



Newsletter: July 2026 Issue 137

learn, laugh, live!

Registered Charity number: 1164900

Programme

July 24 th	Sophie Duffy	An Author's inspirations
	August	No meeting
September 25 th	Steve Herra	The Body through the Porthole
October 23 rd	Community Warden	His Role and support available
November 27 th	Jane Glennie	Ministering Angels – Nursing in The Crimea
December 16 th	No meeting	Christmas Lunch at Chichester College
New Year Speakers to be revealed soon.		

July

July arrived in Selsey bringing scorching, continental weather. We've been searching the shed for the barbecue and hunting in the loft for the fan. Hosepipes are bursting and being replaced, daily. Amazon has never been so busy.

East Beach visitors flocked to the beach, armed with windbreaks, cool boxes and enough beach equipment to establish a small seaside republic.

The seagulls, meanwhile, have once again reminded everyone that they are not "pretty coastal birds" but highly organised airborne food thieves. Always have your wits about you when eating ice-creams and sausage rolls, al-fresco.

Across Britain, July has revolved around three great national pastimes: discussing the weather, arguing about football and trying to pronounce the names of most tennis players.

Wimbledon once again produced two glorious weeks of strawberries, cream, immaculate lawns and spectators wearing sunglasses, hats and hopefully factor 50 suncream. Arthur Fery, our British player instantly became a national hero, until he met one of the world's top seeds. Centre Court looked magnificent despite soaring temperatures, while thousands of us congratulated ourselves on sitting comfortably indoors instead of melting gracefully in SW19.

Then there was the football. The FIFA World Cup dominated conversations everywhere. England gave us the full emotional rollercoaster once again—hope, excitement, nail-biting finishes and enough dramatic moments to keep cardiologists in business. Living rooms became tactical command centres, referees became public enemies, and millions of armchair managers discovered they could apparently have selected a better team than the professionals. Sadly, England's dream ended in the semi-finals, leaving the nation to utter those familiar words: "I could have picked and organised a better team, what was he thinking?"

Meanwhile, the rest of the world continued at its usual frantic pace. A President became an instant expert at 'Soccer.' The UK got a new Prime Minister, though it's impossible to get a Saturday job with so little scrutiny. Oh, and don't forget, 'The Sausage and Cider Festival on July 25th in Chichester!

So farewell, July—a month of tennis whites, football shirts, melting ice creams, ambitious seagulls and weather temperatures that broke records. Here's hoping August brings plenty more sunshine... and no hosepipe ban in Selsey. Enjoy summer, see you in Sept.

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!

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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 in July, a bargain and this month, you'll get new biscuits and a talk from author, Sophie Duffy, entitled, 'An Author's Inspirations.' Sophie will be bringing a selection of her books to sell and will be happy to sign copies. 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. Volunteers to help with the teas are needed 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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Committee Request.

Hopefully all members will have updated their contact details when renewing their membership. There are other ways of providing accurate information regarding medical issues and contacts. Lions Club International, 'Message in a bottle' is a scheme where medical details and contacts are kept in a tube in the fridge, so emergency services can quickly find relevant information. These tubes are available at The Care Shop. There is an ICE App, (in Case of Emergency) available for mobile phones. I'm sure personnel at The Care Shop would be willing to help with the setting up of this app on mobile phones. Please let Janet Topping know if your details have recently changed. Janet's email address is: jmtopping@aol.com

Thank-you

Future Trips and Events

The committee is always looking at how we can engage our members in interesting ventures. We have investigated possible trips and as always, we aim to gauge the interest of members before finalising booking transport and calculating costs.

The trip to Poole, arranged between Chris Rayner and Janet Topping, booked for October 14th is going ahead. There is room on the coach for one more person, but not for the RNLI tour. If you are interested, the coach price is £27.

The British Museum is planning to display The Bayeux Tapestry from September 2026 to July 2027. We are considering a trip for early May 2027 (Trip and costings to be decided based on interest.) Please let Chris Rainer know if you are interested in joining this trip.

Looking ahead, to celebrate Selsey u3a's 15th anniversary, we are considering having a Hog Roast in August 2027. Hopefully this summer gathering will bring members together for delicious food, good company and a memorable afternoon. Further details of venue, date, timings and costs will follow.

Chris Rayner recently visited The Tinwood Estate Winery, situated on the edge of the South Downs National Park, near Chichester. They offer vineyard tours and wine tasting experiences. We are considering offering this as a future trip if enough members show 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 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.
Local History	10a.m. 4 th Tuesday of the month	True Crime	2.00 p.m. 1 st Monday of the month

Whilst members continue to enjoy the current interest groups on offer, It would be greatly appreciated if any of you would consider creating new groups. Remember, you do not have to be an expert to start a group, just enthusiastic. There are plenty of interest group examples in The Third Age Matters magazine. If you're interested in something, chances are someone else is, too. 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 start up or join an interest group must first contact Chris Rainer, the Group Coordinator, who will be only too happy to assist.

(Chris Rainer) 07580197648

email christinerainer914@gmail.com

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New Group starting TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER.
LOCAL HISTORY: 10 AM UNTIL 12 NOON
Learn all about our wonderful and unique Manhood Peninsula.
For further information Chris RAINER 07580197648.

Music Appreciation

For more information, contact Chris Rainer 07580 197648

World Cuisine

Annual BBQ

True Crime Interest Group

The very hot weather and member commitments resulted in our meeting being cancelled.

However, not wanting to disappoint super sleuths amongst you from reading about our latest, 'hotly debated crime,' I have included a quiz to test your criminal knowledge. May the best detective win. No Googling the answers!!

July 2026 U3A True Crime Quiz

1. Which serial killer became known as the "Yorkshire Ripper"?
2. What was the name of the five-year-old, whose murder in 1993 led to one of Britain's most infamous criminal investigations?
3. Who was known as, 'The A6 Murderer' in the early 1960s?
4. Who was the last woman to be hanged in the UK?
5. Which British doctor was convicted in 2000 of murdering at least 15 patients, although he is believed to have killed many more?
6. Which serial sexual offender became known as the "Black Cab Rapist"?
7. In which year did the Great Train Robbery take place?
8. What was the name of the female victim murdered on Wimbledon Common in 1992?
9. Who was the first person in the UK to be convicted of murder primarily through DNA evidence?
10. What was the name of the notorious East End gang led by Ronnie and Reggie Kray?

Answers in September's newsletter

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Stage and Screen Group

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

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Amblers

The scorching weather did not put the faithful off! We ventured on buses, equipped with fans and bottled water to Havant. We enjoyed a refreshment break at The Spring Community Centre before enjoying a picturesque walk around Langstone Harbour. Our lunch venue was 'The Langbrook Farm,' a family-friendly, Farmhouse Inns Pub.

We enjoyed some, 'Retail Therapy' before boarding our bus back to Chichester and 'Master Minding' how to locate the correct bus-stop to catch the 51 home to Selsey.

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A Travel Blog from one of our members, Sue Franklin

Travels Through Germany – An Adventure with Two Four-Legged Companions

Earlier this summer, my two dogs, Poppy and Merlin, and I set off on what turned out to be an unforgettable five-week motorhome adventure through Germany, with visits to Austria and the Czech Republic before making our way home through France. Travelling with dogs always brings its own challenges and rewards, but one thing is certain – every day becomes an adventure.

Our journey began beside the tranquil waters of Falkensteinsee. It didn't take long before we were exploring woodland footpaths, where we unexpectedly came across ancient burial chambers hidden amongst the trees. The peaceful lakeside setting was the perfect introduction to Germany.

Heading north to the Baltic coast, I discovered the beautiful Hanseatic city of Lübeck. Famous for its marzipan and magnificent brick Gothic architecture, it was easy to spend hours wandering its medieval streets. Nearby Neustadt provided one of those wonderfully unexpected travel moments when I found myself watching a man dressed as a ballerina attempting to sweep up hundreds of bottle tops using a brush with no bristles. Sometimes travel produces memories no guidebook could ever prepare you for! A stroll along the promenade at Grömitz, complete with live music, seafood and an ice cream overlooking the sea, rounded off a wonderful few days.

The island of Rügen offered dramatic coastlines, quiet beaches and charming fishing villages. I explored Kap Arkona with its spectacular lighthouse and cliffs, wandered through the picturesque village of Vitt and learnt my first lesson about travelling with dogs in Germany – they must wear muzzles on local buses. Fortunately, after a quick shopping trip, Poppy and Merlin adapted remarkably well and soon became seasoned passengers.

One of the most fascinating places I visited was Prora, the enormous holiday complex built by the Nazi regime before the Second World War. Stretching for almost three miles along the coast, its sheer scale is astonishing. Nearby, I visited the National People's Army Museum before exploring HMS Otus, a former British submarine moored in Sassnitz. It made for an unforgettable day, broken up by an equally memorable stop for crêpes.

From there I travelled to Peenemünde, once the largest rocket research centre in Europe. It was here that the V2 rocket was developed during the war, technology that would later influence both missile development and the space race. Standing in such a significant historical location was both fascinating and thought-provoking.

Berlin was next. An open-top sightseeing bus proved an excellent way to explore this remarkable city, taking me past the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie and the remaining sections of the Berlin Wall. Walking through Berlin brings history vividly to life. I also came across a delightful Steiff teddy bear which somehow managed to find its way back to the motorhome!

One of the highlights of the entire trip was Dresden. Painstakingly rebuilt after the devastation of the Second World War, the city is breathtaking. Every street seemed to reveal another magnificent building, from churches and palaces to elegant squares. It is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful cities I have ever visited.

Crossing into the Czech Republic, I arrived in Prague wearing shorts and a T-shirt in glorious sunshine. By the following day I was exploring the city in waterproofs alongside two rather soggy doggies! Fortunately, rain couldn't spoil the experience of seeing the famous Astronomical Clock or wandering around Wenceslas Square and the historic streets of the city.

Salzburg offered an entirely different experience. As a lifelong fan of The Sound of Music, it was impossible not to smile while visiting the famous filming locations. I also explored Mozart's birthplace and later home, Salzburg Cathedral, the mighty fortress overlooking the city, the fascinating salt mines, Hellbrunn Palace with its mischievous trick fountains and the beautiful mountain scenery surrounding the city. Every day seemed to reveal another reason why Salzburg is so popular.

The Bavarian Alps provided some of the most spectacular scenery of the holiday. Mittenwald's colourful painted buildings reflected its centuries-old violin-making heritage, while a cable car carried me high into the mountains for breathtaking panoramic views. Nearby Innsbruck added impressive architecture, an Olympic ski jump and yet another opportunity to sample excellent Austrian coffee and cake.

Lake Constance was another memorable stop. Arriving at the campsite by ferry felt like the perfect start. I explored Konstanz with its famous rotating Imperia statue, wandered around medieval Meersburg and visited Friedrichshafen's excellent Zeppelin Museum while modern airships floated gracefully overhead. Watching Zeppelins flying across the lake is something I never imagined I would experience.

My final German destination was the Black Forest - where I just had to try the gâteau! Freiburg enchanted me with its cathedral, colourful streets and tiny water channels known as Bächle. Local legend claims that anyone who accidentally steps into one will marry someone from Freiburg. Thankfully, Poppy and Merlin seemed rather more interested in paddling than I was! Nearby Staufen, famous for its connection with the legend of Doctor Faustus, proved the perfect place to enjoy one final slice of apple strudel before beginning the journey home.

Looking back, it wasn't simply the castles, lakes, mountains and historic cities that made the trip so special. It was the freedom of travelling by motorhome, waking each morning somewhere new, sharing every walk with my dogs, meeting friendly people wherever we went and discovering places that I might otherwise never have visited.

Five weeks, four countries, thousands of miles and countless wonderful memories later, I returned home with two tired but very happy dogs, a camera full of photographs and an even longer list of places I'd love to return to one day.

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We welcome other members contributing their holiday and other interesting accounts for inclusion in our newsletter.

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OPEN MEETING

Friday 26th June 2026 at 2.00 pm in the Selsey Centre

RECORD

Attendance: 28 members: 27 Visitors: 1

1. Welcome:

Ronnie welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming on such a hot afternoon. She congratulated members and visitors for attending and we gave ourselves a 'Pat on the back.'

- 2. Notices:** Ronnie kept the notices brief today. She informed us that the new History Group is no longer Medieval History, it is now Local History. The group will meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The first meeting is on September 23rd. If you are interested in joining, please contact Chris Rainer, our group co-ordinator, who will liaise with Wendy Page. Members attending the forthcoming trip to Poole were thanked for paying deposits and reminded to pay the remainder of the cost by the September meeting.

3. Speaker:

Ronnie then introduced our speaker, Keith Batchelor and thanked him for coming to give us an update on the restoration of Selsey Pavilion.

Keith began his talk by showing and narrating a PowerPoint presentation giving us a taste of The Pavilion's past to the present day.

Built in 1913, the Art Deco Pavilion was used as a recruiting office to enrol personnel for WW1, the recruiting officer being, Sir Archibald Hamilton. The 1915 Christmas dinners welcomed service men and the local rapid response unit, men on bicycles!

In 1925, it was rumoured a Russian ballet troupe performed, incorrect, just one ballerina, filling in vacant opportunities, to dance, she found in The Stage newspaper.

On 21/08/1926, The Pavilion caught fire. The cause? Probably a stray cigarette.

The Pavilion showed films during the 30's, 40's and 50's entertaining locals and encouraging youngsters to have good moral values by matinees featuring The Roy Rogers Riders' Club films.

The 1950's and 60's were famous for the S.C.A.M.P.S pantomimes. Memorabilia has been retained, restored and is being curated for visitors to view soon.

The Pavilion closed as an arts venue in 1974 and subsequently suffered 50 odd years of neglect.

Further slides showed us the dedication of The Selsey Pavilion Trust, along with funding from generous funders including The National Lottery, in the restoration project. We were shown evidence of amazing refurbishments to the roof, main building and smaller hall to the rear of the property.

The original film projector featured on the TV programme, 'The Repair Shop' gaining global responses to the restoration project.

In 2025, the Pavilion project became, 'High Tech' with students from the Academy producing a film which has had more than 190,000 views on YouTube. There was a premier of the film, 'For one night only,' held in the pavilion for an audience of 100.

Keith explained the Trust is keen to open the rear, smaller room for community use and Heritage popup events in the near future. The main building will take longer and as restoration must adhere to modern day building regulations, The Lottery no longer recognises this stage as a Heritage project. Hopefully future funding will come along.

Keith welcomed questions and encouraged us to keep abreast of developments by visiting their website. www.selseypavilion.org

Liz Juan (at the 11th hour) thanked Keith for his informative talk, expressing her enjoyment and interest in the pavilion project, on behalf of us all.

4. Quiz answers:

Jo read the answers to the quiz “That’s Entertainment”. Well done Keith Wheway for your solo win.’

5. Admission draw:

The prize of an ASDA voucher was won by Marian Mason.

6. Raffle draw:

Tickets were drawn and all prizes were claimed.

7. Next Meeting:

Our next Meeting will be on 24th July, when our speaker will be Sophie Duffy, giving a talk entitled, ‘An Author’s Inspirations’. She will be bringing her books to sell, which she will be happy to sign.

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

Meeting closed shortly after 3pm.