

WELCOME TO THE NOVEMBER 2026 ISSUE OF MAYFIELD and DISTRICT u3a NEWSLETTER.

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

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

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

December 17th: Christmas Luncheon Party at Colkins Mill Church.

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

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

December 15th: At 1.30 pm. The Christmas Meeting with the wonderful Cake and Wine Choir and seasonal refreshments.

Chairman's Chat

I have received many enquiries about the Christmas lunch and I am planning to send out the invitation on Monday 16th November.

You cannot book places before you receive the invitation and I shall reserve places in order of payment, so BACs is recommended.

I hope we shall be able to accommodate all members who want to come, but as last year the capacity at Colkins Mill is 60, to include the catering staff.

I shall therefore open a waiting list if necessary.

Mary Brentnall.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Mayfield U3A Book Group Chapter 1



As is the case with most book groups, we read and discuss a wide range of genres, each monthly title being chosen by the member hosting.

The prospect of having to read a book we would never have chosen ourselves can seem unappealing but what frequently surprises us is how fascinating this can turn out to be.

Everyone brings a slightly different perspective to each debate, unlike the experience of solitary reading where our own ideas aren't challenged.

Our meetings are never dull, often very thought-provoking, and always very animated.

One member observed that "*our book group discusses the book in detail, everyone has interesting things to say and quite often there are diverging opinions, but it's always illuminating".*

Another commented *"I enjoy doing the background research and finding out about history and geography that is new to me, or reconnecting with places I've visited in the past. It's fun and keeps the brain cells ticking over".*

A full list of titles chosen so far is available on request.

Brunella Hinchliff {brunellavolante@gmail.com}

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ART APPRECIATION



We meet once a month on the fourth Tuesday between 2 and 4pm. and alternate between homes in Burwash and Heathfield.

We cover a wide range of art and artistic themes. Examples have included Stanley Spencer and Grant Wood, Eric Ravilious, Cubism, David Hockney, and Gustav Klimt and Jack Vetriano.

Each month two members give a presentation on an artist or theme of their own choosing, illustrated by photographs that can be shown on the TV.

This introduces us to new topics, and we perhaps find out about artists we knew nothing about previously.



Christine Jessep. christine.jessep29@btinternet.com

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SWAP (Short Walk and Pub)

The next SWAP will be on Friday 11th December.

Time and venue to be confirmed.

East Sussex East History Day

On Thursday 22nd October a History Study Day was held at the Birley Centre in Eastbourne, attended by several U3A groups from East Sussex .

Mary greeted all attendees at the front door, while Sue and Anna dispensed a welcoming cup of tea or coffee.

Madelyn laid out her wonderful array of fans on the Mayfield allocated table which attracted a lot of interest and questions, alongside Mary's parchment land registry documents, with their beautiful calligraphic writing and seals.

The entrance area had several tables each allocated to the attending U3A groups. Topics ranged from Sea Shanties to the Battle of Hastings to Medieval woodworking [See below] and rope making.

Throughout the day there were presentations in the main auditorium covering such subjects as East Sussex and Kent railway of the 19th century, an engaging talk on "A Musician's Life", to the highlight of the day which was "Children in Medieval Times" presented by our friend Imogen Corrigan, in her usual style of wonder and humour.





Luggage Porters' Stand

For those wanting a little exercise there was a morning and afternoon walk around the local Devonshire Park area. The host gave a very interesting talk on

the history of the theatres and art gallery as well as pointing out some weird aspects of street furniture including stink pipes emanating from the underground sewer, and fairly unobtrusive plaques on the wall where porters had a designated spot to wait for travellers alighting from stage coaches.

Many of the street names in the area are based on the Duke of Devonshire's family and friends.

Back at the centre - for a lucky few techies there was a fascinating virtual reality event.

It was good to see so many U3A members (70 plus) interested in history attending this well organised event.

We were extremely lucky with the weather - the following day the rain was torrential !



Keith Sinclair

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"Her pleasure in the walk must arise from the exercise and the day, from the view of the last smiles of the year upon the tawny leaves and withered hedges, and from repeating to herself some few of the thousand poetical descriptions extant of autumn – that season of peculiar and inexhaustible influence on the mind of taste and tenderness – that season which has drawn from every poet worthy of being read some attempt at description, or some lines of feeling."

Jane Austen - Persuasion