

Hastings & Rother u3a 2026 Speaker Programme

26.01.26 White Rock: A Life in Music by Mike Hatchard

Mike Hatchard, multi-talented musician, acclaimed pianist, violinist, composer, singer and choirmaster, talks about his life in music. He also talks about how he came to play a violin upside down and cycle 1400 miles towing a piano, both for BBC Children in Need.

23.02.26 St Peter's: Fraud: Think you're Immune? You might not be! By Roger Tristram

Roger Tristram looks at the extent of personal fraud, how it's been increasing in recent years; the many different and sophisticated types of fraud and what we should ALL do to protect ourselves.

30.03.26 White Rock: Walking with Polar Bears by Gillian Lloyd

Not too many people get to see Polar Bears in the wild. Most who are lucky enough to have done so would have observed them from a tundra buggy or perhaps from the deck of a cruise ship. Very few have ever actually walked with them. This presentation transfers the viewers miles away from any human habitation to the middle of nowhere — where Gillian has encountered a spectacular and truly unique experience of 'Walking with Polar Bears'.

27.04.26 St Peter's: The Development of Medicines by Dr Graham Hughes

Dr Graham Hughes has an MA and PhD in inorganic chemistry from the University of Cambridge followed by a highly successful career in the development of health products. He will describe in detail the process going from the discovery of a white powder to the prescribing of a drug by a doctor.

18.05.26 White Rock: Watching the Detectives: A History of British TV Crime Fighters by Pete Allen

With a master's degree in Film and Television Studies from the University of Westminster, and a highly successful career in theatre and television to date, Pete works extensively as a professional theatre director and film-maker.

Murder! It's not big and it's not clever. But without it our little grey cells would have missed some of the most popular television programmes to ever grace the small screen, This Talk walks the beat through the quiet of St Mary Mead, the golden spires of Oxford, the cliffs of Broadchurch and the killing fields of Midsomer. On the way it unearths the clues that reveal how our fascination with the long arm of the law owes the uncertainty, experimentation and innovation of the early days of television.

22.06.26 St Peter's: Stories from the Sussex Downs by Ian Everest

Ian Everest is a Sussex local historian with an interest in farming, the countryside and the First World War. His illustrated talk is about some of the more unusual aspects of the South Downs. Find out about an American on the downs, a college for lady gardeners, secret tunnels, a memorial to Queen Victoria, a famous artist, and much more.....

27.07.26 AGM St Peter's

AUGUST - No Meeting

28.09.26 White Rock 1066 The Battle of Hastings – We should have won! By David Clarke

David Clarke is a local historian and leader of history walks around the local area. His talk is an examination of the battle that sealed England's fate and ended 600 years of Anglo-Saxon rule. This talk will try to make sense of a battle that lasted eight hours and identify the key moments that led to Norman success and the end of the Anglo-Saxon dynasty that began in the middle of the 5th century. It will identify the most reasonable and strategic location, the tactics used and whether the battle should have been fought at all. Hindsight is a wonderful thing.

26.10.26 St Peter's The Band That Went to War: The Royal Marines Band in the Falklands War by Brian Short

Brian Short's talk is based on his award-winning book called 'The Band that Went to War' which tells of the interesting, exciting, sad and sometimes funny experiences of the Royal Marines musicians sent to the Falklands war.

23.11.26 White Rock Christmas - A Festive History by Andy Thomas

In an uplifting and entertaining presentation, Andy Thomas uncovers the long and intriguing background to the festive season. From the ancient celebration of light in the winter darkness to the marking of the birth of a messiah and modern merriments, Andy shows how we can still find meaning in Christmas today.

9.12.26 (Tuesday) St Peter's Christmas Social