Newsletter: October 2026 Issue 139,

learn, laugh, live! Registered Charity number: 1164900

Current Programme

2026

October 23rd	Selsey Community Warden	His Role and support available
November 27th	Jane Glennie	Ministering Angels – Nursing in The Crimea
December 16th	No meeting	Christmas Lunch at Chichester College

2027

January 22nd	Hamish Brown	Stalking and Stalkers
February 26th	Alan Jones	The Many Faces of Masks
March 26th	Sandra Simmons	Life Under The Veil
April 23rd	AGM plus Bill Avenell	Traffic Congestion TBC

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October

October arrived in Selsey, bringing shorter days, longer nights and the annual ritual of wondering whether to put the heating on. People daren't leave their homes without checking the weather forecast. Diehards are still wearing shorts whilst others are wielding brollies, rain-macs and gloves. The summer visitors have largely departed, leaving Selsey to its residents, dogwalkers and brave souls who insist a brisk walk in October is therapeutic. Meanwhile, the world continues to turn. Strictly has returned, Politicians still can't agree and the news remains full of things to worry about. Halloween is approaching and dog-owners are dreading the annual, premature letting off of fireworks. October, a month for simple pleasures: autumn colours, cosy evenings and spectacular West Sussex sunsets. JA

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U3a Challenge Week 2026



Three of us were brave enough to speak about our personal challenges. Chris Rainer taught herself how to count from one to ten in Finnish.
Susan Stagg showed us a beautiful bag she made using the traditional Japanese embroidery or stitching, Sashiko. Sashiko was used to make features of patches or repairs to clothing rather than trying to hide the mend. Today it is used as a decorative feature on material. I 'Plucked up the courage' to play two tunes I had learnt to play on the ukulele. JA

Christmas Lunch at Chichester College 16th December.

The committee have, once again, agreed to provide a coach to transport everyone to the College for the lunch.

There are still places available and members and non - member family and friends can be included.

If you wish to join us, please let me have your deposit of £20.00 and menu choices before, or at,

the Open Meeting on Friday with cash deposits in a named envelope. (menu choices can be emailed to me).

The final payment of £17.00 is payable at or before the November meeting.

Payments can be left at the Town Hall addressed to Selsey u3a or by BACS to:

Selsey u3a Sort Code 60 – 05 – 24 Account no. 21669201

Please put your name in the reference box.

Barbara

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 October, a bargain and this month, you'll get new biscuits and a talk from our local community warden. 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! 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. This is especially important in the questions and answers section of the talk. Thank-You. JA

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Changes to the open meetings raffle organisation

We are very grateful to our members who buy the prizes and those who run the raffle at our open meetings. The onerous task of folding up each individual ticket is time-consuming and tricky for those of us with less-dextrous fingers. As of October 2026, we will be making a small change to our raffle procedure. Instead of picking out individual tickets, we will now be picking out a whole strip of tickets at a time. This will make the process quicker and simpler, while keeping the draw fair and giving everyone the same chance of winning. We have decided to, 'retire' the raffle drum, which is proving to be too large and heavy for storage and transportation. This will be replaced by an alternative container. Thank-you for your understanding and cooperation. JA

Future Trips and Events

Plans are well underway for our Christmas lunch on 16th December. Thanks to everyone for your payments and menu choices. Details of timings and transport arrangements will be circulated nearer the day of the lunch.
Chris Rainer has had great interest in the forthcoming visit to see The Bayeux Tapestry in May 2027. The list is now closed and arrangements and costings will be circulated to those involved when details become available. JA

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.

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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. JA

Current Interest Groups

Amblers	9.30 Weekly, Wednesdays	Music appreciation	2.00 pm 2nd Monday of the month
Bus Explorers	10.00 a. m. 2nd 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 1st Sunday of the month
Family History	By arrangement	Topical discussion	10.00 a.m. 4th Monday of the month
Stage and Screen	10.30a.m. 3rd Tuesday of the month	World cuisine:	12.30 p.m. 3rd Thursday of the month.
Local History	10a.m. 4th Tuesday of the month	True Crime	2.00 p.m. 1st 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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Music Appreciation

For more information, contact Chris Rainer 07580 197648

World Cuisine

The discerning diners of The World Cuisine group dined locally in October. Chris Rainer chose Lal, and what a good choice it was! The food was delicious, the company delightful and it definitely was, 'Service with a smile'.

Stage and Screen Group

The Stage and Screen group meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in Kind Café in Thrive.

True Crime Interest Group

The mysterious death of Annie Borjesson



Annie Börjesson (1975–2005) was a 30-year-old Swedish woman living in Edinburgh. A talented linguist and musician, she died in mysterious circumstances in December 2005.

On 3 December 2005, Annie travelled to Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire, intending to catch a flight home to Sweden. CCTV showed her entering the airport terminal, but she left without boarding a flight.

The following morning, 4 December, her body was found face down on Prestwick Beach, with her passport, wallet and other belongings in a bag nearby.

Scottish authorities concluded that the most likely cause of death was drowning by suicide. However, Annie's family strongly disputed this explanation. They raised concerns about bruising on her body, inconsistencies in the post-mortem findings and the handling of the original police investigation.

The case attracted further attention when suggestions emerged that Annie might somehow have been connected to CIA rendition flights through Prestwick Airport. She also shared a similar name with American investigative journalist Kristina Borjesson, who had investigated US national security agencies. However, no evidence has established a connection between Annie's death and the CIA. Despite years of campaigning by her family, no public Fatal Accident Inquiry was held. Police Scotland has maintained that the death was investigated and reviewed, and that there is no evidence indicating criminality.

The unanswered question: Did Annie take her own life, or was something else responsible for her death? Her death remains deeply troubling to her family, but murder has not been established. JA

Amblers

Unfortunately, our planned, October, 'Bus-walk' in Bosham had to be cancelled due to poor weather. Yes, folks, rain (that wet stuff our gardens all longed for this summer) stopped play. JA

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Here is a message from Chris Rainer that might interest members:

The Third Age Trust has recently launched u3a getaways in partnership with The UK Holiday Group. Each break offers a unique opportunity to laugh, learn, and enjoy shared experiences on a range of individually designed holidays created exclusively for u3a members and their friends.

u3a getaway breaks are designed for independent travellers, but we know that many u3a branches prefer coach inclusive breaks for their members. Our just for groups! brand organises bespoke group holidays, including coach travel, for more than 50 u3a branches throughout the country. We can replicate u3a getaways with transport from your local branch, for groups of 20 or more, or create entirely new holidays based on the interests of the local u3a group.

We would love to hear from you the next time you are considering a holiday for your u3a branch. Not only are we the u3a holiday specialist, but the Third Age Trust also benefits from the partnership we have with them.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Cheryl Barnard
Head of Groups
just for groups!
01603 886 740
sales@justforgroups.com

OPEN MEETING

Friday 25th September 2026 at 2.00pm in the Selsey
learn, laugh, live

RECORD
Attendance: 27 members 1 visitors

1. **Welcome:**
   Ronnie welcomed both visitors and members. It's nice to see you all here and I hope some of our members have been learning new skills this week ready for u3a Week. Jo has learned how to play the ukelele although she is no George Formby and won't be leaning on any lampposts, cleaning any windows or when Emmerdale is on.

2. **Notices:**
   Please remember to put your chair away but not until the raffle has finished.

Finally, please, please, please will you put your name forward for making the tea and coffee at the beginning of the meeting. Val is waiting in anticipation for volunteers to come forward.

3. **Speaker:**
Ronnie then introduced our speaker, Steve Herra with a true story entitled "The body through the porthole" and having been on cruise ships I'm looking forward to hearing how a body can be pushed through one.

In 1947 the Durban Castle was beginning its regular trip back to Southampton from Cape Town, South Africa. Aboard was a deck steward James Camb and an actress Gale Gibson who was returning to England after a theatrical tour of South Africa. Although James was married with a daughter he was a ladies man and he and Gale formed an immediate attraction for each other, even though it was against company rules for staff and passengers to fraternise. One night James visited Gale's cabin and they had sex. According to James she then went stiff and her lips turned blue. One of the firemen on early morning duty answered the stewards' bells that had rung and briefly saw James' profile behind the door. James completely panicked, pushed Gale's body through the porthole and went back to bed. The next morning the stewardess arrived to find an empty cabin and an open porthole. The Captain ordered the ship to turn round to try and find her but also contacted headquarters. After hearing the fireman's story and interrogating James he also contacted the Southampton police. When the ship docked the police investigated finding his palm print on the back of the cabin door and later in the day arrested James for murder by strangulation. The trial began in March 1948, and the jury took just 45 minutes to find him guilty. He was sentenced to hang but this was later commuted to a life sentence. In 1959 he was released under licence but was arrested for an indecent assault. The judge gave him probation but in 1971 he re-offended and was returned to jail to complete the rest of his sentence where he finally released in 1978 and died in 1979. James admitted he had pushed Gale's body out of the porthole but always denied strangling her. Further evidence based on previous incidents seems to suggest she may have had an epileptic fit.

Ralph thanked Steve for a very interesting talk.

4. In response to u3a Challenge week, Jo played the songs she had learned on the ukelele, and both Susan Stagg and Chris Rainer had tried different things.

5. **Quiz answers:**
Jo read the answers to the quiz "All Things Female" and the Oscar was won by members on table 2.

6. **Admission draw:**
The prize of a £10 Asda voucher was won by Teresa Cutler

7. **Raffle draw:**
Tickets were drawn and all prizes were claimed.

8. **Next Meeting:**
Our next Meeting will be 23rd October when the Community Warden will explain his role and the support available.

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

Meeting closed at 3.25pm JT

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Thank-you for reading. If you have anything you would like to add to our future newsletters, please contact me : joanneazulay195@aol.com