

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



**u3a Day is celebrated around the country!**

We had a steady stream of enquiries about TWu3a at our gazebo beside the Millennium Clock on u3a Day and it was good to see some of you there. Our aim is to make u3a better known and you can all help by telling friends and acquaintances about us.

At long last, the Barn Dance, which had been postponed because of the pandemic, was held this month. It was a most enjoyable evening -- the band was great, the dancing was fun, and the fish and chips were delicious.



TWu3a for years – new members have ideas and skills which would help to keep the movement up-to-date. So whether you are an old-timer or a new broom, if you are a good organiser or if you do not like organising but have secretarial skills, please contact me as soon as possible.

[Eryll Fabian](mailto:eryll.fabian@twu3a.org.uk) (01892 513805)

None of our events and activities arrange themselves. Everything we do is organised by members. If we cannot find members willing to help with its administration, **TWu3a will cease to exist.** It was very disappointing, therefore, that we received no response to our notice in last month's Newsletter inviting you to attend committee meetings to find out whether you would like to volunteer. You do not need to have been involved with

### Coming up this month

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct:**  
**Monthly meeting: Aspens support for people with autism & learning disabilities**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Oct:**  
**Coffee morning at Trinity**



## Inside this issue

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Hybrid Monthly Meeting at the **Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship Hall.**  
Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm

**Susan Sawyer**

## **Aspens support for people on the autistic spectrum and other learning disabilities**

Aspens mission is to provide high quality care and support to individuals on the autism spectrum and with learning disabilities; meeting their needs and aspirations and empowering them to learn and grow through an integrated network of services across the South-East. Susan is the official Fundraiser for Aspens, but has been involved with the charity for over 8 years. The local face of this charity, as many of you know, is their site in Cornford Lane, Pembury supported by The Friends and Parents of Pepenbury,



The banner features the Aspens logo (Care · Support · Empower) on the left. In the center, a purple speech bubble says "Passionate about supporting others to live life to its full potential?" Below it is a pink button that says "Join our team!". On the right, a purple speech bubble contains a quote: "After my first shift I knew this was the place I wanted to be." attributed to Scott, Positive Behaviour Support Lead, next to a small circular photo of a smiling man. At the bottom right is the hashtag #MoreThanAJob. Social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are on the left, with the URL aspens.org.uk/current-vacancies below them.

## **BOARD GAMES AND AFTER-NOON TEA**

Come and join us for some fun and games

**UNFORTUNATELY THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

Date:  
Thursday  
27<sup>th</sup> October  
2022

Time: 2.15- 4.30pm

Cost: £6

Venue: Camden Centre,



## **New Members' Meeting**

By the time you receive this newsletter all members who have joined since 12<sup>th</sup> April (the date of our last new members' meeting) should have received an invitation to the meeting which will be held from 2.30 to 4.30pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November. This will be an opportunity to hear about the u3a movement and TWu3a in particular, meet committee members and group contacts, ask questions, and meet fellow members.

Any new member who has not received an invitation or who was unable to come to the last meeting and would like to join us on 1<sup>st</sup> November, should contact Eryll Fabian, at

[twu3achairman@btinternet.com](mailto:twu3achairman@btinternet.com)

or phone on 01892 513805.

# Christmas Lunch

## Christmas Lunch on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Our Christmas Lunch will be at the Masonic Hall again this year. Prices have inevitably gone up but we know we shall have a delicious meal and enjoy the Christmas spirit.

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 12.

Please help us by sending in your application soon.



**URGENT!**



**We need volunteers to run TWu3a, so please get in touch now**

**Are you a good organiser? Do you like people? Have you got secretarial skills?**

**If so, read on .....**

There will be at least two vacancies on the Committee in June 2023 which must be filled if TWu3a is to continue. Both roles will be suitable for someone who is efficient, enthusiastic and friendly. Is that you? If you would like to be involved in running TWu3a, whether you are a new member with ideas or an old-timer with experience, why not come to some of our committee meetings to find out more about what is involved?

Please contact [Eryll](mailto:Eryll) (01892 513805), or speak to any of the present committee members for more information.

**WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS TO RUN twu3a IT WILL HAVE TO CLOSE!**

## Are you crafty?

We are offering 2 afternoon sessions in November and one morning session in December for members to make simple Christmas crafts or a floral table decoration. Cost: £12 per session

Craft dates: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2 - 3.30pm

OR Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2.30 - 4pm

Floral table decoration: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December  
11.30 – 1pm

Place: Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church, 12 Upper Grosvenor Road, TN1 2EP (parking at Meadow Road car park)

If you would like to find out more please contact the [Groups Co-ordinator](#).



## A few TWu3a happenings during September

**The Barn Dance**, postponed for two years, proved to be as successful and good fun as always. Why not come along next time?



**The gardening group have been back to the park**



600 bulbs being planted around the TWu3a mountain ash trees in Grosvenor & Hilbert Park (near the Hilbert Road gates). With the help of Kasia from TWBC.

**Short Break to The Midlands**

Another great 4 days away.



### **u3a Diaries**

If you would like a u3a diary you can buy them from u3a brand centre for £3.50 each plus p&p. Or if you club together they are cheaper in packs of 10. Just click on this link <https://u3abrand.org.uk/>

## Outings Coordinator

Our first outing of the year is usually in February and we try to arrange a theatre show, due to the unpredictable weather at that time of year. I decided to book the very popular show, Fisherman's Friends, as it has a feel good factor about it and has enthusiastic reviews. It is about a group of Cornish fisherman who sang traditional folk and shanty songs in the local pubs. They were persuaded to sign a million-pound record deal and their first album went into the top ten of the charts. Unfortunately, the matinee performances in February at the Marlowe theatre in Canterbury were both full. The next production I could find is at the theatre in Richmond on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of March and I have reserved a block of seats. If you wish to book, please complete the application form at the end of the Newsletter. However you will need to be quick because the theatre will only hold our seats until the end of November, before payment is required. We will be spending time in Richmond before the show starts at 2.30pm.

Our Bedgebury festive outing in December is almost full at the time of writing, if you wish to come along, please complete the application form in September's newsletter or alternatively telephone Sandra Chandnani on 01892 538655 to check for availability.

A review of our September outing to Cliveden is below..

*Joan Young*

### September Outing to Cliveden

Situated on a terrace high above the Thames and designed by Sir Charles Barry, Cliveden is not a cosy house. It exudes power. Built of harsh white stone, its heavy portico and balustrade dominate the landscape. On the day of our visit the heavens opened but, between the torrential downpours, the views from the terrace were magnificent.

The house, although owned by the National Trust, is now a luxurious hotel. Our tour included the



Great Baronial Hall panelled in

English Oak with Corinthian columns and swags of carved flowers. A 16th century fireplace brought from a Burgundian chateau dominates the room. Standing in its shadow is a really lovely portrait of Nancy, Lady Astor, by John Singer Sargent. We were also able to see the French dining room oozing Rococo charm—its 18th century panelling came from the Chateau d'Asnieres near Paris and was once owned by Madame de Pompadour. French loss our gain?



The Astors played host to the great and the good in the 1920s and 30s. But the house is also notorious for its many scandals, famously that of Christine Keeler and John Profumo in the 1950s.

Following our house tour the rain continued to fall and thunder rumbled overhead as we were transported down to the Thames for our included boat trip. The section of the Thames bordering Cliveden is not tidal and the river runs gently past the estate. To the sound of raindrops falling overhead we drifted along the tranquil river.



We finally left Cliveden still shrouded in mist and dark clouds.

On the way home we learnt our beloved Queen had died. But towards journey's end the sun came out, just in time to welcome our new King.

*Sheila Casey*

## Groups Coordinator update

The **Ukulele Players** group is having its first morning meeting on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October at the Sea Cadets Hall, Albion Road. Most of the group cannot play yet and we would welcome donations of any ukuleles that might be gathering dust somewhere.

**MOTO 2** are meeting for coffee every month at the Old Auction Rooms. New members are welcome to join us. Some of the original members of the **Country Dancing** group were inspired by the Barn Dance and would love to start up again, the group needs at least 12 keen members who will attend regularly.

The **Posh Nosh Diners Too** group are looking for more members and a group contact before they can start meeting to eat. The **Armchair Travel** group is slowly starting to gather momentum, and it could talk on Zoom or meet in a coffee shop somewhere central.

We are also still trying to get together a **Booker Prize** Book group, a **Practical Breathing & Meditation Techniques** group and another **London Explorers** group.

For more details and enquiries please contact the [Groups Coordinator](#).

*FINALLY, A PLEA FROM GROUP CONTACTS who send out reminder emails and don't receive a reply. If you do not wish to stay in a group, for whatever reason, PLEASE let the group contact know. There are others keenly waiting to join groups and take up your place.*

*[Lindsay Hasell, Groups Coordinator](#)*

The **Art Appreciation Group** will start up again on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30 pm in the Victoria Suite at the Camden Centre.

Our first session will be on Winslow Homer the 19th century American artist, famous for his paintings of the sea and mid-century American life.

This will be followed by monthly sessions on Cézanne, Sculpture, and Modernism. Further meetings are still being planned.



If you are interested in joining us either email me, Elaine Royal at [yorvadale@gmail.com](mailto:yorvadale@gmail.com) or telephone 01892 524537.



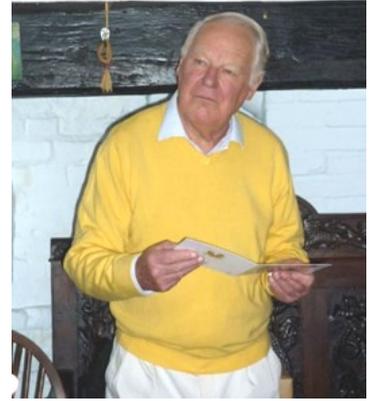
On the afternoon of August 15<sup>th</sup> a large number of **the Science Group** visited the Amelia Centre in Tunbridge Wells. There was a temporary exhibition of automata called The Cabaret of Mechanical Marvels.

We were given a talk by the curator, Ed Liddle, about the origins of the exhibits. Following the talk we wandered round the exhibition and “played” with the exhibits. We were able to see how the models were constructed as we could walk around the displays. It was one of those exhibitions which appealed to all ages, particularly the inner child in all of us. We all had a favourite—mine was a moving model of a fish leaping from a pond into the mouth of a winged cat.

*Sandra Blacker*

## 10 Mile Walk Group

On Friday, 2 September 2022, twelve members of the 10 Mile Walk group, including two new members, did a tribute walk of about nine miles in memory of John Cunliffe. He was the founder of this group in February 2005 and sadly passed away in July 2022. We walked on Romney Marsh, visiting four of the churches that John so loved and enthused about.



Starting at Brookland, we visited St Augustines, the 13<sup>th</sup> century church with a distinct conical wooden shingled bell tower, which sits on the ground adjacent to the church, and a mural of the slaying of Thomas a Becket.

From Brookland we proceeded to St Thomas a Becket, Fairfield, originally a late 12<sup>th</sup> century wooden church, rebuilt in brick, which sits in solitary state in the marsh surrounded by dykes and sheep and one of the most iconic churches on the marsh which can only be reached on foot or by boat when the marshes flood as happened in 1960.



From here we walked to St Dunstan, Snargate, a late 12<sup>th</sup> century church with a wall painting of a great ship c1500, where we stopped for a picnic lunch.

After lunch we made our way via a rather overgrown byway and a ploughed field to

St Eanswith, Brenzett, another late 12<sup>th</sup> century church and one of the smallest Romney Marsh churches with a small wooden shingled spire.



From Brenzett we made our way back to our starting point at Brookland. We were sustained during our walk by an abundance of sun-warmed blackberries picked from the hedgerows.

In recent times the Romney Marsh Historic Trust church supporters have produced mosaic artworks, which sit on an easel in each of the churches, depicting the church and its history, which are worth a visit if you are in the area.

As one of the original group members still in the group I have taken it upon myself to pay this tribute to John but I hope that former members of the group will remember with happy memories the many walks that John led us on.

To anyone who is interested in walking the countryside of Kent and Sussex the 10 Mile Walk Group membership list is never closed and you are welcome to join us.

*[Ray Dean](#), Group Co-Leader*

## Group News

### The Tea Team at the Archaeological Dig in Rusthall

One of the Tea Team kindly arranged for us visit to the Rusthall Dig. We had a talk on their findings while exploring the site. Nigel and Chris, volunteers who belong to West Kent Archaeological Community Diggers, told us finds date back to Neolithic, Bronze and Pre-Historic Ages. One find is, they believe, a fossilised section of a riverbed which could be 130 million years old! Sadly, to preserve it they may have to cover it back up.



They are at the site on Wednesdays and Sundays during the mornings. And it is not open to viewing at other times, obviously to preserve it. So why not go and have a chat and maybe volunteer? There are several other sites in the area that they have worked on, maybe another trip for the tea team?

*Linda Bateup*



**The Amblers** with the Motts Mill scarecrows in the background. There were more as we walked further down the road.

We also walked to see the 60 year old Bruff hop-picking machine in action.

It has become an annual visit!

*Celia Claxton*



**London Explorers Group 4** went to Ham House. It's a beautiful house, built in 1610, in



a lovely setting. The owners spent years gathering treasures from around the world, superb collections of paintings, furniture and textiles.

We had an interesting guided tour about the 1700 century gardens.

*Suzette Elliott-West*

## Last Month's Talk

### *"Manners Please, Dearest!"*

#### The Do's and Don'ts of Victorian Etiquette

By David Allen

More of a performance than a talk; David took on the persona of the head of a Victorian finishing school. He spoke to us as if preparing young ladies and gentlemen to enter society correctly.

Many volunteers took to the stage to help demonstrate how to wear a crinoline cage, bow and curtsy, how to deport oneself and even to propose.

Etiquette on this level was for the wealthy. It bound society together and governed their lives. The rules were intended to make life pleasant and comfortable but if you didn't follow them a life in society could be very restricted.



It was, of course, mainly young women who went to finishing schools as a means of securing husbands. If a young man was thought to need training in the ways of society he would usually have a tutor.

Manners were a key ingredient of this type of education but there were also practical skills to learn such as embroidery, singing, languages and even shooting was mentioned.

The perfect wife to be would have a fourteen inch waist, be able to 'glide' in a silk crinoline dress, stir and sip tea silently, be able to make appropriate conversation (no serious matters, only small talk at the dinner table) and have a fine set of hippo or elephant tusk false teeth given to her on her 20th birthday.

Today we often complain about the lack of manners but it can go too far!

### **Risk Assessment Checklists**

For the protection and safety of all members, u3a office have updated and simplified their risk assessment checklists.

These are now available on our website in the [Small Print](#) page.

All members should be aware that there is a personal checklist that they may wish to consider when taking part in any u3a activities and events

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

A new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy has been adopted by TWu3a. If you would like to see what it is all about, it can be found in the [Small Print](#) page on our website

## Important information

### Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

17 Nov 2022	Monthly Meeting: The Jewels of the Duchess of Windsor
8 Dec 2022	Christmas Lunch

### New members

A big welcome to our **19** new members this month.

**Sheila Baker, Geoffrey & Mary Cozens, Paul Dillon, Diane Jean Gittings, Coral King, Gail & Ronnie Macdonald, Andrew Marriott, Andrew & Caroline Marriott, Ingrid Morgan, Roger Norton, Patricia O'Higgins, Richard Peartson, Philomena Perry, Deborah Spencer, Muriel Thatcher and Frances Waddell**

### 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 to the **November** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by October 31<sup>st</sup> at the latest (**earlier submissions are always 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

For u3a Members only.

A fair amount of walking

# THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2023 OUTING TO RICHMOND & THEATRE

## Tunbridge Wells u3a Outing Application Form

OUTING CODE. F16    ORGANISER JOAN YOUNG    Email    [jyoutings@gmail.com](mailto:jyoutings@gmail.com)

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March we will spend the day at Richmond. You will have time to browse the shops, walk along the river or have coffee and lunch before we take our seats at the Richmond theatre to see Fisherman’s Friends. This show has a feelgood factor about it and the fishermen have been highly acclaimed, from Cornwall to the Queens Jubilee and Glastonbury. It is based on a group of fishermen—singing traditional folk and shanty songs—who were persuaded to sign a million-pound record deal that saw their first album reach the top ten in the charts. The cost for this day to include the coach, driver’s gratuity and theatre tickets to the show at 2.30pm, £50.25.

**PLEASE NOTE I HAVE TO CONFIRM AND PAY FOR THE NUMBER OF SEATS REQUIRED BY THE END OF NOVEMBER SO PLEASE SEND YOUR APPLICATION OFF ASAP TO AVOID MISSING THIS SHOW.**

**To pay by BACS** please email: [jyoutings@gmail.com](mailto:jyoutings@gmail.com) and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and Name of Outing and Code (F16) . Plus where you want to board the coach.

**To pay:** Make an online transfer to: **Tunbridge Wells u3a Sort code: 40-52-40 Account No: 00024097** [Your bank may not recognise our CAF account, but as long as you’ve entered the details correctly, you can go ahead with the transaction].

**Reference:** OUTING CODE Surname e.g. **F16 Your Surname**

**To pay by cheque:** please post application below to: *Joan Young 21, Coniston Avenue Tunbridge Wells TN4 9SP* . Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

APPLICATION FORM FOR RICHMOND F16		
<b>I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Tunbridge Wells u3a</b>		
Name:	Home no:	Mobile
<b>If you are paying for your partner or a u3a friend, please include their details</b>		
Name:	Home no:	Mobile
<b>Please tick where you want to board the coach</b>		
	Crescent Road- opposite the Assembly Hall	10.00
	St Johns Bus Stop- opposite Sainsburys local	10.10
	Southborough Fountain	10.15

We expect to be at Richmond by approximately 11.30am. ***We will leave as soon as the show finishes approximately 17.00pm And hope to arrive back in Tunbridge Wells around 6.30/7.00pm***

***My contact number for any enquiries regarding this trip is 0750 491 9081***

Please note that once money has been paid in advance full refunds will only be offered if your place can be filled by another u3a member. Members are advised that neither TWu3a nor the outings organiser will accept responsibility for any mishap of whatever nature during the outing. Members are advised to consider personal insurance cover.



# TWu3a Christmas Lunch on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 - Application Form



**OUTING CODE: XMAS**  
**ORGANISER: Eryll Fabian [fabiantwells.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:fabiantwells.t21@btinternet.com)**

**Venue:** The Masonic Hall, St Johns Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9UJ

**Date and Time:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 12.30 for 1pm.

**Cost:** £35 per person for three courses followed by tea or coffee. Please note that there will be a paying bar. Prosecco will be on special offer and will be charged at £3.50 per glass. Gratuities are not included. A collection will be made at the end.

**Menu:** See application form below. Please include any allergies on the form.

**Seating Plan:** Please send Eryll names of friends if you would like to sit together.

**TO PAY BY BACS** please email: [fabiantwells.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:fabiantwells.t21@btinternet.com) and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment, Name of Event and Code (as above), **and menu choices.**

**To pay:** Make an online transfer to: **Tunbridge Wells u3a Sort code: 40-52-40 Account No: 00024097** [Your bank may not recognise our CAF account, but as long as you've entered the details correctly, you can go ahead with the transaction].

**Reference:** OUTING CODE (as above) Surname e.g. **XMAS Your Surname**

**TO PAY BY CHEQUE:** please post the cheque and application form below to:  
*Eryll Fabian, 5 Broadwater Court, Broadwater Down. Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5PB.*

**Add your email address or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.**

## APPLICATION FORM

**Event name and Code (as above):** .....

**I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Tunbridge Wells u3a**

**Name** .....

**Phone or address** .....

**If you are paying for your partner or u3a friend(s), please include their details below**

**Name(s) and mobile/home phone number(s)** .....

Please indicate your menu choices below:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b><u>Starter</u></b>     | S1. Carrot and Coriander soup<br>S2. Prawn Cocktail<br>S3. Chicken Liver Pate   |
| <b><u>Main Course</u></b> | M1. Roast Turkey and all the trimmings<br>M2. Stuffed Pepper topped with Goats Cheese<br>M3. Cod Mornay, served with New Potatoes   |
| <b><u>Dessert</u></b>     | D1. Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Butter or Cream<br>D2. Fruit Salad with Ice Cream or Cream<br>D3. Cheese and biscuits (please indicate if you require gluten free) |

**Name**.....**Choices (numbers)**.....

**Name**.....**Choices (numbers)**.....

**Name**.....**Choices (numbers)**.....