

## Mary Queen of Scots - Secrets and Lies

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March - Doors open at 2.00 for 2.30



**Siobhan Clarke, an experienced tour guide at Hampton Court, will be talking about the secrets and lies that surrounded Mary Queen of Scots. She will also talk about the conspiracies that drove her apart from her cousin Queen Elizabeth 1.**

**We will have a seed swop at the end of the meeting.  
We will also continue to collect foreign coins for Marys Meals.**



### The Seed Swop

Please bring in any unwanted seeds and put them on the 'seed table' before the meeting. We can accept new packets, open and partially used packets and seeds you have collected yourself. Even seeds that are *slightly* out of date. Please ensure all seeds are clearly labeled. After the main meeting you will be able to choose packets of seeds to take home. Happy Sowing!

By the way, I hope your seedlings are developing well for our April Plant Swop!

### Last Months Meeting :

We were delighted to welcome Tom Hart Dyke from Lullingstone Castle to talk to us last month. He gave us a very colourful and exuberant insight into his life and his love of plants. He has a number of different talks and I am delighted that he will come back to talk to us again in 2028. For anyone who would like to hear Tom talk again, he will be giving a different talk to the Heathfield Horticultural Society meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at the Community Centre at 7.00pm.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated foreign coins and notes for Mary's Meals. We will be collecting again at both the March and April meetings. Donations can be added to the pot at reception.

## Future Meetings

**21<sup>st</sup> April**      **Better, Better Best**

John Laurance, a local auctioneer will be talking about antiques.

We will also have our annual plant swap.

**19<sup>th</sup> May**      **Gilly Halcrow will be talking about Churchills Secret Army**

## Committee Update



Sue Benson, our current Secretary has agreed to take on my previous role as Speaker Admin. We are delighted to welcome two new members to the team. Maggie Barr has joined the committee to take on the role of Secretary and Mike Gerli has also joined us to work on our website.



Veronica Blakey has decided to step down from her valuable role as one of the Group Co-ordinators, in order to spend time on projects outside of u3a. She and Fiona have worked hard to establish many new and exciting groups for our benefit. Veronica thank you for your hard work !

We are now looking to recruit a new Group Co-ordinator to join the team. Skills required for this role include use of email, phone and an ability to liaise with groups of people. If anyone fancies learning more about this role please contact me by phone 07769 865487 or have a chat at our next meeting.

## Renewals



Our membership year ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Full renewal information will be sent out later this week. We are pleased to be able to maintain membership at the current rate of £15 per person and £28 per couple. Our preferred renewal option is BACS

using our existing bank account. We are now also able to take card payments at our monthly meetings. Cash and cheques can also be taken however they are not our preferred options due to the bank charges involved. Sadly, even paying in cash costs money these days!

## Groups Update

We currently have over 30 Interest Groups within our u3a. Which is both exciting and also slightly daunting. Each new group requires a leader who is happy to take on responsibility for a small amount of associated admin.

Our German group is growing with both fluent speakers and others wanting to learn the language from scratch. We would like to split the group into two as soon as possible. However, this requires another leader. Interest in Bridge is also growing. However, with a mix of beginners and seasoned players we would also like to split this group into two. We are therefore looking for another leader. Our current Craft Groups are full and as soon as we can find a leader we will start a new group.

If you are able to help with any of the above groups please contact Fiona [groupshfu3a@otlook.com](mailto:groupshfu3a@otlook.com)

## Group Activities Update

### Garden Visits



The group visited Pembury House to enjoy the Spring flowers.

### Painting



### Antiques



The Painting Group topic was Spring Flowers.

The group enjoyed a talk about the very fine Belleek pottery from Northern Ireland.

### Vineyard Visits





**Crafting** The Group will be returning to Cuculo to sample a range of Italian wines with snacks.

### Bird Watching



The group didn't meet this month. However, a  
The group made felt coasters.

member spotted this bird in Australia!!

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