

# TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A NEWS

## JANUARY 2017



[www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org)

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
THE THIRD AGE

### CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

By the time you read this, Christmas and New Year will seem a distant memory, but I hope you all had an enjoyable time.

2016 was a very successful year for our U3A and we hope to build on the popularity of some of the anniversary events and organise some social events in 2017 and possibly short holidays. There are more details of the latter in the newsletter.

Our traditional December quiz and carols meeting was very popular, with our biggest turnout to date. Linda Bateup's tea team and Adrian Twiner's singing group really helped the success of the afternoon and special thanks must go to Marilyn Smart for the mulled wine.

We have several potential new group meetings arranged for January, so we will be producing an updated groups listing in February, to include the new groups and contacts.

Finally, in December I received two letters of thanks from the Hospice in the Weald for donations from our members. It's great that our members are so generous and for example our pub quiz teams always donate any winnings to charity. Please though, can I ask you to stress that the donations are from individual members and not our U3A. All U3A groups are charities and are therefore not allowed to donate to other charities.

Sue Brimlow  
Chairman  
01892 863691  
[suebrimlow@btinternet.com](mailto:suebrimlow@btinternet.com)

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### COMING UP

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS

at 2.30pm at the Camden Centre

19<sup>th</sup> January

a talk on The Arts and Crafts Movement and its Gardens  
by Stephen Harmer

16<sup>th</sup> February

a talk on James Gillray,  
the Georgian political cartoonist,  
by Ian Keable

#### MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

at Trinity from 10.30 – 12.00

on  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February



#### OUR OUTINGS

There will be no outings  
in January

the February outing to  
**THE NUTCRACKER**  
Is fully booked

the March outing will be to  
*the St Pancras Hotel*  
& *British Library*  
on  
14th or 22nd or 30th March  
See page 9 for details

## Outing News

We hope you have enjoyed our programme for 2016. You have shown great support and no trips had to be cancelled.

Just over 50 members went on the two theatre trip to see *Guys and Dolls* at The Assembly Halls in Tunbridge combined with enjoying a meal together. It was a nice change to support our local theatre rather than always going further afield.

So now we start 2017. As stated previously *The Nutcracker* in February is sold out.

You will find below the application form for our next fascinating outing to the historic St Pancras Hotel and British Library. This will be by train into London and will take place on 3 separate dates in March.

Our outing in May has also been organised. This is to Europe's first traditional Hindu temple and until recently the largest Hindu temple outside India, the amazing Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden. A delicious Indian buffet lunch will complement the day.

There will be more about the exciting year ahead in the next newsletter. We will be aiming for variety and will use a mix of days of the week.

On a final note a big thank you to Robby Holmes who is not able to continue on the committee. We wish her all the best.

On behalf of the outings committee here's to a happy and healthy New Year and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

*Sandra McDonald on behalf of the Outings Committee*

## Group Reports

### ART APPRECIATION GROUP

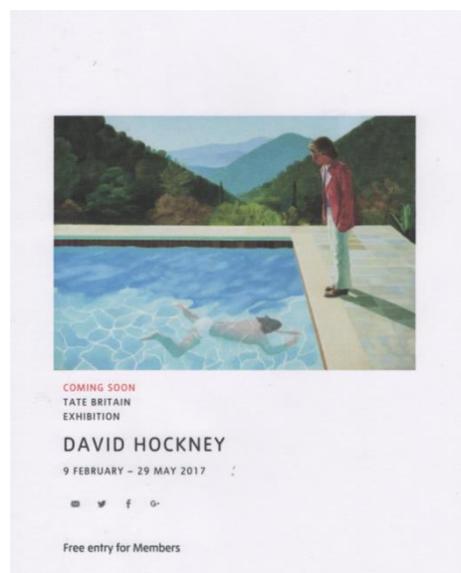
Happy New Year to all members! We hope you will enjoy the remaining 3 sessions for this season, all commencing at 2.30 p.m. in the Main Hall of the Camden Centre.

*(In the event of snow, etc. please ring me earlier that day to see if the lecture has had to be cancelled.)*

NB: The Main Hall at the Camden Centre is used for an exercise class beforehand so please do not arrive until 2.10 p.m.

On arrival please remember to check in so that we can ensure that our membership records are up-to-date.

(Membership is £9 for the full 5 sessions for 2016/17, or £1.50 per meeting for visitors.)



**Tuesday 24th January**

**MATISSE THE MASTER OF COLOUR** (Liz Strang) – A study of how Matisse's mastery of colour developed through his teachers, the women he loved and the artists of the Fauvist movement, such as Derain & Dufy.

**Tuesday 21st February**

**HOCKNEY – A BIGGER SPLASH**

Liz has kindly invited **Sarah Stopford** (her colleague and a guide and lecturer at Tate Britain & Tate Modern) to give this talk. Sarah is particularly interested in post-1900 British art and will talk about David Hockney, soon to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. He remains one of Britain's most prolific diverse and celebrated artists and will be the subject of a major retrospective at Tate Britain 9th February – 29th May 2017.

**Tuesday 21st March**

**A WALK THROUGH BRITISH ART** (Liz will take us on a visual tour of the Tate Britain Collection)

*Alison Turner (Group Co-ordinator) 01892 526693 or [email](#)*



The Pub Lunch Group 1 had their annual Christmas lunch hosted by Patrick and Jenny O'Brien on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Jenny and Patrick cooked us an absolutely delicious turkey Christmas lunch with home grown vegetables and home-made Christmas pudding, which was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all of us. Following our quiz and Secret Santa, which have both become a tradition, a collection was held and we were able to donate £200 to Tunbridge Wells Churches Street Team.

*Marilyn (Smart), 2016 Group Contact for Pub Lunch Group 1*

... Jenny adds: This is our fourth year of supporting a local charity in the form of a Christmas lunch held in our home. All we ask is that our members donate an amount of money to roughly what they would pay if they went to a local pub. Each year we as a group decide on a local charity, and in the past we have supported The Hospice, The Pickering Centre and St. Luke's Church (as they kindly lend a table and chairs). I think it's right to say everyone enjoys the occasion and my husband and I enjoy the challenge!!!

[Please note that Jenny O'Brien, will take over as Group Contact in 2017]

## MEANDERERS GROUP FIRST WALK



This new group has been set up for members who enjoy a walk but don't want to tackle stiles, rough ground or steep slopes. Initially we've decided to walk every other Tuesday morning starting at ten. We couldn't have picked a better day for our first walk around Hayesden Country Park, as it was a beautifully cold and sunny morning as you can see below. The walk was 3½ miles, slightly longer than our target, but it was worth it for the hot drink and rest at the swimming pool.

If you are interested in joining the group, please

[email](mailto:liz.maclaren@meanderers.co.uk) Liz Maclaren or phone on 01892 514792 for details of our next walks.

## THE AMBLERS CELEBRATE AGAIN!

After an enjoyable year of ambling we celebrated with a superb lunch at The Chequers in Lamberhurst and, as it was Christmas, it was time to be festive! ... Dick and Liz took this very seriously!



Sadly, we haven't any photos of the funny Secret Santa which followed.

## LOCAL HISTORY WALKS 2017

The Local History Walking Group will continue to meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2pm at the venues shown in the provisional programme listed below. The walks will last about one and a half hours and generally cover around a mile in distance. Be prepared to do a fair bit of standing around – and remember that Tunbridge Wells is hilly! Please contact me if any of the start locations are unclear.

**Please will past members confirm that they wish to continue in 2017. In order to maintain insurance cover for everyone taking part it is important that only U3A members who are officially enrolled in the group join us for the walks.**

If any new members are interested would they please contact me. The group is currently quite large, but we may be able to accommodate a few more people, on the grounds that not everyone is able to come every time!

*Sue Brown (01892 522488) or [email](#)*

### Provisional dates and walks for 2017:-

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 28 <sup>th</sup> March     | - London Road (meet by the clock at Five Ways)                                     |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> April     | - Saint John's – The Lew (meet by St. John's Church green)                         |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> May       | - Camden Road (meet on Simmonds' corner Monson Road)                               |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> June      | - Mount Sion (meet near the bookshop in Chapel Place)                              |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> July      | - Bishop's Down (meet at the corner by Mt. Ephraim House)                          |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> August    | - Hanover Road etc (meet outside the former "Cosmo")                               |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> September | - Willicombe Walk (meet by horse trough opposite Multiyork aka Carr's Corner)      |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> October   | - Saint John's south section (meet on corner by Job Centre, top of Grosvenor Road) |

## DIGITAL IMAGING INTERMEDIATE GROUP II

Time, tide and nature wait for nobody and nothing could have been truer for our Group which normally meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. This would have meant missing the peak of the Autumn colours - the total joy that awaited visitors to Sheffield Park during the week ending Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October - so we rescheduled accordingly.



The attached photos [more on page 8] speak themselves - arguably the most breathtaking kaleidoscope of natural colour seen locally for past two or three decades.

A tasty lunch at The Horn's Lodge, South Chailey helped us to appreciate the privilege to which we had been entitled maximised by virtually perfect weather conditions.

*Tom Guy - Group Organiser*

## Update on Groups

In the New Year we have planned set up meetings for a number of **new groups**. These will all take place in the café at The **Trinity Arts Centre at 10.30a.m.** on the dates given below. Together we will aim to put together some ideas and to discuss who will lead the group and when and where meetings will take place. Please note that whilst the management at Trinity are happy to accommodate us, as a matter of courtesy, we would expect to purchase a drink.

**Galleries and Museums Group.** We shall meet on Thursday January 5<sup>th</sup> to relaunch this group with members both old and new.

**Bus Pass and Train Explorers** This is also a relaunch of a long standing group and the meeting will take place on Wednesday January 11<sup>th</sup>.

**A Fifth London Explorer's Group.** This will be set up along the same lines as our other four groups. The aim is to set out once a month to discover interesting, sometimes hidden places, in London. We will meet on Wednesday January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Food Appreciation.** This is a new venture and will appeal to those who like food and social interaction. The set up meeting will be on Friday January 20<sup>th</sup>

For more information or to join or lead a group please contact Jan by [email](#)

Please note: we have not yet had sufficient interest to start up a new Craft Group or Poetry Group but please let me know if you are interested in either of these.

### **News about existing groups**

**Circle Dancing** sessions begin again on the 17<sup>th</sup> February in St Philips Church Hall and run from 10.00 to 11.30 a.m. (No meetings in January). New members are always welcome and are invited to come along and give it a try. For more information or to join the group, please contact Prisca Cardon by [email](#)

Members of the new walking group, **Meanderers**, have enjoyed their first walks. They plan to meet every other Tuesday morning. If you would like to join them, please contact Liz Maclaren by [email](#)

### **Changes to Groups Information**

The information packs sent out in October are due to be updated and this will happen when the new groups have been set up so that their details can be included. May I ask group contacts to check whether any amendments are needed to the present groups listing.

*Jan Sumner  
Groups Coordinator*

## Report on the Monthly Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016



William Benson (left – Chief Executive Officer) and David Jukes (right – Leader of the Council) representing Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, delivered an interesting and comprehensive presentation of the Council’s activities and strategy at our monthly meeting in November. William concentrated on the financial challenges of providing a very broad range of local services on a contracting budget with substantially reducing staff. The full content of his interesting presentation can be seen [here](#), but be warned that it may take a little time to download the 59 slides.

David Jukes presented the Council’s strategy and vision for the future. He set out a number of projects that had recently been delivered or that were in train including an £11m scheme to extend and integrate the library, museum, art gallery and adult education centre. The projects were being funded (in part) by a programme to dispose of land or property that was surplus to requirements by either selling them or transferring them to parishes or community groups. The programme had reduced the cost of maintenance, delivered homes and the finance raised was being invested either in community projects or to produce investment income that can be used to fund the Council’s future services. Income producing assets include the Royal Victoria shopping centre, new shops and flats on the carpark in St John’s and various other residential and business rental properties in the Borough.

David Scott encouraged Members who were interested in discussing many of the issues raised to join the Current Affairs (Local) Discussion Group. This Group meets on the second Tuesday each month.

*David Scott, Treasurer*

### Would you like a Travel Group? →→→

We know that some other U3A groups run popular short breaks and holidays and would like to know if some of our members would be interested if we were to start one up.

These could be in the UK or abroad, special interest trips like bird watching, walking, and cookery or, just a holiday to an interesting place for a group of people who like to travel with their U3A friends rather than on their own. The trips would always be arranged through a travel agent or tour company. If there is enough interest we could benefit from both group discounts and tailor- made itineraries to suit us.

I envisage these trips being organised in much the same way as we currently organise our Outings. That is we have a small committee of volunteers who take it in turns to organise a trip with hopefully all our travellers taking a turn on the committee at some stage. If you are interested in travelling with us, then please let me know by [email](#) by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017. And please also bear in mind that this cannot happen unless enough people volunteer to help out with the organisation.

*Alison Grace*

## EVENTS IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH

We have the following events arranged for January, February and March:

19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Monthly Meeting – Stephen Harmer on The Arts & Crafts Movement & its Gardens
27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Coffee Morning at Trinity
8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	New Members Meeting at the Victoria Suite in the Camden Centre
16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Monthly Meeting – Ian Keable on James Gillray, the Georgian political cartoonist
23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	The Nutcracker at the Churchill Theatre Bromley
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Coffee Morning at Trinity
14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Outing to the St Pancras Hotel and the British Library
16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Monthly Meeting – Russell Bowes on “The Tale of the Tulip”
22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Outing to the St Pancras Hotel and the British Library
30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Outing to the St Pancras Hotel and the British Library
31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Coffee Morning at Trinity

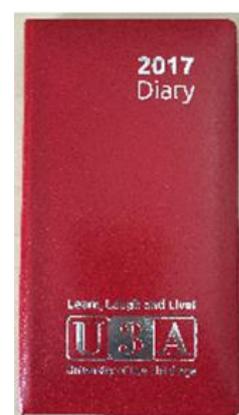
## NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who joined in November & December.

Angela Allen	Maria English	Jean Morton
Sue Anderson	Barbara Featherstone	Irene Neeves
Eelke Andree-Wiltens	David Featherstone	Sandra Padley
Roger Bradbury	Kevin Griffiths	David Pearse
Philip Butchers	Maurice Howes	Margaret Plass
Derek Carey	Trevor Izzard	Antonia Richard
Shirley Carey	Sylvia Joyce	Josephine Wickens
Graham Clark	Christine Knittel	Susan Williams
Lynne Clark	Sandra Leonard	Colin Wood
Michael Clegg	Romy McCabe	
Lizzie Doyle	Louise Minkley	

## USEFUL INFORMATION

<b>Your Committee</b>		
Chairman	Sue Brimlow	01892 863691
Vice-Chairman	Alison Grace	07900 974684
Secretary	Wendy Maher	01892 325272
Treasurer	David Scott	01892 701950
Group Coordinator	Jan Sumner	07900974684
Membership Secretary	Ruth Johnson	01892 523097
Outings Coordinator	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196
Business Secretary	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Newsletter	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805



All contributions to the next newsletter should be emailed to Eryll Fabian by 31<sup>st</sup> January at the latest.  
[fabiantwells.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:fabiantwells.t21@btinternet.com)

**U3A Diaries only £2** : We still have a few **2017 diaries** left and everyone says how useful they are and what good value. I'll bring them to the January meeting, but please [email](#) me or phone 01892 863691 if you'd like one earlier than that.

## SOME NATIONAL EVENTS

### Study Days

**9th March:** the National Gallery will hold a Study Day on Dutch Painting in the age of Rembrandt and Vermeer.

**16th March:** the Royal Institution will hold its traditional Spring meeting for U3A members.

Details of both of the above and how to book will be available in the New Year from the national office and the website members' area.

### Summer Schools

The Southeast Forum's summer schools will be on **19th – 22nd June** at Chichester and details will be released once they are finalised.

The U3A is organising 3 summer schools and details will be available from the beginning of January and **booking opens on January 23rd**. To have the brochure emailed to you join the events mailing list via the events page of the U3A website or email [events@u3a.org.uk](mailto:events@u3a.org.uk).

### Courses

**17th -20th July** at Harper Adams University. Courses are; Cryptic crosswords, France, globalisation, history, literature, maths, recorders, sexuality in the ancient world.

**14th – 17th August** at Royal Agriculture University. Courses are; creative writing, garden history, Latin, literature, music, poetry, Shakespeare and singing.

**11th – 14th September** at Royal Agriculture University. Courses are; Drama, exploring English history, music, opera, singing a cappella, Spanish and writing.

### More of Tom's stunning photos of Sheffield Park



A fair amount of walking  
and quite a few stairs

Tunbridge Wells U3A.

Outing by Train

U3A Members Only

**A MORNING TOUR OF THE HISTORIC ST. PANCRAS RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
AND THEN SPEND THE AFTERNOON AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY**

**TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH, WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH & THURSDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017**  
(We can only take 15 people on each tour, hence the 3 dates)

The fascinating story of the hotel's rise and fall and rise again, is brought to life during a 90 minute tour (with blue badge guide) through the most spectacular parts of the former Midland Grand Hotel. From the characters involved in its creation to the challenges faced by the restoration team. The tour covers all aspects of this truly historic hotel, from the unique stories about the Grand Staircase, to why the Booking Office bar has 173 individually carved diamonds in the wood panelling. After our tour, we will have a short walk to the British Library, where there is a choice of places for lunch. You are free to explore the treasures and beautiful items in the Library, after lunch.

We will be travelling by train from Tunbridge Wells to Charing Cross and then taking the bus to the hotel and St. Pancras Station (**please bring your Bus Pass with you**). On arrival, there will be time for a coffee and comfort stop and to explore this very interesting station with wonderful architectural features, which was saved for the nation by Sir John Betjeman.

- 8.45 am** Meet at Tunbridge Wells Station (please be prompt)
- 9.09 am** Train departs for Charing Cross
- 10.06 am** Arrive Charing Cross. Short walk to catch the number 91 bus
- 10.40 am** (approx), arrive St. Pancras for coffee and comfort stop and time to explore station
- 11.45 am** Meet at THE MEETING PLACE SCULPTURE
- 12.00noon** Hotel tour starts
- 1.30pm** Walk to British Library. Have lunch and then free time at the Library
- 4.15pm** (approx), meet up to catch bus back to Charing Cross

**COST: £29.00** To include, group train fare\* and blue badge guided tour of hotel and admin costs.  
(Refreshments are not included in the cost).

**or £16.00** If you wish to use a railcard and pay your own fare.

(\* if you travel in a group of three or more persons, the cost of a cheap day return to London is the same as when using a railcard)

**Applications (including cheque made payable to Tunbridge Wells U3A and s.a.e. for reply) to:**  
**Mrs Ann Wakeford, 14 The Shaw, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5BD. Tel. 01892 524968.**  
**Mobile on 14th March only 0777 947 8330**

Also available for queries Mrs Pat Micklewright Tel. 01892 537993

Mobile on 22nd March 07530 885 657

Mobile on 30th March to be advised

Please note that once we are committed to paying out money in advance, full refunds will usually only be possible if your place can be taken by another member. You are advised that neither the TWU3A nor the outing organiser will accept responsibility for any mishap of whatever nature during the outing. Members are advised to consider personal injury cover.

**TW U3A Outing to St Pancras Hotel & British Library 14th March or 22nd March or 30th March 2017**

Please reserve.....place/s for this visit. I/we enclose a cheque for £..... and s.a.e.

I/we wish to travel on a group rail ticket ( ) Will buy own rail ticket ( ) (tick **one** box)

I/we shall board the train at Tunbridge Wells Station ( ) High Brooms Station ( ) (tick **one** box)

I/we would prefer to travel on 14th March ( ) 22nd March ( ) 30th March ( ) (tick **one** box)

Which **other** dates could you travel on, if necessary 14th March ( ) 22nd March ( ) 30th March ( )

Name/s ..... U3A Membership no/s.....

Address .....

..... Post code .....

Tel. No..... Mobile No.....

Signed..... Date.....