

Edenbridge u3a

March 2024 Newsletter from the Chairman.



I hope this newsletter finds you all well. It is still raining!

It gives me great pleasure to tell you about our latest membership numbers. Since the start of the new year we have taken on over 30 new members and our membership total now stands at 243. I think this is the highest total ever in our history. If you are a new member getting this newsletter for the first time 'welcome' – I hope you enjoy your time with us and make many new friends.

In February we were treated to an inspiring illustrated talk by Mark Lewis on the development of the Art Nouveau movement. It was good to have a clear understanding of how the designers and architects of the time used nature's patterns to influence so many aspects of architecture.



This month our speaker, Bobbie Darbyshire is giving a talk entitled '*a beginning, a middle and an end*' where she explores the way writers weave their web around characters, location and plots (sometimes sub plots as well!) to create their stories. Bobbie was the winner of the 2008 fiction prize at the National Academy of Writing. In 2010 she won the New Delta Review Creative non-fiction prize. In her varied career she has written five novels, has been a film extra, been a maths coach, amongst many other jobs that have given her a wealth of experience to help with her writing. Her talk should be an interesting look into the ways in which writers get their ideas and may encourage you to become authors yourselves.

Group News:

- a.) The Creative Writing Group is looking for new members – they meet on a Wednesday morning. After hearing our March speaker, you may fancy enhancing your creative writing skills? - contact Hilary Brand to join the group via the u3a website?
- b.) The Bridge Group are still looking for new members. Are you new to bridge? If so, the group are willing to give you two free taster sessions as well as access to learning resources to support you mastering this wonderful card game.

Westerham u3a still have some places left on their planned holiday to Wales at the end of April. Also, there are also some spaces left on their coach trip to Brighton on Thursday 16th May. Interested in either, then visit the Westerham u3a website to book a place.

Talking of websites – sometimes hackers gain access to your email address book and start to send out emails (supposedly from you) saying photos attached. Do NOT open them and if you suspect the email is not from the person you thought it was, hover your mouse or cursor over the sender's email address. This will show the true sender of the email and if it isn't from the person, you were expecting it to be from DELETE it. This has happened to several of you so be on your guard.

It so good to see some groups making use of 'What's app' - Gardening group 2 have set up a What's App group and find it is working very well. If you are having problems with joining the 'What's app' group, contact Christine Byrne on 07741 460500.

Scam Awareness – scammers seem to be getting cleverer at their tactics to gain information from you which is then used to defraud you. Remember,

- Amazon will **never** phone you to say your account has had an unusual purchase,
- Your bank will **never** ring you to say there has been an unusual debit transaction on your account.
- HMRC will **never** ring you to say that you are entitled to a tax refund!

The list could go on and on – if in doubt with any phone call or unusual email **put the phone down** or **delete the email**. Together we can beat this scourge! If you are worried about any transaction that may have happened ring your bank direct – the number is on the back of your credit or debit card or ring 159

I have recently received the sad news that Pamela Dotter, one of our former members, passed away peacefully on Thursday 7th March. At this time, I do not have details about her funeral as I know some of you might like to attend. Pam was in her 90's and was a regular attender of our monthly meetings and was also a member several of groups. Her expertise was domestic science, and she was the author of some Marks and Spencer's early cookbooks.

Finally, I won't be at the March meeting – I will be in Japan hoping to see the wonderful cherry blossom and learning about the Japanese way of life.

I hope to join you all in April when the speaker will be Andrew Baker, speaking on the trial of Lady Chatterley.

Best wishes *Mike Collins*

Contact 'chairman@edenbridgeu3a.co.uk'

PS – Hope the rain ends soon, photo is wishful thinking!

