



Newsletter: March 2026 Issue 133

Another Bumper Edition!

Registered Charity number: 1164900

learn, laugh, live!

Programme

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

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March

Phew! Most of us are exhausted. Well, we have almost endured a 31 day March! We're all participating in the traditional March sport: leaving the house dressed for all four seasons and still getting it wrong. Some have declared, 'It's BBQ weather' while others remain loyal to their slow cookers. Supermarkets are fully committed to Easter, with more chocolate available than Willie Wonka could produce and the Hot-Cross Bun variety competition is in full flow.

Prices at the petrol pumps have soared, prompting larger queues for the 51 bus. Abroad, the picture remains complex and unsettled. Ongoing geopolitical tensions continue to shape relations between major powers, with conflicts and regional disputes still unresolved.

So while Selsey debates whether it's coat or no coat, the wider world faces more serious challenges. (True at time of writing.)

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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!

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. 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 £3 at present, a bargain and this month, Wendy Page, is our guest speaker. She will be giving the long awaited part 2 of, ‘Selsey on the Home Front’

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!

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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 at Turkuaz in Chichester.

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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

Thank-you

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NEW GROUP - CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS AND SUDOKU

Parlez-vous "Cryptic" ? Did you know 'flower' could be a river????
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. No experience necessary. Come along and get ready to duck, when, 'The penny drops'!

Please contact Chris Rainer to let her know of your interest.

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BUS EXPLORERS

AT THE END OF A VERY SHORT PIER!

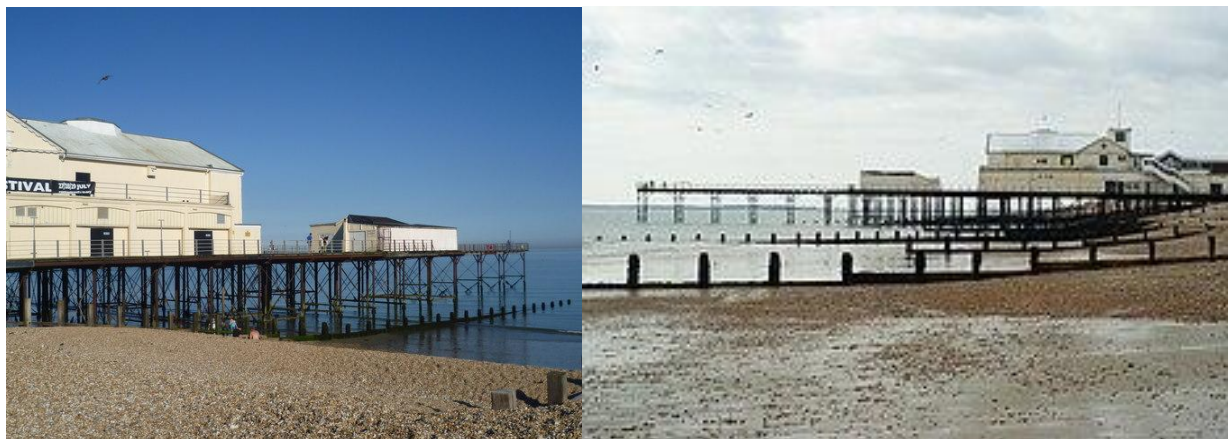
A gentle but chilly wind was blowing off the sea when just four of the group arrived in Bognor for a first visit for all of us to the pier there. We headed into the Amusement Arcade, each carrying fond memories of the days of our youth when we pestered our parents for more pennies and halfpennies to play the slot machines, to attempt to win the 'wonderful' prizes sticking obstinately beneath the grabber in the big glass case, to hear the coins clattering into the trays or to leave the arcade with at least one of the wonderful colourful treasures so skilfully achieved. Then zoom

forward seventy plus years and see the same and even tackier cheap treasures requiring an investment of at least fifty pence (10/-) or probably pounds to try to acquire.

Purses still safely stowed in bags, we made our way back outside and along the side of the building to the pier itself. The sun was just beginning to show its face. Although we could still see the water swirling beneath the planks we walked on, possibly a rather unnerving experience, the tide was going out and the sound of the waves breaking on the wet sand was magical. Photos were taken: looking east, the background stretched to Felpham and way beyond; looking west, past Aldwick, Pagham and Pagham Harbour to Selsey Bill !

Lungs filled with fresh sea air, we headed back towards the High Street Arcade and into the Turkish restaurant where we enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Kathleen Hind



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 nd 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 st Sunday of the month
Family History	By arrangement	Topical discussion	10.00 a.m. 4 th Monday of the month
Stage and Screen	10.30a.m. 3 rd Tuesday of the month	World cuisine:	12.30 p.m. 3 rd Thursday of the month.
History	10a.m. 4 th Tuesday of the month	True Crime	2.00 p.m. 1 st 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

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Music Appreciation

For more information, contact Chris Rainer 07580 197648 or christinerainer914@gmail.com

Marjorie Graham

Local Selsey resident Marjorie Graham has enjoyed a remarkable career spanning the early decades of British television. Beginning her work in 1955 at the launch of ITV, she was part of a pioneering generation in the industry, working as a production assistant on a wide range of programmes—from light entertainment and drama to current affairs and documentaries. Over the years, her work took her across the UK and abroad, contributing to the growth and evolution of commercial television before her retirement in 2000.

Now, drawing on a lifetime of experience, Marjorie has published her memoir, *A Lifetime in Television*. The book offers a first-hand account of working behind the scenes during television’s formative years, capturing both the excitement and challenges of a rapidly developing medium.

Published by Kaleidoscope Publishing—an organisation dedicated to preserving and celebrating classic British television—the book provides a valuable personal perspective on an industry that shaped modern entertainment.

A Lifetime in Television is available priced at £20.

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True Crime Interest Group

The True Crime interest group met on the first Monday afternoon in March.

Simon presented, The Charles Starkweather and Caril Ann Fugate case. It was a notorious American murder spree in 1957–1958 that shocked the United States.

Brief summary:

- Charles Starkweather, a 19-year-old from Lincoln, Nebraska, began a series of killings in January 1958.
- His 14-year-old girlfriend, Caril Ann Fugate, was with him during much of the spree.
- Over about 8 days, Starkweather killed 11 people, including Fugate’s mother, stepfather, and younger sister.
- The pair fled across Nebraska and into Wyoming, stealing cars and evading police.
- They were captured near Douglas, Wyoming after a car chase.

Aftermath:

- Starkweather admitted to the killings and was executed in the electric chair in 1959.
- Fugate claimed she was a hostage and forced to accompany him. She was convicted as an accomplice and sentenced to life in prison but was paroled in 1976.

The case became famous because of Fugate’s young age and the debate over whether she was a victim or willing accomplice, inspiring books and films such as *Badlands* and *Natural Born Killers*

Amblers

The Amblers set off for our, 'Bus Walk' on Wednesday 4th March. We were fortunate to have a beautiful day for our monthly longer walk. From Chichester, we headed to Bognor, alighting for refreshments before commencing our walk along the seafront to Middleton. It's true, the Sun definitely brings out, 'The Brits' and we think Butlins must have been very quiet with the majority of their patrons enjoying the seafront.



It was lovely to see so many establishments preparing for the summer season. The outside seating at The Lobster Pot Café was heaving. Walkers, joggers and cyclists enjoyed the warmth of the Sun.

Our lunch time destination was The Beresford pub in Middleton. We sat in a bright, sunny seat and enjoyed welcoming cold drinks and good value choices from the lunch menu. Our return buses were well synchronised and we arrived home in Selsey, safely and timely.



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Stage and Screen Group

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



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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:

1. A trip to Poole on 9th September 2026. Wander around the harbour, browse the shops and enjoy a leisurely lunch. There's also the opportunity to visit the RNLI museum.
2. The British Museum is planning to display The Bayeux Tapestry from September 2026 to July 2027. We are considering a trip in May 2027 (Final date to be decided based on interest.)

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

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OPEN MEETING

Friday 27th February 2026 at 2.00 pm in the Selsey Centre

RECORD

Attendance: 42 members 10 visitors

1. Welcome:

Ronnie welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

2. Notices:

We do need new committee members so please consider the possibility. Nomination forms are on the table and have to be submitted by the end of March. We are a friendly bunch and it's only 2 hours a month, ten months of the year.

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.

More volunteers are needed for tea duty so if you're willing to help please talk to Val Wright.

Finally, I received an email from the Chichester u3a asking if anyone would like to join their recorder group who meet weekly. If interested please see me at the end of the meeting for full details.

3. Speaker:

Ronnie introduced our speaker, Bob Hoare, whose talk is entitled "My Life as an Illustrator"

Bob started drawing as a child drawing mainly aircraft as his father flew Lancaster bombers. At ten years old he won a competition. He drew a picture of the Coronation Coach and won a book token for sixpence which was a lot of money to a ten-year-old. He still has the book token as he never spent it and never got rid of it. He wanted to go to art school but his father thought that was for "beatniks" so he went to technical college and trained as a mechanical engineer. He then became a lab assistant and then a signwriter and then became a technical illustrator for a motor company, doing caricatures for the in-house magazine. At the same time he also freelanced for a number of sports and musical publications.

In 1997 Hoare was contributing to a number of local publications and decided to become a full-time freelance. His work started to be picked up by the music press, especially Sounds and he worked for Graphic News. By 2002 his work was syndicated by Graphic News, at one time he had 41 illustrators working for him and he was also producing caricatures for "Passing Shots", a weekly column appearing in the Southern Daily Echo.

Members were able to view Bob's current art works and folders of his caricatures.

Janet thanked Bob on behalf of us all for his talk.

4. Quiz answers:

Jo gave us the answers to the quiz – It's an Art Form

5. Admission draw:

The Prize of a £10 voucher from T & T Fruits was won by Susanne Russell

6. Raffle draw:

Tickets were drawn and all prizes were claimed.

7. Next Meeting:

Our next Open Meeting will be 27th March when our speaker will be Wendy Page on Selsey in WWII, Part Two.

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

Meeting closed at 3.00pm

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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.

If you fancy an 'Earworm' till the next open meeting, try singing the theme tune to 'Dad's Army'
Jo Azulay

Contact Information

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Groups Coordinator:		Chris Rainer	0758 0197 648
Newsletter:		Jo Azulay	joanneazulay195@aol.com