

# u3a Update

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## News Update

### A Date for Your Diary

Make a note in your diaries: on Saturday 13 April, Tenterden u3a will be holding a Study Morning at the Sinden Theatre, to learn about *Rewilding: what does this mean in practice?* Keep an eye open for details and the booking form, which will be sent to you soon.

### Keep Fit and Have Fun

Tenterden Leisure Centre has just started Pickleball, a cross between badminton and short tennis, on Thursday evenings, 6.00–7.45 pm, at £4.90 a session. No booking or equipment is needed.

## Monthly Meeting, 15 February

### Imogen Corrigan *Joan of Arc*

Joan must be one of the best-known figures from the Middle Ages. She may never have led an army, but she certainly inspired one to victory. Encouraged by the voices in her head, she appeared fearless and dignified. She was evidently a highly intelligent young woman, with a low regard for authority and a single-minded determination to get the Dauphin crowned.

Imogen Corrigan was a professional soldier before studying medieval history and is now a well-known – and very popular – lecturer. We are delighted to welcome her back to Tenterden.



## A Tenterden u3a Christmas

Tenterden u3a celebrated Christmas 2023 in a big way. On 11 December, fifty members gathered for a Christmas meal at The Pig and Sty in Bethersden. Coralie, the manager, seated us together at the far end of the restaurant by the window, where it wasn't too noisy and we could talk easily. The food was delicious and the service was courteous and helpful. It made for a wonderfully convivial and festive way to celebrate the fellowship of our u3a in the run up to Christmas.

A few days later, Andy Thomas entertained the last monthly meeting of the year with the history of Christmas from the ancient midwinter celebration of light and the winter solstice, through the birth of Christ, up to today. Combining the serious and

the light-hearted, Andy showed why, despite the commercialism, we still find comfort and joy in Christmas today.

## From the Chairman

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A Happy New Year to all of you. The new year is the time we start planning for the AGM and the election of the new committee. I often speak about how the great strength of u3a is the way it brings together people with different skills and knowledge for everyone's mutual benefit. We are looking for volunteers to work with the committee, and if you have a skill you think we could use, please get in touch. You don't have to sign up to be a full committee member. We always need support.

## New Groups for the New Year

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New groups are being planned to meet the needs of our growing membership, but they will only take off if members join: do contact the group leaders for whatever takes your fancy.

Two of our new groups are launching in February. Rennie Halstead has created a **second Creative Writing group**, as the first is now full. The new group will meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 10:00 in the Community Room at Tesco. If you would like to exercise your writing muscle, **contact Rennie** by email. There is also a new – our fourth – **French Conversation** group, which will meet on the first Wednesday of the month. If you would like to develop your French language skills with other enthusiasts, please **email Pam**. See the programme for more details.

We know that some members find it difficult to get to group meetings for reasons of health or transport. So John Russell is offering to set up and **host three new Zoom groups. Rock & Pop Classics** (Those Were The Days) will play and relive our youth with favourite songs, talk about artists and groups we love, and share memories.

**Military History** will look at conflicts and battles across the globe that have shaped history, starting with 'last stands'. **Current Affairs** will complement the 'Putting the World to Rights' group. If you think any of these Zoom groups may be for you, please **contact John by email** or talk to him at a monthly meeting or coffee morning.

Several new members have asked if we can have a group for people who like **Making Things**, which could be anything from sewing to knitting to woodwork to model building or.... What this group (or even groups) will look like is down to members' interests and the best way to discover them is to meet. So Sally White has booked the upstairs room at Cranbrook Bakery, High Street, Tenterden on Tuesday 13 February at 10 am. The café is happy for us to use the room as long as we each buy a drink or something to eat. Please **email Sally** if you would like to come. Members have also suggested we need a **Classical Music Group**. There is no firm plan yet, but we could have a monthly meeting to listen to a selected composer or artist, supplemented by visits to concerts, both locally and at a distance. If you have an interest in classical music, opera or ballet and would like to join other people with a similar interest, please **email Rennie** and he will arrange a meeting to discuss how to proceed. Are you interested in what goes on in people's heads, and why they behave

the way they do? Do you find yourself thinking 'I don't think I understand you at all'? Rennie Halstead is offering a new group **On Your Mind**. If you are interested in exploring how scammers extract money from willing victims, or whether boys are really just like their Dads or daughters just like their Mums, this group may be for you. The group will work through an introductory psychology text book in easy stages, with lots of time for discussion. If this appeals, **contact Rennie by email**.

## News from the Groups

**Twilight Golf** held its annual Christmas Lunch at Tenterden Golf Club and once again revealed the winner of the 'Tenterden u3a Golfer of the Year 2023' competition. This year, Fats Brown won the trophy with 21 Stableford points over nine holes. The putting competition was won by Lynda Pearce with 13 putts. Well done ladies.

In need of a good read? The **Town Literature** group highly recommends *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. This witty and enjoyable novel champions women in the workplace – in particular, in scientific research. If you enjoy lively discussion and books, this group does have space for a couple more members.

Cathy Dalton has just moved house and regrets that she will be unable to offer a **Pottery** group for the foreseeable future. A huge thank you to Cathy for running those three Pottery groups for us.

