

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



During 2022 TWu3a gradually returned to “normal” after the pandemic. Probably nothing will ever be exactly the same, but it very encouraging that most of our groups are now in full swing and we have a lively programme of outings and events. Three unusual one-off events are advertised below: Greg Clark’s talk about his role as Chairman of the parliamentary Science and Technology Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January, Paddock Wood’s study day on Climate Change on 7<sup>th</sup> February and Malling District’s study day, “Journey into Space”, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Though we are enormously grateful to the TW Christian Fellowship for allowing us to hold our monthly meetings there, our return to the Camden Centre from this month means that we can also resume the book and jigsaw exchanges. Would you like to help run them? The books and jigsaws are stored in the Camden Centre, so all that is required is for you to arrive early at the monthly meeting, set up the table, and man it during the meeting – a fun job which could easily be shared. Please contact me if you are interested.

We are also looking for someone to take over from [Bob Slater](#) as Talks Organiser. No one responded to the notice in last month’s Newsletter which surprised me as this is an interesting role with plenty of scope. Please contact Bob for more information if you think it might interest you.

By the time you receive this, 2023 will be in full swing. The Committee and I hope that it will be a very happy and healthy year for you all.

[Eryll Fabian](#) (01892 513805)

### Coming up this month

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan:**

**Monthly meeting: A Home of Smiles: Celebrating Tunbridge Wells history of welcoming Basque and Jewish child refugees, 1937-1950**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan:**

**Coffee morning at Trinity**



**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb:**

**Monthly meeting: an archaeological overview of new sites in the Tunbridge Wells area**

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## Hybrid Monthly Meeting at the **Camden Centre**

Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm

### *Home of Smiles*

***Celebrating Tunbridge Wells history of welcoming Basque and Jewish child refugees 1937-1950***      ***By Anne Goldstein***



In 1937, sixty Basque children arrived at The Beacon in Happy Valley, fleeing the Spanish Civil War. Local historian Anne Goldstein will tell the inspiring story of the traumatised children who found happiness in our town and the tireless local community who funded the effort. The 'niños vascos' were followed by Jewish refugee children escaping Nazi oppression in 1938.

Anne is one of our members and has researched this little known piece of local history. Her talk will resonate with those who have recently helped Ukrainian refugees and remind us all of Holocaust Memorial Day on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

### **There is still time to sign up for Greg Clark's Talk on 27<sup>th</sup> January**

The Science and Technology Group have kindly invited any member of TWu3a who is interested to join them at 2.30 on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January** when **Greg Clark**, our MP, will be speaking to them about his role as **Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Science and Technology**.

Please note that this will NOT be an opportunity to raise matters of local or political interest as it is a science and technology group meeting.

Please let [Sandra Blacker](#) (telephone 01892 459127) know if you would like to attend **before 13<sup>th</sup> January** and she will tell you where the meeting will take place.

## **Monthly Meeting at the Camden Centre - Thursday 16th February 2.30**

**An archaeological overview of new sites in the Tunbridge Wells area**  
**By Nigel Stapple**



Toad Rock stone circle



Rusthall Dig



## u3a CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES



## Outings Coordinator

Our last outing of the year was to Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest to see the beautiful festive lights a full review of this trip follows the outing news.

We are now busy planning 2023's monthly outings and I hope to let you know the details of our future trips in February's Newsletter.

If you enjoy these monthly outings why not join our small outings committee to organise arranging these lovely trips. Please contact me on 07504919081 or by email to [jyoutings@gmail.com](mailto:jyoutings@gmail.com).

*Joan Young*, Outings Coordinator

### December's trip to the illuminated trail at Bedgebury Pinetum

Our coach for this excursion left Tunbridge Wells at 3pm and we arrived at Bedgebury just as the light was fading. The Visitor Centre / café was our first port of call and introduced us to things to come. The view overlooking the lake to the "Fire Garden" installation was spectacular, hundreds of flickering golden flames lit up the night sky.

The "trail" started from the Visitor Centre and meandered through a landscape of trees clothed by the lights in shades of purple and gold, pinks and greens. The changing colours created an illusion that the trees were swaying in time to the music. Foot tapping was the order of the day with every installation along the trail accompanied by syncopated music. Here and there strategically placed kiosks offered marshmallows for the children to toast and mulled wine for everyone else.



The "dancing" trees reflected in the waters of the lake, the drama of the fire garden, the huge silver moon and stars created on the ground and above all the soaring strains of "O Holy Night" as we walked through the tunnel of light were truly magical.



*Bedgebury - Electric Forest 4 & 13 by Dave-Gray CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.*

A special thank you has to be given to Sandra Chandhani for not only organising this final outing of the year, a perfect lead up to Christmas, but also for bravely helping our driver on the way home by setting off, torch in hand, to walk ahead of the coach down a very dark country lane to warn the stream of cars coming towards us to cling to the side of the road in order to allow our coach through. Over and above the call of duty!

*Sheila Casey*



## Groups Coordinator Update

The **Booker Prize Book Group** is holding its first meeting at the Old Auction House on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January when they will discuss their views on "Something To Answer For" by PH Newby. More details from [Mark](#)

The new **Environmental Issues** group is hoping to hold their start-up meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January. More details from the Groups Coordinator.

**A reminder that there are still 3 groups in need of a group contact:**

**Posh Nosh Diners 2** (an evening eating group) held an initial start-up meeting in September but are still waiting for an offer to co-ordinate the group before it can start meeting and eating.

A 7<sup>th</sup> **London Explorers** group is also on hold until a group contact comes forward. Existing LEX group contacts are willing to offer help and advice about the format and possible places to visit.

**Out & About group 2** is likely to stop meeting unless a replacement group contact comes

We would like to start another **Breakfast Brunchers** so if you would like to join please register your interest.

The "**Groups with Spaces**" list is available at the monthly coffee morning, can be emailed out to members upon request and will be on the display boards at our monthly meetings at The Camden Centre. Please contact the Groups Coordinator or visit the Groups page of the website for more detailed group information.

[Lindsay Hasell](#), Groups Coordinator

**London Explorers Group 4** had their Christmas lunch at the Nevill Crest & Gun, enjoying good food and excellent company. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

*Suzette Elliott-West*



### Walk On The Wildsiders

had a chilly but beautiful walk at Dunorlan Park in December and indulged themselves afterwards with a warming visit to the café.

### Out and Abouters at Scotney Castle



## Group News

**London Explorers Group (2)** On a bright, clear, chilly morning 8 of us travelled up to London to go to the Transport Museum. Covent Garden was in festive mood, with street sellers, tourists and entertainers out in force. Our eyes popped out on stalks when we saw one guy performing just in his boxer shorts! It was freezing!!

Fortunately for us the Museum was close by, and after a crafty bit of haggling by Mike we got in for two for the price of one!

After a much needed coffee and snack in the suitably decorated Transport Cafe, we set off to travel back 200 years to the days of sedan chairs and horse drawn transportation. The displays were well presented and informative, with plenty of hands-on exhibits where children could “have a go!”. (A potential visit with grandchildren in mind!)

We travelled through time, reading with interest that the city's transport system relied on over 50,000 horses which all had to be stabled and fed locally. The coming of the railways started to change this but also meant that there was a large scale destruction of buildings displacing about 100,000 people, mostly poor, who were given no compensation for the loss of their homes.

Social history was clearly represented, with the impact of travel on women, the two world wars, and the Windrush era when many immigrants arrived expecting to find skilled work but had little choice but to work for London Transport. Coming up to date we were relieved that there were no train strikes that day and our journeys were easy and on-time!

*Anne Golds*



## Camden Road Winter Lantern Parade



Would any u3a members like to help promote TWu3a by joining the Camden Road Winter Lantern Parade to be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February?

The 2023 theme is “**Our Secret Garden**” and it is hoped that those interested would meet in January to make lanterns to carry in the parade.

More details from the [Groups Coordinator.](#)



# Paddock Wood u3a

## Climate Change

# The Natural World Under Threat

Tuesday, 7th February 2023 9.15—16.30

St. Andrew's Church Paddock Wood TN12 6DZ

- 9.15     **Registration**     **Coffee/tea available**
- 10.00     **Welcome**     Charles May, PWu3a Climate Change group
- 10.10     **Oceans and Forests: Saving the Planet's Life Support Systems**  
John Halladay, Greenpeace
- 11.00     **Break**
- 11.20     **Biodiversity Loss**     Tim Marks, PWu3a
- 12.10     **Climate Change and Farming: The Answer Lies in the Soil**  
Howard Lee, Hadlow College
- 13.00     **Luncheon. Pubs and cafes in Paddock Wood or bring a packed lunch.**  
**Complimentary tea and coffee served.**
- 14.00     **Tech Solutions to the Climate Crisis**     Charles May, PWu3a
- 14.30     **Climate Change and the Countryside**     David Mairs, CPRE
- 15.00     **Reducing Carbon Footprint**     Matthew Bailey, TWBC
- 15.30     **Zero Carbon Policy**     Sarah Hamilton, KCC
- 16.00     **National Policy and Targets on Climate Change**     John Hurst, Green Party
- 16.30     **Close**

**Tickets £7**

**To book, contact: [neilmlynn@googlemail.com](mailto:neilmlynn@googlemail.com)**

**Pay by BACS: Account name Paddock Wood U3A**

**Sort code 54-21-25    Account number 25892509 (give ref. CC and your name)**



# **Journey into Space - Exploring Worlds Beyond Our Own.**

**Malling District u3a is organising a**

## **Study Day**

**on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
in Ryarsh Village Hall. ME19 5LS  
from 10am until 3.15pm.**

*in the morning -*

**Explore the galaxies from inside an Astrodome  
Watch excerpts from the International Space Station**

*in the afternoon -*

**Speakers: 'Our Night Sky' – Arthur Fentaman FRAS  
'Exploding Stars & Black Holes' – Ian Hargraves FRAS**

**Bring a packed lunch – tea and coffee provided.**

Let no-one be deterred by thinking that all this is 'beyond our ken'.  
We look forward to welcoming you to what will be a fascinating day.

**Numbers are limited to 80,  
so please make sure you reserve your place now.**

**Places for the day will cost £10**

**If you would like to reserve a place please  
contact David Salvage on**

**01622 672985 or  
treasurer@mallinguistrictu3a.org.uk**



## Important information

### Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

19 Jan 2023	Monthly meeting: <b><i>Celebrating Tunbridge Wells history of welcoming Basque and Jewish child refugees 1937-1950</i></b>
27 Jan 2023	Science & Technology Group Talk by Greg Clark, MP
16 Feb 2023	Monthly meeting: <b><i>An archaeological overview of new sites in the Tunbridge Wells area</i></b>

## New members

A big welcome to our **5** new members in December.

**Anthony Edwards   Wendy Jane Edwards   Lesley Glencross**

**Steve Glencross and Alan Smith**

## Your Committee

Chairman	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805
Vice-Chair	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196
Secretary	Fiona Findlay	07872 169146
Treasurer	David Brimlow	01892 860598
Group Coordinator	Lindsay Hasell	01892 673180
Membership Secretary	Judy Horwood	01892 537601
Outings Coordinator	Joan Young	01892 546687
Short Breaks & Holidays	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196
Events Coordinator	Philippa Bernstein	01892 523132
Newsletter	Bridget Sands	01892 546161

## A Message from the Editor

Any publication is only as good as its contributors and I do hope you will continue to support the Newsletter as it is such an easy and effective way to communicate with you all. If you have a great idea for an article or there is anything interesting you would like to see in the newsletter in the future please let me know.

If anyone objects to their photo being reproduced in this Newsletter, please contact me as soon as possible.

All contributions for the **February** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by January 31<sup>st</sup> at the latest (**earlier submissions are very welcome!**) or phone 01892 546161.

## u3a Office



Keep up to date with u3a Office news on the website:  
[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) or write to:

The Third Age Trust, Room 104, Lenta Business Centre,  
156 Blackfriars Rd, London SE1 8EN