

Bexley u3a

<https://bexley.u3asite.uk>

Facebook: Bexley u3a

Dear Bexley u3a members and potential members!

We have had the weight of uncertainty lifted from our shoulders, with Carol Durndell offering to replace Luigi, when he steps down as Treasurer, in November. Onwards and upwards, we can plan for next year.

U3A week has just happened around the country. Groups have been promoting themselves more than ever, this year backed by research from Central Office, which shows the significant benefits of u3a membership which people have reported. Their lives are improved! The report can easily be downloaded from the National u3a website, a copy will be available on our stand, at Ageing Well, an annual exhibition held at Bexley Civic Offices, specifically to show what services, clubs and societies exist for people who are about to retire, or who have retired. We don't have a lower or upper age limit! Bexley u3a attended Ageing Well last year, from which we received our musician friend, who has formed an instrumental group! As a voluntary charity we rely so much on individuals who are willing to provide their time for free, to provide continuing learning and social opportunities of all sorts. That is why no two u3as are the same. We hope what we offer attracts people with ideas which they are willing to put into practice, if need be, with a bit of financial help and advice from the Committee. Community lives!

Please try to attend Ageing Well, this weekend coming, Saturday, 3rd October, 10.30am to 14.00, at Bexley Civic Centre. Find our stand and help us spread the u3a word. Win a Bexley u3a mug or pen for free, pick up a sweetie and our advertising blurb, to give to your friends and put in Community areas. I hope our Group Leaders will be there to pass on what they've been doing lately. A list of our groups and attractions will follow below.

On September 15th a group of Bexley and Welling u3a members boarded a coach and headed for charming Whitstable, for the day. We all went off in various directions, but intrepid Paul took to sea, luckily in a boat, to Sheerness and back. Grilled oysters were consumed. Shopping was done. Sea air was sniffed. We forgot to take photos for the newsletter, oops! The town wasn't rammed with people. We got our steps in!

I'm afraid to say I've received no further information from the Charterhouse tour guides. For those of you who were going on this trip, it seems our 20th October visit isn't happening, and no alternative date has been offered. The options for you are a refund, or a credit towards another trip. Please see Luigi or Rosey.

And so to the interesting stuff! Jumping to 26th November, we have the coach trip to Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market. I have a few spaces left on the Christmas

Lights Routemaster tour of London, departing from the Embankment, at 16.30pm on 9th December. Tickets cost £24 each. Our party will be fourteen, at this stage, unless I have to enquire about increasing the reservation. We will be with other tourists.

We are very lucky to have the CIU club for our monthly meetings at which we have a speaker. Please remember to turn off your mobile 'phones or have them on silent! It's very comfortable in there, but, unfortunately, we have to leave for 15.30pm, because the staff go home!

Forthcoming Meetings at the CIU club, Bexleyheath on the second Thursday, every month:

October 8th, 13.30pm, Peter Allen; previously, this gentleman gave us a very interactive reminiscence of TV Detectives. He returns to talk about **Pantomimes**.

November 12th, Bexley u3a AGM. 13.30pm. Please send your nomination forms to Liz Salter. Carol Durndell is prepared to stand as an officer of Bexley, in the position of Treasurer, and needs nomination. Carol knows her way around an Excel spreadsheet and has done bookkeeping before! She has previously been co opted as Group Liason officer. Luigi will be web master, but no longer Treasurer. The current Chair, Secretary and Speakers' Secretary are happy to remain in their last committee year, and our Membership Secretary, Pat Moss, is happy to continue. We would appreciate more committee members, as we all double up to cover vacant positions. A quorum is required for voting. Members must be present to vote. Please bring your membership cards. The Fire Brigade are visiting us in the New Year!

December 10th, 13.15pm, please note, our Christmas Social at the CIU club starts earlier than usual. Tickets will be on sale to members at our October meeting. Entertainment from "The Singing Cabbie." We have a catering team.

2027 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 14th Peter Brambling, Bexley Fire Fighter, giving us good advice.

February 11th, Silverline Legal, a talk on Wills, Power of Attorney and Trusts.

March 11th, "Landscapes of the World." Photographer **Richard Winston** returns.

Current Bexley u3a Groups:

Alternative Book Group, Armchair Travellers, Fun Choir, Creative Writing, Crochet, Family History, Advanced, Advanced French Conversation, French Intermediate, Italian, Jazz Appreciation, Knit and Natter, Life Story and Reminiscence, More of London, Play Reading, Poetry Reading, Rummikub, Scrabble, Spanish Beginners, Spanish Conversation, Spanish Intermediate, Steam Engines, Strollers, Table Top Games, Tea, Cake and Chat, Fun Choir, Classical Concert Visits, Furze Wren Coffee Morning, open to all! Acoustic Group, Arts and Crafts Group, Sunday Lunch club. Details via our website.

