

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A NEWS

January 2018

www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org



CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

I'd like to wish a very Happy New Year to all our members. I know that this time of year together with the winter weather can be quite isolating for some of our members, so do please consider joining one of our groups, or come to our monthly speaker meetings or coffee mornings.

The latest group information is always on our website, but it is several months since we sent out an updated Groups Diary and Listing so the latest copies are included with this newsletter. Please check through as we regularly start new groups. Not all our suggestions for new groups are taken up, so please don't forget to let us know if there is a potential group that you are interested in joining.

If you're free on the third Thursday of the month, please do consider coming to our monthly speaker meetings. Last year we had a succession of entertaining and informative speakers and our talks' organiser, Margot Pierson, has lined up another set of great speakers for 2018. The subject of the talk doesn't always convey how interesting the talk will be. The Searchlight Regiment and Carriage Driving for example were two talks that we all recall fondly.

We've held two mid-month coffee mornings in the Chamberlain Court Care Home last year and have 2 more booked in the diary for January and February. Following those, we'll review whether to continue them. It's based at 77 Mount Ephraim and the meeting room is very spacious and quiet, compared to the Trinity café. Do check the diary and try and come along and you'll be assured of a warm welcome.

Sue Brimlow, Chairman
suebrimlow@btinternet.com, Tel: 01892 863691

Page CONTENTS

1. Chairman's Update
2. Report on the Outing to Christmas at Kew
3. Outing News; Barn Dance
4. Group Report: The Amblers; Chicago Bridge; Flower Arranging
5. Group Report: Food Appreciation; London Explorers 2 and 4
6. Update on Groups
7. Art Appreciation and Local History Walks programmes
8. 5 Mile Monthly Walking Group; Monthly Meetings; Xmas Party
9. Events; New Members; Useful Information; Important Messages
10. Mottisfont Application Form
11. **Barn Dance** Application Form

COMING UP

MONTHLY MEETINGS
at 2.30pm at the Camden Centre

Thursday 18th January
Fiddle and Faff

Thursday 15th February
The Joys of English

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS
at Trinity from 10.30 – 12.00

Friday 26th January
Friday 23rd February

at Chamberlain Court
from 10.30 – 12.00

Friday 12th January
Friday 9th February

OUR OUTINGS

There will be outings on:

21st and 28th February
to the Royal Albert Hall
These outings are now full

21st March
to Mottisfont (NT)
and Guildford Cathedral
application form on page 10

BARN DANCE



on Saturday 10th March
application form on page 11

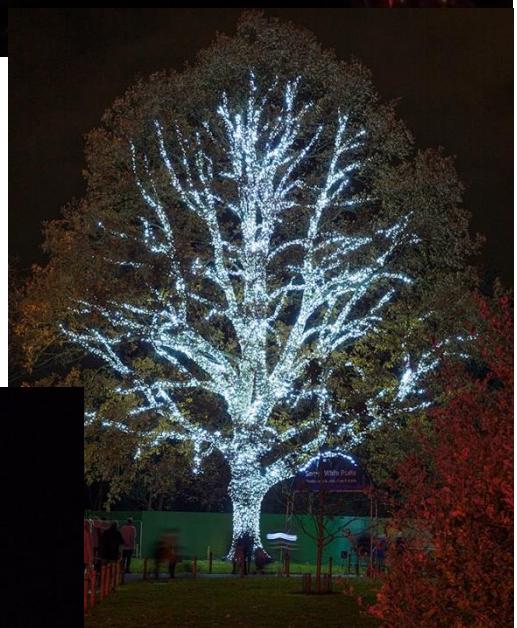
Report on the Outing to Christmas at Kew



Thanks go to Jenny and Linda for arranging such a great trip to see the Christmas Lights at Kew. Arriving in the dark with 49 on our coach we split up and made our way following the lit up pathways where we viewed amazing sights. No rain or wind and a good temperature meant walking for just under one and a half miles was a delight.

Trees were illuminated with snowflake lights on the ground making them look enchanted. A giant floor bauble display lit up in random sequences in response to music. More music played as we stopped on the bridge over the lake, mesmerised by the trees with their changing coloured lights. The flickering Fire Garden was so pretty with its artificial Christmas trees spinning slowly with twinkling lights and naked flames burning beneath in huge candle holders.

There was a giant artificial flower display, a tunnel of lights to walk through and more. The highlight was the laser beams and kaleidoscope projections over the water with the Palm House one minute turning green then red. We could stop for a glass of Cava or mulled wine and toast marshmallows.



Magical, amazing, beautiful, bewitching describes our Kew experience.



So a memorable evening and a speedy journey home.
Sandra McDonald

Photos by
Colin Turner and Stella Westrup



OUTING NEWS

Our outings by train to the Royal Albert Hall in February are full and have a waiting list.

March 21st is a full day out visiting two lovely places. Pat and Stella are taking us to the National Trust property of Mottisfont with a coffee stop and time to explore at Guildford Cathedral on route. Please see details and application form at the end of this newsletter.



We know you enjoy our outings but we really need more help.



Di and Sue are stepping down. Thank you to them for all they have done. For our outings to continue on a monthly basis we would welcome 2 or 3 more people joining the committee. If you could help please e-mail [Sandra McDonald](mailto:Sandra.McDonald@btconnect.com) or phone me on 01892 752196.

Sandra McDonald, Outings Co-ordinator

Barn Dance



Some of you will remember last year's Barn Dance; in fact if you were there it's hard to forget it. It was such a funny and enjoyable evening that we have decided to repeat it. We're using the same formula as last year; you bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles and we'll provide the music, caller and fish and chips. We're holding it at Langton Green Village Hall again and we've added an extra room to make space for more tables and dancers.

We've been able to hold the price to £15, the same as last year. Members were able to bring a guest last year and we hope to offer the same option this year, but if numbers are limited then members will get priority. So put the date in your diary – 10th March – and fill in the application form at the end of the newsletter.



Group Reports



Photo by Zitka Milson

The Amblers held their Christmas Party at the Crow and Gate pub in Crowborough, the highest spot around – not ideal on the snowiest of the year! Despite the snow, 24 of us managed to get there safely and were soon enjoying a jolly lunch.

Eryll Fabian

Chicago Bridge Group

This group has been meeting monthly for about nine years – initially in the Red Cross Hall in St John's but now, more comfortably and conveniently, in Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club.

We hit a new record at our November meeting with eleven tables – unfortunately one of our members was unable to come at the last minute but we coped with forty three people there – “borrowing” someone to bid the “ghost” hands! Of those forty three members six of us were there on 26 February 2009 – the earliest record I could find.

These afternoons have proved relaxing happy occasions and over the years many friendships have blossomed and no doubt, countless games of bridge arranged and played. I certainly value the many new friends I have made.

Diana Brown



Photo by Di Brown

Flower Arranging Group



Photo by Jan Sumner

More fun with foliage and flowers as the group moved into the Christmas season. Mingling the holly and the ivy among carefully placed pine leaves and cones, berries, baubles and red and white carnations, lovely centre pieces were created for the Christmas table. Many thanks to Alison for sharing her skills, and for her endless patience.

Jan Sumner



London Explorers 4 had an interesting day visiting the Old Operating Theatre in St Thomas Street. Through the Courtyard of the George Inn. Onwards to the debtors' prison and the Crossbones Graveyard, an unconsecrated burial ground. Everyone was ready for lunch in The Anchor and finally a visit to the Rose Playhouse. *Suzette E-W*



Here we are, London Explorers 2, in our high viz jackets, taking in the building of props and painting of scenery behind the scenes at the National Theatre in November. And above us one of the puppets used for rehearsals of Warhorse. We visited the Lyttelton and Olivier theatres and the enormous areas behind and beneath, awed by the bustling workshops & the sophisticated pulley systems used for hoisting up scenery.
Jan Sumner



Update on Groups

Happy New Year to all our members.

This is the time to make new resolutions, so let us help you look for new interests and activities. Please note, there are many more on the website and if a group is full, you can always add your name to a waiting list or contact me to start a new group.

The following groups will be set up very soon If you are interested please let me know and please keep looking on the website for dates of set up meetings.

WAG2 A Second Wine Appreciation Group This group will set up in January.
More information will be on the website soon.

Beginners' Spanish 2 Learning Spanish is very popular and the group established in the autumn has got off to a good start so we are ready for a second one.

Garden Visits 2 Following on the success of the original group, we shall set up a second one with visits throughout most of the year.

Out and About Explorers This group will share cars and venture out to discover stately homes, historic villages, castles, festivals and more.

We are also offering

Local Music Events If you would like to join a group to visit live music events at Trinity, The Assembly Hall, The Pantiles or any other nearby venue, please get in touch.

Latin or Ancient Greek A group which will interest those of you with some previous knowledge, intermediate or advanced

A second **Esoteric Philosophy** group Although difficult to define, Esoteric Philosophy has proved very popular and there is now a nucleus for a new group. Please contact Michael Polkinghorne to find out more or for a taster session by [email](#) or 01892 539320

These groups are looking for new members

Discussion Group A Friday morning group which is held twice a month.
Contact Angela Tutin by [email](#) or **01892 724458**

Military, Aviation and Maritime Histories meets in the morning on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Please contact Michael Polkinghorne by [email](#) or 01892 539320 if you would like to know more.

Book Group Volume 2 meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm
Contact Diana Barry by [email](#) or 01892 525325

For more information or to join new groups please contact Jan Sumner, Groups Co-ordinator by [email](#) or phone **01892 860554**

Jan Sumner, Groups Co-ordinator

And see the message from the 5 Mile Monthly Walking Group on page 8 -- Editor

Art Appreciation Group -- Spring 2018 Programme

Firstly, may I wish all our members a very Happy New Year and we hope you will find plenty to enjoy in this second half of Liz Strang's lecture series.

As you will recall our Autumn programme was affected by the lack of blinds in the Main Hall of the Camden Centre and our Spring 2018 lectures have also been slightly altered as a result. Commencing at 2.30 pm, the dates will be:--

Tuesday 16th January: MODIGLIANI: A MISUNDERSTOOD MAN – to link with the current Tate Modern exhibition

Tuesday 20th February: CHARLES THE FIRST: KING & COLLECTOR - to link with the current Royal Academy Exhibition

Tuesday 27th March: THE ART OF EVERYDAY: POTS AND PANS; PEARS AND PLUMS AND AN UNMADE BED – Still Life to Installation Art – held over from last year

***** And an additional talk on Tuesday 17th April: POWER AND PROPAGANDA: WARTS AND ALL: A STUDY OF PORTRAITURE.** Many members have requested a repeat of this session when the slides were rather obscured by the lack of blinds on a very sunny day in September.

We hope you will continue to support us and to enjoy this fascinating series. Our thanks to Liz and also to Peter Costello, Ray Dean and Pat Jessup for their invaluable technical help.

Please will everyone make sure they *check in on arrival* as we need to keep a record of attendances.

Thank you.

[Alison Turner](#) (Group Contact) 01892 526693

Local History Walks 2018

The Local History Walking Group will continue to meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2 pm 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 2018.

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.

Interested new members should contact [Sue Brown](#) or phone 01892 522488.

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, Group Contact*

Provisional dates and walks for 2018:-

27 th March	Decimus Burton walk (meet outside Trinity Theatre)
24 th April	Grove Hill Road etc (meet at entrance to Hooper's car park)
22 nd May	Camden Park (meet at junction Prospect Road/Camden Hill)
26 th June	King Charles & The Pantiles (meet near the bookshop in Chapel Place)
24 th July	Mount Ephraim (meet at the corner by Mt. Ephraim House)
28 th August	Hungershall Park (meet at Fir Tree Road car park)
25 th September	Boyne Park (meet at Mt Ephraim end of Boyne Park)
23 rd October	High Street (meet by bookshop in Chapel Place)



The 5 Mile Monthly Walking Group is able to accept members.

If you enjoy the great outdoors and would like to explore the beautiful countryside which surrounds Tunbridge Wells why not join us on the 2nd Thursday in the month. We are a social group who walk for pleasure and occasionally offer the option of a Pub Lunch.

To find out more [email Joy Podbury](#)

Monthly Meetings

Speakers in early 2018

18th January 2018: Fiddle and Faff

This will be a both musical and spoken presentation by two ladies, Christine Adams and Lissie Bayford known as Fiddle and Faff, entitled A Kentish Garland. You will hear songs, some traditional, some of their own, featuring tales of Kentish characters, with explanations and the stories behind them.

15th February 2018: Tim Moorey: "The Joys of English".

Following his previous talk about Crossword puzzles, Tim proposes to take you through some aspects of our ever-growing language from the perspective of a professional crossword setter.

Not so much academic, his talk once again will be a light-hearted romp through some aspects that fascinate him, and indeed some he exploits in his cryptic clue writing. We may even be invited to crack a couple of cryptic clues (easy if you were paying attention at his previous talk!)

15th March 2018: Tom Way: "Britain through the Seasons".

An award winning fine art wildlife photographer, Tom Way's talk presents an array of British wildlife through our four seasons. Tom will talk about spending hours lying in the snow photographing mountain hares during the cold winter months, to waiting for fox cubs to appear from their den on the long summer evenings. Tom will go into detail about how including the different colours of the year can help improve your images and why photographing in extreme weather conditions can bring out the best in your photos.

And in case Christmas already seems a long time ago, here is a reminder of the excellent Christmas Lunch at the Masonic Hall on 8th December which was attended by 120 members of the Tunbridge Wells U3A.





Events In January and February



We have the following events arranged for January and February:

12 th Jan	Coffee Morning at Chamberlain Court
18 th Jan	Monthly Meeting: Christine Adams and Lissie Bayford, known as Fiddle and Faff , will give a musical and spoken presentation entitled "A Kentish Garland"
26 th Jan	Coffee Morning at Trinity
9 th Feb	Coffee Morning at Chamberlain Court
15 th Feb	Monthly Meeting: The Joys of English , a talk by Tim Moorey taking us through some aspects of our ever-growing language from the perspective of a professional crossword setter.
23 rd Feb	Coffee Morning at Trinity
28 th Feb	New Members' Meeting – by invitation

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

10 th Mar	Barn Dance
15 th Mar	Monthly Meeting: "Britain through the Seasons", a talk by Tom Way
26 th April	Group Contacts' Lunch – by invitation

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined since 1 November 2017:

Sheila Austin	Maureen Brooker	Nada Lyons	Peter Russell
Judy Bailey	Mary Forrester	Pamela Mansfield	David Smith
John Basey	Jenny Gadd	Peter Mansfield	David Walter
Miranda Baston	Glen Goodall	Neil Maxfield	Roy Watson
Martyn Bishop	Yvonne Isaacs	Lisa Percival	David Weatherley

Useful Information and Important Messages

Your Committee		
Chairman	Sue Brimlow	01892 863691
Vice-Chairman	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Secretary	Wendy Maher	01892 325272
Treasurer	David Scott	01892 701950
Group Coordinator	Jan Sumner	01892 860554
Membership Secretary	Ruth Johnson	01892 523097
Outings Coordinator	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196
Business Secretary	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Newsletter	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805

A message from the Editor:

Members' photos and articles about group activities, places visited and anything relating to U3A events are always welcome. We can't guarantee to print them but shall do our best if space allows.

All contributions to the February Newsletter should be e-mailed to [Eryll Fabian](mailto:Eryll.Fabian@btconnect.com)
by 31st January or phone 01892 513805.

National Events

Details of interesting national events appear on the website. They can be found on www.u3a.org.uk or by writing to: The Third Age Trust, 52 Lant Street, London SE1 1RB.

Some stairs and a fair amount of walking

For U3A Members only

A visit to Mottisfont, a National Trust property (which includes a special exhibition of works by Heath Robinson) stopping en route at Guildford Cathedral on Wednesday 21st March 2018

We will travel first to Guildford Cathedral, known as *The People's Cathedral*, in recognition of all those who contributed towards its construction. **It is amongst the top 8% of listed buildings in the country.** Beautiful in its simplicity, the memorable hill-top setting provides wonderful views over surrounding areas. There will be time to explore both internally and outside and also for a coffee and comfort stop.

We then travel on to the charming riverside National Trust property, Mottisfont, where Spring flowers should abound. For lunch – choose between the Old Victorian Kitchen Café or the Coach House Café. Originally founded as an Augustinian priory in 1201, the house has seen a number of transformations over the years, shaped by its varied owners. The buildings were in a state of disrepair, when purchased in 1934 by wealthy society hostess and art lover, Maud Russell. She transformed the house, with a neo-classical and luxurious look, as a backdrop for Mottisfont's glamorous guests, artists and famous visitors.

This creative, artistic tradition continues today, in the form of special exhibitions on the top floor.

Showcasing on our visit will be the quirky machinery and exquisite paintings of Heath Robinson. Whilst he is widely remembered for his detailed drawings of eccentric, complicated contraptions, he was also a talented painter. The exhibition reveals the extraordinary breadth of his work.

8.40am	Coach leaves Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells (opposite Assembly Hall)
9.00am	Coach leaves Southborough Fountain
10.30am	Arrive Guildford Cathedral
11.45am	Coach leaves Guildford Cathedral
1.00pm	Arrive Mottisfont
4.00/4.15pm	Coach leaves Mottisfont
6.00/6.15pm	Arrives Tunbridge Wells/ Southborough

Cost per person - includes entry to Guildford Cathedral (it is free entry but we will give a donation), entry to Mottisfont (and Heath Robinson exhibition), Coach + Gratuities. It does **not** include any refreshments.

Cost of outing for National Trust or Art Fund Members = £16.00 Otherwise, cost of outing = £26.00

Please note that once we are committed to paying out money in advance, full refunds can usually only be given if your place is taken by another U3A member.

Applications - (including cheque payable to 'Tunbridge Wells U3A' + SAE for reply) to **Pat Micklewright, 1 Birling Park Avenue, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5LQ. Tel 01892 537993. Mobile on day 07530 885 657**
Also available for queries: Stella Westrup Tel 01892 523413

Members are advised that neither the TWU3A nor the organiser will accept responsibility for any mishap of whatever nature during the outing. Members are advised to consider personal insurance cover.

TWU3A Outing to Guildford Cathedral and to Mottisfont on Wednesday 21st March 2018

Please reserveplace/s for this visit. I/we enclose a cheque for £.....and SAE
National Trust member/s Yes () No () If Yes, please give NT number/s
Art Fund member/s Yes () No () If Yes, please give Art Fund number/s

I/we will join the coach at Crescent Road* @ 8.40am () Southborough Fountain* @ 9.00am ()
*tick appropriate box

Name/s..... U3A Membership No/s

Address.....

Tel. No..... Signed..... Date

SPRING BARN DANCE

Date: Saturday 10th March

Time: 7.30 to 10.30

Venue: Langton Green Village Hall TN3 0JJ

Price: £15 to include fish and chip supper.

Bring your own drinks, nibbles and glasses



Abbey Capers will be providing the music again and have promised that they'll gear the evening to our capabilities and will alternate between dance and music to listen to, if we need time to get our breath back. Priority will be given to U3A members, but if numbers permit you are welcome to bring a guest.

To reserve a place please complete the slip below and send it with your cheque made payable to **TW U3A** to:

Sue Brimlow, 1 The Grange, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 0HR

Receipts will be emailed or enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope if you prefer confirmation by post.



Please retain the above for information.

I/We wish to attend the U3A Barn Dance and enclose a cheque for £15 per person made payable to **TWU3A**.

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone No:

Email address:

Details of any dietary requirements

I enclose a cheque for £..... (£15 per person)