

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A NEWS

October 2018



THE UNIVERSITY OF
THE THIRD AGE

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

I'm writing this on the last day of September and the end is in sight on the renewal process. Do please see my report on subscriptions in the newsletter for important information on renewals. If you don't renew by the end of October, this will be your last newsletter.

The really good news is that Joan Young has offered to take over the role of **Outings Coordinator**. I'm sure you will all welcome Joan in this role and we look forward to the 2019 outings.

Thanks too, for the members who answered my plea for volunteers. The events sub-committee is up and running and has already booked their first event: the ever popular Barn Dance will be on 6th April next year. Of course, the more people that are involved, the more we can do, so please read Marilyn's article later on.

The Health and Wellbeing sub-committee had a slower start. We had an initial meeting with lots of good ideas but we need more help as currently there are only 2 members on the sub-committee. If you have nursing or medical experience, please contact me for more information and to see if you can help.

Finally, we held a very successful new member's meeting in September. We've had over 100 new members in the last 6 months and 40 of them were able to join us. We held the meeting in the main hall at the Camden Centre to give us more room and some of the Group Contacts gave a brief description of their groups. Quite a few members signed up to groups on the spot, so we will definitely use this approach again.

[Sue Brimlow](#), *Chairman*, Tel: 01892 863691

COMING UP

MONTHLY MEETINGS

at 2.30pm at the Camden Centre

Thursday 18th October
The Short-Haired Bumblebee
a talk by Dr Nikki Gammans

Thursday 15th November
Wonder Workers
and the Art of Illusion
a talk by Bertie Pearce

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

at Trinity from 10.30 – 12.00

Friday 26th October



Friday 30th November

OUR OUTINGS

There will be an outing on:

12th & 13th October
One night stopover
To Blenheim, Oxford etc.



Outings will resume
In February 2019

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Annual Subscription: Have you RENEWED YET?

This year's renewal process has gone more smoothly than last year. My target was to reduce the overpayments to 50 but this time over 60 people paid their subscriptions twice – **that's at least 6% of our members!** This obviously creates a lot of extra work for our Treasurer, Chairman and Membership Secretary as well as being frustrating for you. I think the ingenuity of members meant we had every combination of overpayment, but the most common was **standing orders**. The mandates were on membership forms in the past and many people were unaware they had set one up. If you still have a standing order to U3A, it would be most helpful if you would contact your bank to **cancel it now** so that the same thing does not happen next year.

A quarter of our members have set up direct debits, which is a very helpful. Please note that the entry on your bank statement will show as **Go-Cardless**. If you get a detailed statement it will show the TWU3A reference.

During this process, we wrote to all our members to make sure our contact details are correct. Please do let us know if you move or change your email address.

There are quite a few members who have not yet renewed. By the time you receive this newsletter all those members will have been contacted. If you are one of them, please either renew or let us know that you no longer wish to be a member, as soon as possible. Membership automatically lapses if it hasn't been renewed by the end of October.



Events Sub-Committee

We are looking for members to join our events sub-committee. This is a newly formed team with our first event being a **Barn Dance** arranged for 6th April next year. We would like to arrange more events in the New Year to help keep our U3A activities varied to suit all members. Ideas for future events include a quiz night with ploughman's supper, and an afternoon tea with board games.

If you would be prepared to join our team, and organise just one event a year, along with another team member, please contact either:

[Sue Brimlow](#) or phone 01892 863691

or

[Marilyn Smart](#) or phone 01892 510194

There will be plenty of assistance at hand from Sue or Marilyn and others who have organised events in the past, including documentation of past arrangements.

Marilyn Smart



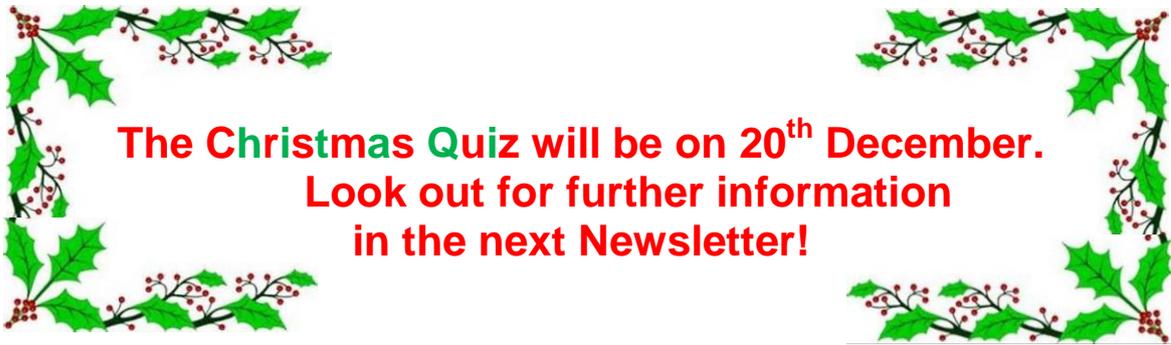
Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch on Friday 7th December

Last year's Christmas lunch in the Masonic Hall was a great success and we shall be returning there again this year. We hope that many of you will join us for what will, we are sure, be another delicious meal.

The hall is in St John's Road and is easily accessible. It is on several bus routes and has plenty of free parking.

The application form is on page 10.



**The Christmas Quiz will be on 20th December.
Look out for further information
in the next Newsletter!**

And, with the New Year in Mind ...



The **U3A 2019 Diary** is now available at **£2.50**.

They will be available for sale at our monthly meetings. If you are unable to attend a meeting, please phone Jo or Brian Bailey on **01732 668548** to reserve one.



Report on the Outing to Arundel Castle



Thank you to Lynne assisted by Pat for such a lovely trip to Arundel Castle.

Set high on a hill in 40 acres of ground the castle dominated the area as we approached and although much of it was completely rebuilt in Victorian times it is what you want in a castle with its picture postcard towers and crenellated walls.

Rather windy and with some drizzle in the air, we alighted from the coach and then made our way uphill. Some walked and others availed themselves of the excellent buggy service. Refreshed by a

coffee stop in what used to be the servants hall and then a comfort stop (the lady's loo is in what used to be the bakery) we began to explore.

You needed to be fit to climb the 131 steps up to the 11thC Norman Keep but I am assured it was well worth it for the spectacular views.

Arundel Castle has been the family home of the Dukes of Norfolk and their ancestors for nearly 1,000 years and is currently the home of the 18th Duke of Norfolk. Their portraits dominate a long gallery.



Exploring the state rooms at first meant dodging around some foreign language tour groups but these soon spread out and there was plenty of space. The long halls were impressive with paintings, furnishings, stained glass windows and period furniture at every turn. Ceilings throughout the castle were beautifully carved. In the dining room

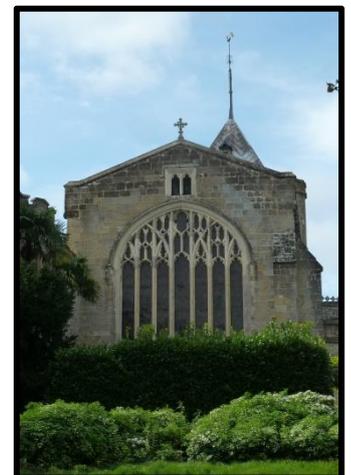


in a glass case it was chilling to see the gold rosary beads that Mary Queen of Scots took with her to her execution! The stunning Regency library fitted out in carved mahogany was amazing with its showcases of 1000s of beautifully bound books. The wonderful private chapel was beautiful although not being allowed inside we could only gaze down onto it from above.

A walk or lift by buggy meant discovering the superb themed gardens framed by the beautiful Cathedral. Wow is the best description. With water features reminiscent of the Alhambra, eye catching extensive borders, flower gardens bursting with colour, a wild flower meadow, kitchen gardens, and a concentrically mowed lawn, it was hard to leave.



But after a very successful day it was time to board the coach and make our way back home.



*Sandra McDonald
Photos by Stella Westrup*

OUTINGS REPORT

It is wonderful news that TWU3A outings can continue. Enormous thanks to Joan Young, who has come forward to take over the post of Outings Co-ordinator. Joan and members of the outings committee are set to meet on Wednesday 17th October to make decisions on our first couple of outings in 2019. Further Information will be in the November Newsletter.

Our outings began in a small way shortly after TWU3A was formed in 1991. Several ladies were involved in those early days - Marlis Evans, Enid Fisher and Iris Wilcox. Then Marian McNay took over and then, when she became TWU3A Chairman, Dennis (+ Alison) Turner took charge and built up the outings committee to facilitate the many wonderful outings which took place between 2003 and 2012 under his leadership. Since then, we have built on this model and have organised some sixty outings to a wide variety of places.

The weather was somewhat overcast when we went to Arundel in September but this did not dampen our spirits. The Castle and Grounds were splendid/well worth a visit and so thanks to Lynne for organising this. The October overnight stopover to Blenheim Palace, Oxford and Hughendon Manor has involved a fair amount of organising by Sandra McDonald and Sue Brimlow. Thanks to them both for persevering. Looking forward to hearing how it all went.

Pat Micklewright on behalf of the Outings Committee

Pat has not mentioned her own terrific contribution to the outings committee – thank you, Pat!

GROUP REPORTS

LONDON EXPLORERS 4



Text and photos of Fenton House by Suzette Elliott-West, Group Contact

Today's visit was to Hampstead Heath to see two National Trust properties. Firstly, Willow Road, designed by Erno Goldfinger in the 1930s. Second visit to Fenton House, 17th century, very interesting and beautiful garden. The day was organised by Liz Laury and Iain Combe, (Iain is the one in the deck chair, clearly, it was all a bit too much for him).



LONDON EXPLORERS 2



In September we visited the **HQS Wellington** which is moored alongside the Victoria Embankment in London and is the last surviving WWII escort ship which operates today as the world's only floating livery company for The Honourable Company of Master Mariners. Following a most interesting and informative tour of the ship by The Master of the Livery Company, Angus Menzies, the group enjoyed a fish & chip lunch on the top deck of the Tattershall Castle floating pub/restaurant in glorious sunshine.

Text and photo by David Walter

DIGITAL IMAGING INTERMEDIATE GROUP II



On 19 September, the less than clement weather prompted our group to visit **Quebec House**, the home of General James Wolfe who was born on the 2nd January 1727 into a family of distinguished politicians, judges and army officers.

The Wolfe's were close to the Warde family of Squerryes Court, Westerham. Wolfe's boyhood friend George Warde was later to achieve fame as Commander-in-Chief in Ireland where he crushed the Irish Rebellion of 1798 and repelled two French Invasions in 1796 & 1798.

By the age of 21, Wolfe had served in seven military campaigns and despite bouts of ill-health (tuberculosis?), he made great efforts to be as fit as possible both mentally and physically. In 1752, he was granted extended leave but obliged to return to his regiment when, in 1754, Britain's declining relationship with France made another war appear inevitable.

Following Wolfe's involvement with the raid on Rochefort (1757) and the siege of Louisbourg (1758), William Pitt the Elder decided to promote him, over the heads of many senior officers, to lead the British assault on Quebec City the following year. After advancing up the river St Lawrence, Wolfe's army lay siege to the city for three months but when both an extensive bombardment and an attack from the north failed, he conceived a bold and risky plan, an amphibious landing at the base of the cliffs to the west of the city which the Marquis de Montcalm, the French Commander, wrongly considered unclimbable. The resultant battle on the Plains of Abraham resulted in the French being defeated after only 15 minutes during which Wolfe was shot three times, the last in the chest being fatal.

His example of military leadership was so revered, in artistic terms, he became the archetypal military hero; all others who followed were fitted into his mould.

In 1907, Quebec House was tenanted by Canadian journalist and author, William Beckles, who transcribed Wolfe's writings into the definitive work, *Wolfe's Life and Letters*. The house was offered for sale in 1912 but rumours that a wealthy American was planning to buy and transport it to the USA prompted a campaign to save it which resulted in its acquisition by Joseph Learmont, a Canadian philanthropist. On his demise, his will devised the house to the National Trust to be 'utilised and maintained in perpetuity in memory of the late Major General Wolfe'. It officially passed to the Trust on 12 September 1918.

Over lunch at the Vauxhall Inn, Tonbridge, the group concluded that Quebec House has been much revitalised in recent years.



Tom Guy, Group Contact

UPDATE ON GROUPS

FOLK SINGING GROUP

This group will now have had a first meeting in Saint John's Yard. If you would like to know dates of future gatherings or join the group please contact [Bob Kenward](#) or phone 01892 529737 (mobile 07885 642763) leaving a message with your phone number if Bob is not available.

MEDIEVAL EUROPE: IT'S ART ACHIEVEMENTS AND EVERYDAY LIFE

Pat Wright's discussion sessions will be held on the first and third Wednesday of the month, starting on October 17th. Contact [Pat Wright](#) or phone 01892 750312.

New Groups [for more information contact me, Jan Sumner, details below]

OUT AND ABOUT EXPLORERS

For those of you who would like to visit places of interest round and about in Kent and Sussex. It has been proposed that outings take place on Saturdays or Sundays and car sharing will be encouraged so don't be put off if you don't drive. The choice of visits will depend on the group but is likely to include National Trust properties, Vineyards, Gardens, parks etc.

TEA AND POETRY

If you enjoy reading poetry and would like to share with others, please get in touch. The group may decide to choose a certain poet each time or a theme. Come along with your own ideas.

ITALIAN CONVERSATION

For those with some knowledge of Italian who would like to work with others of similar level to practise conversation skills.

LATIN OR GREEK

For those with some knowledge of the language.

Groups looking for new members

CRIBBAGE The group meets every second and fourth Monday at the Trinity Theatre. There are now vacancies and Jeff is hoping someone may be willing to take over as contact as he will be away over the winter months. Contact [Jeff Perry](#) or phone 01892 532429.

CROCHET A group who are making progress through helping one another and will welcome you whatever your level. Meetings are on the first Monday and third Wednesday of the month. Contact **Sue Bailey** on 01892 528836.

CYCLING GROUP

Alternate Tuesdays from 10.00am. About 2 hours with a snack stop. Dates in October are the 9th and 23rd. Please contact [Richard Martin](#) or 07803 267706.

TEN PIN BOWLING This is a very friendly group and you are welcome to come along and give it a go. Bowlers meet every Tuesday morning at Knights Park. Please contact [Lynn Brown](#) or 01892 543756 for more information.

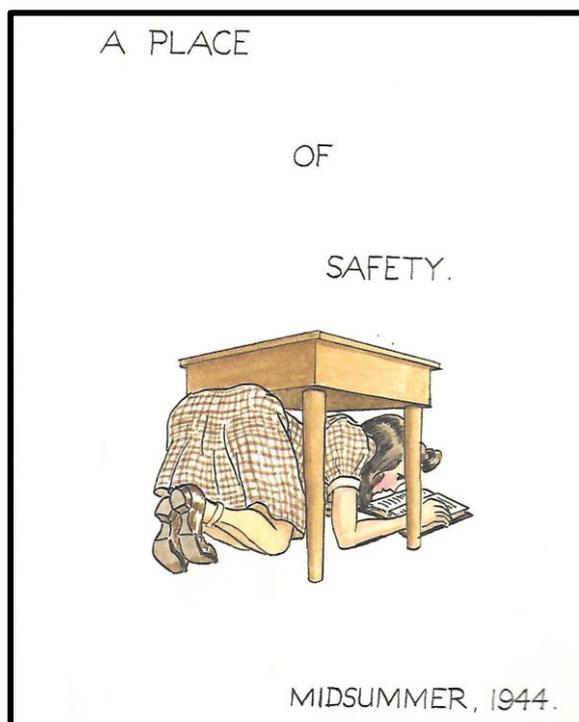
Volunteers needed

BEGINNERS FRENCH is looking for someone to lead this group which meets on alternate Thursday mornings from 10.00 to 11.30 in a central Tunbridge Wells location. Contact [Jill Scott](#) or phone 07710 095175.

SPANISH INTERMEDIATE would welcome some help from anyone fluent in the language, maybe just an occasional session to come and talk with us. Meetings are on 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons. The contact is [Helen Bright](#) or phone 01892 527527.

For more information or to join new groups please contact [Jan Sumner](#), Groups Coordinator or phone 01892 860554

Report on the September Monthly Meeting



Miss Keen's illustration of a pupil taking an exam during an air raid!

Reproduced by kind permission of Mary Smith

In her nostalgic talk '**A Schoolgirl's War**' Mary Smith took us back to Maidstone during the Second World War and with a selection of drawings by the art teacher, Miss Helen Keen, and historic and contemporary photographs we relived the lives of the pupils of Maidstone Grammar School and the evacuees who had joined them from King's Warren School, Plumstead.

Miss Keen's lively paintings of staff and girls were full of detail and she had a keen sense of the absurd. Her illustrations of the possible effects of Ministry regulations made us all laugh.

Fortunately Mary had been able to trace many of the old girls from that time and they had given her vivid accounts of their experiences of having lessons sitting in a cold and damp air raid shelter underground.

It bought back many memories for me, and perhaps to others in the audience as well. It was also interesting to hear how the School is using recently uncovered dugouts in the grounds to teach local primary students about the realities of the War.

Ann Bates

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

18th October: a talk by **Dr Nikki Gammans FRES**, the project manager for the short-haired bumblebee reintroduction project which was voted runner up in the 2016 BBC Countryfile wildlife success project of the year! She comes highly recommended as an expert speaker on the unusual subject of the short haired bumblebee, *Bombus subterraneus*, which is one of 27 bumblebee species native to the UK but which was declared extinct here in 2000. Her talk will introduce the three types of bee and how to identify them, and she will tell us about their ecology, lifecycle, decline and the reasons why. Finally she will also discuss how we can help especially focusing on gardening.

15th November: **Bertie Pearce:** "Wonder Workers and the Art of Illusion". Always popular, Bertie Pearce is returning with a whistle stop tour of the history of mystery from 3000BC to the 21st century and be careful! – you might be amazed and bewitched.

20th December: There will be no talk in **December** as there will be the Christmas Quiz instead.



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 **November** Newsletter should be e-mailed to [Eryll Fabian](#) by 31st October (**earlier submissions will be welcome!**) or phone 01892 513805.



Useful Information and Important Messages

Events in October and November

We have the following events arranged for October and November

17 th Oct.	National Gallery Visit with Gayna Pelham – by arrangement
18 th Oct.	Monthly Meeting: a talk by Dr Nikki Gammons on the short-haired bumblebee
22 nd Oct.	Science Study Day: Time, Space and Conservation – by ticket
26 th Oct.	Coffee Morning at Trinity
15 th Nov.	Monthly Meeting: Wonder Workers and the Art of Illusion, a talk by Bertie Pearce
30 th Nov.	Coffee Morning at Trinity

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

7 th Dec.	Christmas Lunch: By ticket. Application form on page 10
20 th Dec.	Monthly Meeting: Christmas Quiz
6 th April	Barn Dance

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined since 31 August:

Sheila Alexander	Jackie Heyes	Moira Millar	Gillian Sandys	Robert Wainwright
Gilia Barnes	Katie Hill	Carole Minkey	Blanche Sas	Suzanne West
John Cook	Shally Hunt	Rodney Minkey	Christine Scott	Victor West
Lynne Cook	John Kirby	Vivien Murray	John Scott	Gerald White
Maureen Davidson	Sheila Kirby	James Robinson	Anne Spilsbury	Chris Woodward
Kate Folland	Pauline Leake	Sandy Rowntree	Stephen Thomas	Jenny Woodward
Paula Gardner	Angela Leigh	William Rowntree	Alison Thorn	
Reyn Hauff	Jane Lloyd	David Royal	Neil Thorn	
Denise Herbert	Elizabeth Love	Elaine Royal	Maureen Utting	

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	Joan Young	01892 546687
Business Secretary	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Newsletter	Eryll Fabian	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



TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A

CHRISTMAS LUNCH ON FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2018

Please join us at the **Masonic Hall, St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells** at **12.30 for 1.00pm.**

£24 per person includes a welcoming drink of wine or fruit juice, a delicious three course Christmas lunch and gratuities.

Prawn Cocktail
 or
 Broccoli and Stilton Soup
 ~~~~~  
 Roast Turkey  
 or  
 Salmon with lemon butter sauce and crushed new potatoes  
 or  
 Butternut Squash Risotto\*\* (*vegetarian*)  
 with a selection of fresh vegetables  
 and all the trimmings  
 ~~~~~  
 Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
 or
 Chocolate Roulade with Kirsch dressing
 or
 Bailey's Crème Brulee
 or
 Cheese and biscuits
 ~~~~~  
 Coffee or Tea

NB. We only need to pre-order vegetarian meals

Please send completed application form together with your cheque for ticket(s) to **Eryll Fabian, 5 Broadwater Court, Broadwater Down, Tunbridge Wells TN2 5PB.**

**Your ticket(s) will be emailed to you. If you require a paper copy please send a SAE. As you will need to exchange your ticket for your welcome drink please bring it with you**

Queries to [Sue Brimlow](#) or phone 01892 863691  
 or [Eryll Fabian](#) or phone 01892 513805

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I/We enclose cheque for £ ..... made payable to **Tunbridge Wells U3A**

Name ..... Membership no.....

Email address..... Phone no.....

*If you are paying for a U3A friend please include their details below*

Name ..... Membership no.....

Email address..... Phone no.....

\*\* I/We would like .....vegetarian meals