

## Edenbridge u3a

### February 2024 Newsletter from the Chairman.



I was very pleased to see so many of you at our January meeting. John Field gave us a detailed presentation of the life of Tommy Cooper. I think that sometimes we overlook the pressures that performing professionally in front of an audience can have on an individual and this obviously affected Tommy Cooper.

This month our speaker, Mark Lewis, will be exploring the world of 'Art Nouveau'. Historically this was the period in our history from the 1880's up to the First World War.

During this period artists, designers and architects appeared to take inspiration from some of the unruly aspects of the natural world. In Barcelona during this time Gaudi came to represent Barcelona's interpretation of Art Nouveau. I am sure that if you have visited Barcelona you will have seen the Gaudi house architecture.



1. Membership – it is great to see so many new members joining our u3a organisation. To you all I offer a very warm welcome and we look forward to meeting you at our monthly meetings or through our groups network. Of course as new members you join us with your own skills and expertise that you may wish to share with us through forming a new group. Interested in either then talk to our groups organiser, Chris Prickett.
2. Where has Winter gone? - We did have a very short spell of below zero temperatures but that certainly didn't slow down the growth in our second week in February and I have daffodils in flower,



tulips budding up and two wallflowers opened up tiny flowers yesterday! Whatever happened to the seasons! When



teaching me gardening all those years ago my father said to hang the mower up in the shed in October – it won't be needed till April! Not any more!

The role of Vice Chairman – this role has been vacant for over two years now. My role as your Chairman is coming to an end – at the AGM in July will be my last meeting. The committee would love to see someone take up the role of Vice Chairman with a view to taking over in the role of Chairman in September. I will still be a member of u3a so can advise but think that 8 years as being Chairman is long enough and the post needs a new figurehead. It is a chance for someone else to introduce the guest speakers and chair the committee. In all honesty it has been great to see our u3a group grow in so many ways since 2015 when I took on the role.



3. 2024 is a leap year – so what are some of the traditions/superstitions around this date?
  - a.) Ladies are able to propose to their chosen man on the 29<sup>th</sup> February. It was in Ireland in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century that this tradition started!
  - b.) In Scotland a woman proposing marriage should wear a red petticoat to give her chosen man fair warning.
  - c.) In France a satirical newspaper “ La Bougie du Sapeur” is published only on February 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - d.) People who have a birthday on the 29<sup>th</sup> February are known as ‘Leaplings’ or ‘Leapers’!

So will we have any proposals planned in our u3a for Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February?

Finally,

I look forward to seeing you at Crockham Hill village hall on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at our usual start time of 2pm. Please remember to bring your membership card so that we can speed up your entry to the hall. Doors open at 1.45.

Best wishes

*Mike Collins*



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