



# Newsletter: April 2026 Issue 134

Registered Charity number: 1164900

## Programme

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 at Chichester College 16 <sup>th</sup> December

## April

Easter saw chocolate eggs flying off the shelves and hats flying off heads in the wind. No two weather apps tend to agree, resulting in people leaving the house in the wrong attire. It's shorts one day and winter coats the next. In fact, some days, both are needed! Umbrellas are either a necessity, an incumbrance or left at home. The sound of lawn-mowers and strimmers are competing with the seagulls squawking and that man revving his motorbike never seems to stop. The pie and mash shop is doing a roaring trade and everyone is wondering when pubs will start serving food on a Monday. There's turmoil in the world and petrol prices are frequently increasing. We're all wondering whether our planned vacations will go ahead and if our holiday insurance is worth the ink you used to print the document. Our AGM is coming up and members are thinking, 'Must attend, there will be cake!' See you there. JA

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 etc. If you have a problem, The Care Shop, is there for you!

### **Membership Fees**

Membership renewal was due by the end of March. If you haven't renewed yet, it's not too late. We are keeping fees at £15.00 (£11.00 for dual members) for another year. Please note, the dual membership reduction applies for members of other u3as. We do not offer joint membership for couples. 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 £4 from April, a bargain and this month, you'll get cake and a talk from Robert Smith re London Slave Owners. We thank our members for welcoming visitors. Please note only volunteers can reserve tables. Talking of tables, to avoid chaos and accidents, please can we remain seated at the end of meetings until asked to fold up and stack our chairs?

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

Please don't be shy. Volunteer to help with the teas to ensure refreshments are available.

Please have a chat with Val Wright. Remember, you will get in for free and have the first pick of the biscuits!

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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**

This month, the group enjoyed a lunch in The Vault in Selsey. Some took advantage of the daily specials on offer, making our monthly lunch very affordable and delicious.. The dessert menu was greeted with much enthusiasm, with one member even ordering a take-away. The only disappointment was that 'a whisky bomb' was not featured, much to one member's dismay.

Our lunch was full of laughter and lively conversations, including the inevitable question, 'Where are we going next month?' We all agreed it was lovely to stay local. The Vault definitely got The World Cuisine group's vote of approval. JA

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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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**Music Appreciation**

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

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**Amblers**

Easter and the unpredictable weather meant the amblers did not embark on their monthly 'Bus Walk' in April. We're looking forward to rescheduling for May. The Selsey Amblers: Taking thoughtful steps with playful thoughts. Our paths are clearer when jokes lead the way.

## True Crime Interest Group

The True Crime interest group usually meet on the first Monday afternoon in the month. Unfortunately due to Easter and other commitments we missed our usual sleuthing afternoon. However, you may have heard that a lorry load of Brillo pads was stolen from Asda recently? Police are scouring the area.

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**BUS EXPLORERS** The intrepid bus explorers visited Arundel to see the beautiful tulip display.



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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.	NB With regret, this group is not suitable for those with mobility issues and/or need to use “walkers” to enable them to walk.	
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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## Future Trips

The committee is always looking at how we can engage our members in interesting ventures. We have investigated two possible trips and would like to gauge the interest of members before finalising booking transport and calculating costs. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis:

A trip to Poole on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2026. Wander around the harbour, browse the shops and enjoy a leisurely lunch. There's also the opportunity to visit the RNLI museum.

The British Museum is planning to display The Bayeux Tapestry from September 2026 to July 2027. We are considering a trip for the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2027 (Trip and costings to be decided based on interest.)

Please let Chris Rainer know if you are interested in joining these trips.

## Stage and Screen Group

Plans are afoot for the group to go and see, 'My Fair Lady' at the Chichester Festival Theatre in August.



## OPEN MEETING

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 2.00 pm in the Selsey Centre

## RECORD

**Attendance: 32 members 6 visitors**

### 1. Welcome:

Barbara welcomed members and visitors to the meeting and mentioned that membership renewal officially closes at end of March and only members can vote at the AGM so please renew sooner rather than later.

Liz Watson's event that was due to take place on 11 April has had to be postponed to a later date.

Barbara then read Ronnie's welcome.



### 2. Notices:

Good afternoon everyone, it's very nice to see so many members and visitors here this afternoon, I know many of you have been looking forward to hearing Wendy again to hear part two of Selsey the Home Front!

Yet again Jo and I are going to miss your talk, sorry Wendy it's nothing personal. Last time we were on holiday, today we are at the funeral of an old school friend of Jo's, someone she has known since she was 11. A sad occasion rather than a joyful one of being on holiday.

Now on a more cheerful note, we are hoping to arrange a trip to Poole in September, but before we book a coach etc, we'd like to have a rough idea of how many of you would like to go, so if you are interested perhaps you could let Janet or Barbara know by the AGM, as the coach only holds 29, it will be a case of first come, gets a seat on the coach! Plus if the French allow the Bayeux Tapestry to come to England next year, we hope to organise a trip to see it, again we will need a rough idea of how many people would be interested in going.

Finally, just a tiny reminder from Val, she still needs volunteers to make the tea and coffee, so if you feel you can help out, please see Val before you leave and after you've put your chair away! Thank you all so much for coming so please sit back, relax and enjoy .....

### 3. Speaker:

Barbara introduced our speaker, Wendy Page, whose talk is entitled "Selsey on the Home Front Part Two".

Selsey was a thriving community during the War with returning evacuees and Canadian regiments stationed in the town. Mrs Buxton Knight started a Spitfire fund, and Mrs Doggett was busy raising funds or collecting items to make up Christmas boxes to send to the forces overseas, both male and female. The village was also extremely busy raising money to help the war effort. Different fundraising events were held including Warship Week, Merchant Navy week, Salute the Soldier week and the Rural Pennies Fund. There was a rest centre for those whose houses had been destroyed. The WVS canteen was lent a fridge so they could provide ices and salads and dances were regularly held at the Marine Hotel hosted by the Canadians.

In 1942 a lady knitted hundreds of socks and gloves to be sent to the Russian front and a fur coat was raffled for the enormous sum of £14.7s.

Everything was collected, not just metal but rubber, firewood and herbs which could be used for medicines. Even cotton reels were collected although nobody quite knew what they were being used for.

In fact, compared to the other villages around Chichester Selsey often led the way in fundraising efforts. The cinema wanted to open on Sundays so paid £15 per showing and gave the proceeds to charities, a villager lent her radio out for 5s a week and when an incendiary bomb landed by The Crown villagers bought savings stamps and stuck them on the case until it was completely hidden. Mrs Doggett packed 420 Christmas parcels to be sent out.

The government decreed that Sugar beet should be grown although a farmer at Church Norton complained that wheat and barley were much easier to grow and provided a better crop. Mrs Rhoades was caught for dealing on the black market and was fined 15s. although she later contributed a bottle of whisky as a raffle prize. During all this activity part of the Mulberry Harbour was being constructed and used for the D-Day landings. In 1945 the Home Guard was stood down, the RNLi was allowed to use maroons again and Mrs Buxton Knight had to close the Spitfire Fund. A Thanksgiving service for VE Day was held in the church, and all children were treated to a free cinema showing with an orange. There were no organised celebrations as some POWs were in Japan, so the war was continuing but there were many street parties.

Janet thanked Wendy on behalf of us all for her wide-ranging and informative talk.

**4. Quiz answers:**

After a slight mix-up Barbara read the questions to Operation Sealion, and the audience provided the answers.

**5. Admission draw:**

The Prize of a voucher from Asda was won by Julie Jones

**6. Raffle draw:**

Tickets were drawn and all prizes were claimed.

**7. Next Meeting:**

Our next Meeting will be our AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> April and our speaker will be Robert Smith on London Slave Owners.

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

Meeting closed at 3.20pm

**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:joanneazulay195@aol.com">joanneazulay195@aol.com</a>