her style is described as lively and engaging. Although starting her career in a science lab, she moved into education because of a hand condition. Among her various degrees and diplomas she gained an MA in medieval medicine, and contributed to online courses.
She is also affiliated to the Crime Writers Association (she has written a medieval murder mystery series starring Sebastian Foxley) and the Richard III Society Research Committee.

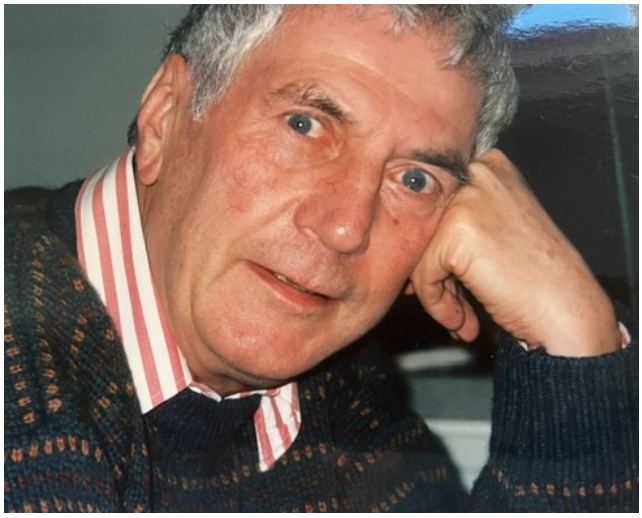
Come to the talk and perhaps bring a friend.

Our monthly talks are free for our members, and visitors are charged a nominal £3.00, which covers both the talk, and the tea and cake that follow.

Visitors can always join our small and friendly u3a branch on the day, and get their £3.00 refunded. It's a good deal!

Our easy to navigate website, which is full of information and well worth a look, is mayfield.u3asite.uk

**Members will know that one of our Mayfield u3a founders, Matt Scott, died recently and Chris Lyle has kindly written on obituary for us.**



**Matt Scott 1933-2026**

Matt Scott, a principal founder, with his wife Ann, in 2005 of the Mayfield U3A, died peacefully in Pembury Hospital on 29th August. His was a remarkable life. If I write about him as exceptional it is because he was.

Matt was the only child of Jim and Amy, both factory workers. He was one of a very few children born on a Leeds council estate to attend Roundhay Grammar School. He met Ann at Keele University Fencing Club. Matt was studying physics and geology, Ann biology. They married soon after taking their finals. They were married for 63 years. Matt said marrying Ann was the best thing that ever happened to him. Their daughter Hilary said they loved one another fiercely.

After graduation they set off for what is now Zambia, Matt as a geologist working mainly in the copper belt, and Ann as a librarian. They returned in 1961 when this part of Africa was in turmoil and their two children were about to start school. Matt took a job with Esso at their Fawley refinery near Southampton. While there he taught science at an adult education centre and found it so rewarding that when he heard a comprehensive school in Crawley was looking for a science teacher he drove over to see the head teacher. He was taken on. Matt went on to become deputy head of a comprehensive school in Croydon. When they moved to Mayfield he became science master at St Leonards-Mayfield School.

Ann and Matt were born teachers and both polymaths. Matt's interests were legion. His curiosity in the world around him covered almost everything, in science from searching the rocks for fossils to studying the night sky with his

telescope. Some of the fossils he found are in the Natural History Museum. His main interests in the arts were photography, painting and poetry. He was a member of the U3A Poetry Group for more than 20 years. He particularly liked poems that caught the fun in life. Other interests were as a young man playing squash, fencing of course, bridge and do-it-yourself. He did a night-school course on brick-laying.

In the emails to his family:- 'He and Ann were a wonderful couple who set in motion an important village community all those years ago'. They did, Ann as the chair of Mayfield U3A, Matt in whatever role was needed at the time. Matt ran a science group, Ann art history. I owe my knowledge of science to Matt. At Christmas they laid on a party for the two groups.

'The love and happiness he brought to so many'. He did. Matt brought his joy of life, his cheerfulness and sense of fun. This same joie de vivre permeates the book Matt used chapter by chapter to teach science, Bill Bryson's A History of Nearly Everything. There was a writer-teacher compatibility that made catching up on science a delight.

'He had a wicked sense of humour'. He had. And a love of stories. Whatever it was Matt always had time for you.

Matt said to Hilary, "I have loved every moment of my life and I am happy to depart. Don't mourn too long."

He is survived by his children, Hilary and Howard, four grandchildren and four great granddaughters.

Chris Lyle.

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I sit beside the fire and think of all that I have seen, of meadow-flowers and butterflies in summers that have been; Of yellow leaves and gossamer in autumns that there were, with morning mist and silver sun and wind upon my hair.

J. R. R. Tolkien