



# Newsletter: February 2026 Issue 132 Bumper Edition!

learn, laugh, live!

Registered Charity number: 1164900

## Programme

February 27 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Hoare	His Life as an Illustrator
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Page	Selsey on the Home Front (part 2)
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	AGM Plus Robert Smith	London Slave Owners
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	William Avonell	Weather Lore
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Batchelor	Selsey Pavilion update
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	Sophie Duffy	An Author's inspirations
August	No meeting	Alternative event TBD
September 25 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	
October 23 <sup>rd</sup>	TBA	
November 27 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Glennie	Ministering Angels – Nursing in The Crimea
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	No meeting	Christmas Lunch

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**February**

February maybe the shortest month of the year, but we've certainly experienced some remarkable events. Everybody's had something to talk/moan about. The weather! Record breaking rain and flooded roads. The trip to the supermarket that took all day, due to diversions, temporary traffic lights and essential gas network upgrades. Politicians are resigning and defecting or just clinging on! Further abroad, athletes have re-purposed brooms in an attempt to win at curling, thrown themselves off mountains, in Eddie the Eagle style and luge screaming has become a new event! Meanwhile, the Royal family is in crisis.

It was with great sadness that we learnt about the passing of a much valued and loved u3a member, Jill Sturdey. The funeral was held at Chichester Crematorium on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Jill's family were grateful to all who attended to celebrate Jill's life.



Just a short reminder that the Care Shop and their volunteers are there for all of us should we need them. Their help includes a range of welfare and safeguarding issues, including car sharing, plus help with all sorts of technology, banking, tax assessment, writing letters. If you have a problem, The Care Shop, is there for you!

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### **Membership Fees**

Membership renewal is due by the end of March. It would be very helpful if you could do so sooner rather than later. We are keeping fees at £15.00 (£11.00 for dual members) for another year. Janet will be available to collect cash or cheques in an envelope, with your name and membership number at Open meetings. Alternatively, envelopes can be deposited at Selsey Town Hall. If you would prefer to pay by bank transfer, the details are:

Selsey u3a  
Sort Code 60 - 05 - 24  
Account number 21669201

### **Open Meetings**

**Please note that doors open for admittance at 1.30 pm.** Why not bring along friends who are not yet members of Selsey u3a. Who knows? They might like to join. Guest entrance is £3 at present, a bargain and this month, Bob Hoare, the Selsey-based caricaturist and artist is our guest speaker.

### **VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR TEA DUTY FOR FUTURE OPEN MEETINGS!**

How sad would you be, if you couldn't have tea,

Or coffee, a biscuit or two?

Well, unless we can find, people willing and kind,

That's just what may happen to you.

So, please don't be shy, come give it a try,

Show your skills at making a brew.

If you're making the tea, You'll get in for free,

And we'll be very grateful to you! JA



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### **Our Usual Polite Request**

Please can attendees of our open meetings, continue to remain respectful when speakers are addressing the audience and refrain from individual conversations. Thank-You.

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**World Cuisine- Oh we do like to be beside the seaside!**

The U3A World Cuisine Lunch Group enjoyed a delightful seaside gathering at The Lifeboat Inn on Thursday 19th February, combining good food, good company and familiar coastal surroundings.



Nestled right on the seafront in Selsey, The Lifeboat Inn provided a warm and welcoming setting on what felt like a properly British winter’s day by the sea. (But no rain!)

Members of our World Cuisine group are always keen to explore a variety of flavours and dining experiences, and this visit certainly did not disappoint. The menu offered an appealing selection of dishes, from freshly prepared seafood — very fitting for the location — to hearty traditional favourites and lighter options. Several members commented on the quality of the fish dishes, ranging from humble fishfingers to delicious fish pie.

As always, the highlight was not just the food but the lively conversation. The relaxed atmosphere of the Lifeboat made it easy for everyone to enjoy unhurried conversation.

The staff were attentive and friendly, ensuring that the group was well looked after throughout the meal. Service was efficient without being rushed, allowing us to savour both the food and the occasion.

Overall, the February lunch was a great success, offering a combination of coastal charm, excellent cuisine and warm companionship. We look forward to our next World Cuisine adventure together.  
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**Committee Request.**

We are aware that telecommunications providers are offering competitive deals. The committee is keen to ensure members’ contact details are up to date. This includes notifying us if you have changed your emergency contact. Please can all members check their emergency contact details and let Janet Topping know of **any** changes. This is especially important for quick communication in an emergency, providing accurate information for decision making, preventing sensitive information sharing and ensuring the right people can be reached quickly. **Outdated information can waste valuable time if emergency responders are involved.** Janet’s email address is: [jmtopping@aol.com](mailto:jmtopping@aol.com)

Thank-you

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**NEW GROUP - CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS AND SUDOKU**

Parlez-vous "Cryptic" ?  
Compilers of Cryptic Crosswords seem to have a weird language all of their own. If you are confused or challenged by this, and you want to learn more, then come and join our new Group to discover all the secrets to "cracking the code" and enjoy becoming a successful cryptic crossword doer. We'll also include Sudoku and explore successful problem solving.

Please contact Chris Rainer to let her know of your interest.  
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## Current Interest Groups

Amblers	9.30 Weekly, Wednesdays	Music appreciation	2.00 pm 2nd Monday of the month
Bus Explorers	10.00 a. m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. <b>NB With regret, this group is not suitable for those with mobility issues and/or need to use “walkers” to enable them to walk.</b>		
Computer	By arrangement	Sunday Lunch	12.30 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month
Family History	By arrangement	Topical discussion	10.00 a.m. 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of the month
Stage and Screen	10.30a.m. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month	World cuisine:	12.30 p.m. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.
History	10a.m. 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month	True Crime	2.00 p.m. 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of the month

**Please note: It is not the role of committee members or the groups co-ordinator to begin, lead or host groups. Members must take responsibility for this.**

**If a specific group is “full” that is, no additional members can be accommodated in a leader’s home etc then interested members can begin a second group. Members will then be emailed and a notice placed in the newsletter to inform others of new groups.**

Anyone wishing to join an interest group must first contact Chris Rainer the Group Coordinator who will then contact group leader/coordinator to verify spaces in the group.

(Chris Rainer) 07580197648 email [christinerainer914@gmail.com](mailto:christinerainer914@gmail.com)

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**Music Appreciation**

An afternoon of music appreciation is exactly this, it can encompass all forms of the genre. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month for two hours. Starting with a longer piece, usually classical. After this is when imagination clicks in and it is amazing to hear all the different forms of music that one can come up with on a chosen theme. There are a couple of spaces available in this group, if you would like to join us in a pleasant afternoon, listening and talking about music. CR

For more information, contact Chris Rainer 07580 197648 or [christinerainer914@gmail.com](mailto:christinerainer914@gmail.com)

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**True Crime Interest Group**

The True Crime interest group met on the first Monday afternoon in February. This month we looked at two London cases, The 1999 nail bombings and The 2004 London Southbank attacks. The link was, From Hero to Zero.

In April 1999, a neo-Nazi extremist named **David Copeland** carried out a series of nail bomb attacks in London aimed at communities he hated.

Over three consecutive weekends, he planted homemade bombs packed with nails in:

- **Brixton** (targeting the Black community),
- **Brick Lane** (targeting the Bangladeshi community),
- **The Admiral Duncan pub in Soho** (targeting the LGBTQ+ community).



The first two blasts injured dozens. The third, on 30 April, was the deadliest: **three people were killed** and more than **70 injured**. Copeland’s goal was to start a “race war” by spreading fear and division. He was arrested shortly after the Soho bombing and later sentenced to **life imprisonment** in a high-security psychiatric hospital. The attacks shocked the UK and led to major changes in how authorities monitor and respond to far-right extremism and hate crimes.

A hero of The Admiral Duncan pub attack, was the manager, David Morley. Injured himself in the blast, he still worked hard to help others. He is the link to our second case. As he met an incredulous and tragic fate five years later when he was killed in the 2004 South Bank “happy slapping” attacks.

In the early hours of October 30<sup>th</sup> 2024. A gang of young people carried out 5 attacks in 56 minutes. Police and prosecutors described the ‘spree’ as, ‘Violent and indiscriminate – motivated by the mere desire to inflict harm, film their attacks using mobile phones, for fun and robbing their victims.’



David Moreley was savagely beaten and had his head kicked repeatedly by a 14 year old girl. He passed away in St. Thomas’s hospital, 16 hours after the attack. From hero to zero.

CCTV footage and fingerprints found on a bottle used in one of the attacks helped to identify the perpetrators.

The attackers were convicted of **manslaughter rather than murder** because the court found there was no proven intent to kill—only a collective intent to cause harm during a series of spontaneous group assaults.

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## Amblers

Our February ‘Bus Walk’ took us to Fishbourne. How lucky were we to have a beautiful dry and sunny day for our monthly jaunt? After admiring the plants on sale in the market, we stopped for refreshments in central Chichester. Fortified, we headed westward towards Fishbourne. We passed Bishop Luffa School and crossed over the railway. Taking a country path, we circumnavigated Fishbourne Roman Palace and Gardens. Our lunch destination was The Bull’s Head Pub. Just as well we had booked, because it got very busy. Everybody enjoyed their meals, with some taking half of their delicious and very generous fish pie home in take away boxes.



## Stage and Screen Group

### 'HAMNET'

When we read that there were to be further screenings of the much-acclaimed film 'Hamnet' at the Chichester Cinema, New Park, it seemed an opportunity too good to miss. Not only is this venue our cinema of choice, being well adapted to cater for the less mobile members of society, and with very comfortable seats that offer a clear view of the screen, it is also easily accessible from and to the no.51 bus stops at the Market.

Having enjoyed a cup of coffee in the theatre café, the four of us made our way into the auditorium for the 12.30 screening that Saturday, wondering if the film would live up to the reviews we had read.

This film definitely did not disappoint! It was very different - there was no background music announcing subtly, or otherwise, what your emotions should be at any given moment. Your response came from you, from what you saw and heard, from the words and actions of the players, from the scenery and their responses to that.

The background was set steadily, perhaps too steadily at one point, and one man left the auditorium. However, the action moved on, gained pace and eventually the brutality of Tudor life took over, with Hamnet, Will and Agnes Shakespeare's beloved young son succumbing to the plague.

We knew that the film was based on Shakespeare's writing the play 'Hamlet'. Now, thanks to this film, it was given context, and here, watched from the wings by Shakespeare, dressed as the ghost of Hamlet's father, and the ghost of young Hamnet, Hamlet's rendition of the speech beginning "To be, or not to be" brought an understanding that I personally had never known before. It also brought tears to my eyes and still does whenever I think (or as here), write about it. A brilliant production - a brilliant film.



\*The actor performing the role of Hamlet is played by the elder brother of the boy who plays young Hamnet - a masterstroke!

*Cue: More tears from me.*

*Kathleen Hind*

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## OPEN MEETING

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 at 2.00 pm in the Selsey Centre

### RECORD

**Attendance:**           **38 members**       **8 visitors**

**1. Welcome:**

Ronnie welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the sad passing of Jill Sturdey who had been a stalwart member of Selsey u3a committee for many years and will be sadly missed.

**2. Notices:**

We do need new committee members so please consider the possibility.

Membership fee will remain at £15 unless hall costs rise, visitors fee will go up to £4 but entrance fee will remain at £2 for members.

**3. Speaker:**

Ronnie introduced our speaker, Jane Glennie, whose talk is entitled "Suffering Suffragettes."

Jane Glennie assumed the persona of Mrs Dorothy Catchpole, the self-appointed Chairwoman of the new Selsey group Votes for Women. Our task was to vote whether we wanted to join the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) or the Women's Socialist and Political Union (WSPU). To help us with the decision she gave us a brief overview of the history of Votes for Women. In 1912 Herbert Asquith was going to give the vote to women over 30 with property or married to property. Unfortunately, he changed his mind as someone persuaded him that the ladies might not automatically vote Liberal.

The NUWSS, known as Suffragists, have been in existence for some time and believe they will gain the vote by writing letters and signature gathering. Their efforts in Hampshire gained 9 whole signatures in support. They also promise to give their backing to any candidates who support Suffrage. The WSPU, known as Suffragettes, was founded by Emmeline Pankhurst and takes a more militant approach, believing that marches, heckling political meetings and breaking windows will achieve a quicker result. This latter offence could result in a prison sentence unless you gave your husband's name, he could pay the fine and you needn't go to prison! A demonstration followed of how to break windows surreptitiously by concealing a toffee hammer in your sleeve then just tapping the window whilst walking past and without attracting attention. Both Societies had their colours; NUWSS had green, red and white whereas WSPU used green, white and violet (Give Women Votes) so sympathisers could discreetly wear the colours to show their support. The meeting ended with a unanimous vote to join the WSPU, and we practised for our first march with banners and flags singing "Forward, sister women" to the tune of Onward Christian Soldiers. Janet thanked Jane on behalf of us all for her entertaining talk.



**4. Quiz answers:**

Jo gave us the answers to the quiz - Votes for Women: Ballots & Brilliance

**5. Admission draw:**

The Prize of a £10 voucher from Asda was won by Jean Etheridge

**6. Raffle draw:**

Tickets were drawn and all prizes were claimed.

**7. Next Meeting:**

Our next Open Meeting will be 27<sup>th</sup> February.

**8. Tea Volunteers Reminder**

Val Wright asked for volunteers for the February Open Meeting.

Ronnie thanked everyone for their attendance and invited them to pack up their chairs.

Meeting closed at 3.15pm

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Thanks for reading.

Please let me know if you have anything of interest, you would like me to include in future newsletters.

Jo Azulay

**Contact Information**

<b>Selsey u3a Telephone number:</b>	<b>Membership:</b>	<b>Janet Topping</b>	<b>0778 304 0407</b>
<b>Groups Coordinator:</b>		<b>Chris Rainer</b>	<b>0758 0197 648</b>
<b>Newsletter:</b>		<b>Jo Azulay</b>	<a href="mailto:joanneazulav195@aol.com"><u>joanneazulav195@aol.com</u></a>