



# NEWSLETTER

... from the horse's mouth

June 2025

Issue No.69

Contents	Page
Message from Chair	1
Wish List	2
TV	2
Group Activities	3 – 7
I Did It!	7
I Love to Live	8
Key Contacts	9

## Chair's message:

As I write this the sun is out and barometer set fair for a while, so hopefully we can all enjoy time out and about.

I have just spent a Day out in Whitstable. It was stunning sea calm and family groups enjoying the beach. I can recommend a trip on the Vintage lifeboat what a way to cool down with the sea breeze blowing through my hair.

In July U3a will have a stand at the County Show at Detling. 5th 6th 7th July. I will be there on the Saturday. So, if your going do pop by and say hello.

We hope to gain a few more members whilst promoting the U3a.

We also have a New Interest Group, Music Appreciation. Group Co Ordinator Peter Mack. Please contact him if you're interested.

I hope you all have an enjoyable summer. Do send photos for the Newsletter if you have been somewhere nice.

**Carol Gupwell Chair miu3a**



## Wish List

- The Middle East does not explode
- The heatwave abates and does not return
- My family's health issues are resolved soon
- My grandson does well in his GCSEs
- Women's sport returns to a female at birth only sport

## TV

- Eastenders is trying to bring to the public awareness the issue of young boys being corrupted by online porn
- Department Q on Netflix is excellent
- Elspeth on Sky Max is a lot of fun
- Sky's coverage of the Tennis is not as good as Amazon's was as it does not show all matches or have old matches available to catch up on

## Group Activities

### Invicta Art Group



We have continued meeting on the (usually) 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 2 to 4pm at 17 Tarragon Road, and this will continue.

Sometimes we have a mutually agreed subject or else we draw or paint whatever we like. Space restrictions mean we can only remain a small group but please contact me via the website [miu3a.org.uk](http://miu3a.org.uk) if you are interested in coming along.

We have drawn caricatures, cartoons, landscapes and a few of us have visited South East Open Studios, which is interesting.

Our next meeting is the 3th Tuesday in July.

**Mo**



### **Grumpy Old Men**

Producing an account of all that has taken place in Grumpy Old Men since my previous report has all the trappings of a stuck record.

The problem is that most special interest groups have clear aims and objectives. We have none; in fact, we have no measures of performance and remain cheerfully unaware of what may be going within GOM or elsewhere. Should any member be questioned by his other half as to how the latest meeting went (a question that would need to be addressed in the short interval between arriving home and slumber), it is doubtful that any one of us could recall what exactly had taken place little more than an hour ago let alone the two weeks that have passed since our last meeting and my attempt to write this article. You will understand my predicament.

Then there is the issue of confidentiality. Things take place in GOM that stay in GOM and rightly so. In fact, only recently a potential security breach came to light involving the handling of internal emails. This threatened a scandal of similar magnitude to the one that recently engulfed Michael Waltz and resulted in him resigning his position as National Security Advisor in Trump's White House staff. That serious.

So, there you go. There are many pseudo-serious or titillating topics of discussion that I simply can't go into for fear of breaching the GOM code or falling foul of the law of libel, the ECHR or Ed Davey. If you want to learn more you can just turn up at one of our meetings. Provided of course you are old, grumpy and male.

The one piece of information I can put in the public domain is to say our most recent guest act, a Pearl Carr and Teddy Johnson tribute, once again failed to turn up.

***KBO, David Holmes***

### **French Conversation Group**



We have continued to meet fortnightly, once a month chez Gladys our French assistant and once a month in each other's homes. We have had some interesting discussions about holidays, the use of AI and over tourism amongst other things. We have also met in town and at Millbrook for a coffee.



In January this year we celebrated two big birthdays and had a buffet lunch together. This was very enjoyable and successful. We hope to have our Summer French picnic at the beginning of July. We currently have a couple of spaces available for newcomers.

***Glynis Carpenter***

## Walking Group



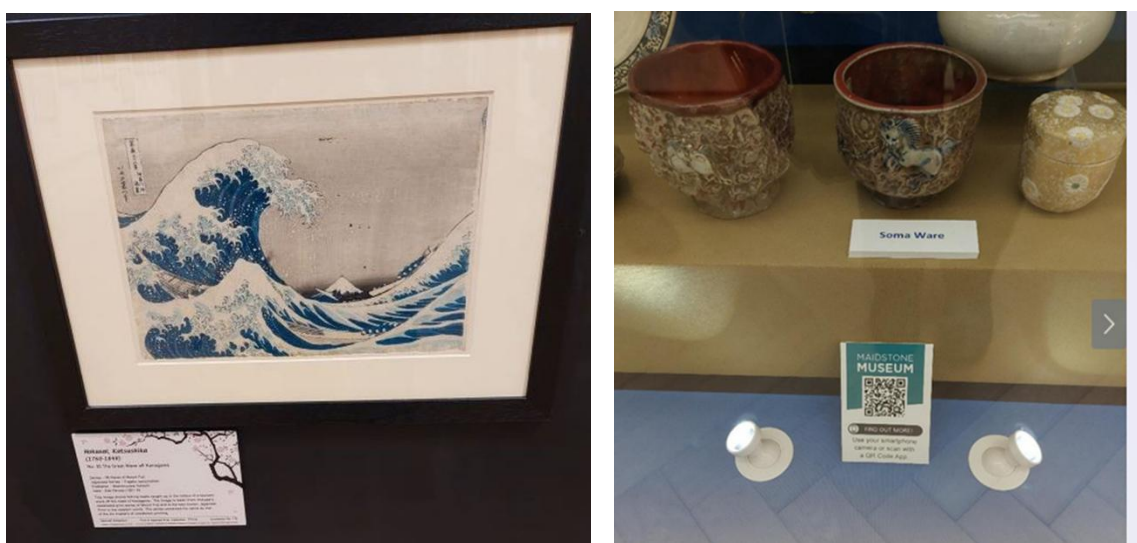
Beautiful weather and a really good short walk to Allington lock.

**Linda**

## The Art Appreciation Group - “Japan: A Floating World in Print”

Five of us from the Art appreciation Group met up to enjoy a captivating display of Ukiyo-e prints from the Edo and Meiji print masters in a show at Maidstone Museum. The prints on display covered the different genres of beautiful women and dramatic landscapes. Well known print artists Utamaro, Hokusai and Hiroshige are all represented. None of us really knew a great deal about Japanese Art or the artists but we were suitably impressed and inspired!

As well as the prints we were able to enjoy the exquisite and highly skilled artistry of the Japanese Ceramics, Woodblock Prints and Lacquer and Metal Work.



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The outstanding prints are predominantly drawn from the collections of Sir Walter Samuel, the son of Lord and Lady Bearsted whose family home was Mote House in Mote Park, Maidstone. Sir Walter assembled his collection while travelling in Japan where the company that his father founded, Shell Oil, had business interests. Sir Walter was a lover of the arts and generously donated his collection to the Maidstone Museum in 1923 via the National Arts Collection Fund. These include the iconic print Hokusai’s ‘Great Wave off Kanagawa’ which most of us would recognise! (Photo of this work above)

We understood that this beautiful collection is permanently housed in the archives at the Museum and is the largest in the country.

The Art Appreciation Group meets on the second Wednesday morning every month and outings such as this one are included in our programme every year. We also meet at members' houses to talk about the art that we enjoy with topics chosen by our members.

We have recently been discussing our favourite sculptors and the Scottish group known as 'The Glasgow Boys'. During our July meeting we will talk about the work of John Singer Sargent. New members would be warmly welcomed to our very relaxed group in which you need only bring an enjoyment of art with no specialised knowledge required.

***Elinor Hutchison, Carol Gupwell and Maura Coleman***

## **I Did It!**



I took part in the Charity Walk for Parkinsons last Sunday June 8th in Mote Park. I have to admit to opting for the shorter of the 2 walks, having been recently diagnosed with Atrial Fibrillation and as I enjoy chatting with whoever, wherever, I decided to attempt the walk on my own as walking and talking really do not go together now!! Despite the ongoing unsettled weather i.e. constant grey days accompanied by some biting cold winds, we were so fortunate on the day to see some sun, blue skies with a bit of a breeze which made for perfect walking conditions.

Approximately 400 walkers took part, and the association expected to break last year's total of £32,000 hoping to reach £40,000 of which I was so generously supported in achieving £800 plus in donations.

Not exactly in my youth any more I enjoyed a very memorable morning with a great atmosphere.

***Anna Graham***

### ***I Love to Live***

*Today, dear Lord, I'm 80, and there's much I haven't done.*

*I hope dear Lord, you'll let me live until I'm 81.*

*But then, if I haven't finished all I want to do,*

*Would you please let me stay awhile until I am 82?*

*So many places I want to go, so very much to see.*

*Do you think you could manage to make it 83?*

*The world is changing very fast, there is so much in store.*

*I'd like it very much to live until I'm 84.*

*And if by then I am still alive. I'd like to stay till 85!*

*More planes will be up in the air, so I'd really like to stick.*

*And see what happens to the world, when I turn 86.*

*I know dear Lord, it's much to ask,*

*(and it must be nice in Heaven)*

*But I'd really like to stay, until I'm 87.*

*I know by then I won't be fast and sometimes will be late.*

*But it would be so pleasant to be around at 88.*

*I will have seen so many things and had a wonderful time.*

*So, I'm sure that I'll be willing to leave at the age of 89...maybe.*

*Just one more thing I'd like to say, dear Lord, I thank you kindly.*

*But if it's okay with you, I'd love to live past 90*

***Anonymous***