

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

30 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1991, Tunbridge Wells University of the Third Age was inaugurated. By the middle of January 120 members had enrolled, four groups had been set up and TWu3a has grown steadily ever since. How much we owe to those far-sighted men and women who got the whole thing going!



Things don't always go smoothly, as those of you who came to the October monthly meeting will know. The heavy rain had damaged the roof of the Main Hall in the Camden Centre and we shall not be able to use it until repairs have been completed. The meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November will therefore be held in the much smaller Victoria Suite – if you would prefer to attend on Zoom please contact me for an invitation. There will be a notice in the December Newsletter if we have to change the venue for the Christmas Quiz on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

We do not usually produce a Newsletter in December but this year there will be a special anniversary edition. It has been fascinating delving into the archives, reading the accounts which some of the earliest members have sent us, and finding out how our u3a has developed.

But we must not dwell too long on the past. Now, especially as things are beginning to return to some form of normality, is the time to tell everyone about TWu3a and what it offers.

Stay safe and well, [Eryll Fabian](#), Chairman (01892 513805)

### Coming up this month

**10th Nov**  
**Anniversary Tea**

**18th Nov Hybrid talk:**  
**Gongoozling for**  
**Beginners**

**26th Nov Coffee**  
**morning at Trinity**

**2nd Dec Zoom talk:**  
**A Kent Christmas**

## Inside this issue

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## Christmas Lunch

### Christmas Lunch on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December Reminder

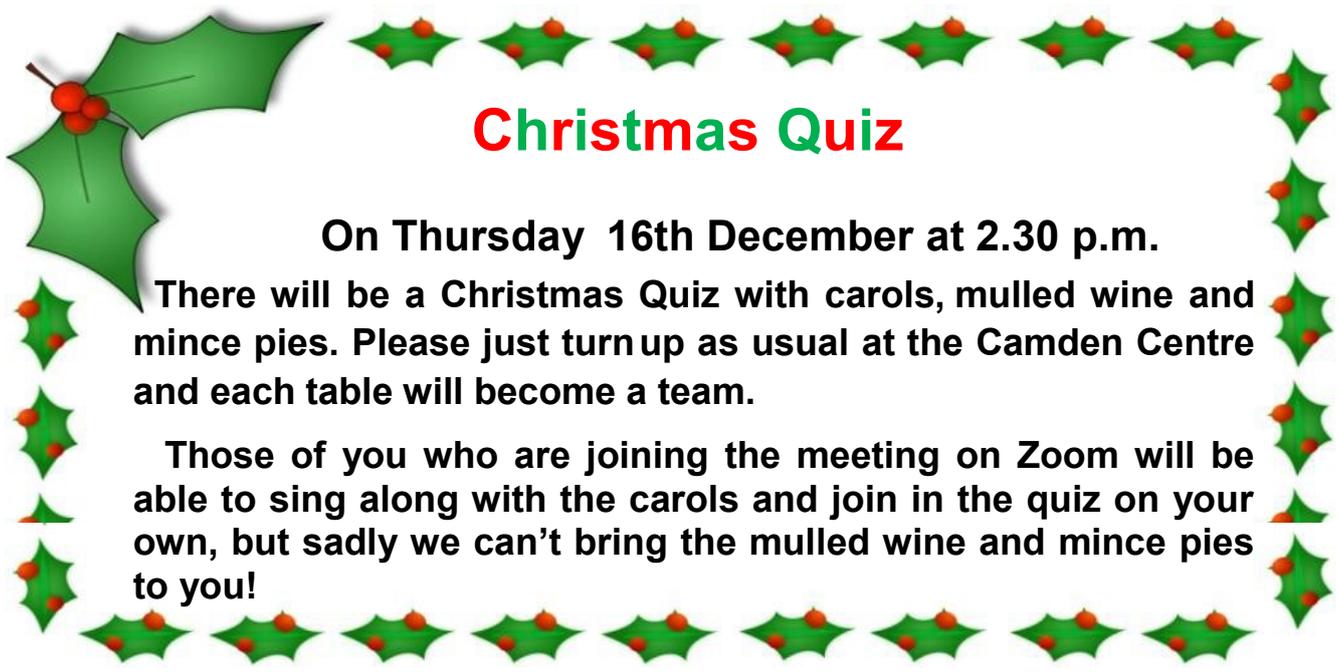
There is still time to book tickets for the Christmas Lunch  
which will be held in the Masonic Hall.

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 with details is on page 13  
and must reach Marilyn Smart by 30th November

## 2022 Diaries

Do you need somewhere to record your engagements? We are not ordering 2022 u3a diaries in bulk as they did not sell well last year. However, it is possible to obtain them, and other merchandise, from the new [Brand Centre](#). Have you discovered it yet? Click on the link, register and find out what is available. As you will see on p.10, postage is added to the order, so buying with a friend would help to reduce the cost.



## Christmas Quiz

**On Thursday 16th December at 2.30 p.m.**

**There will be a Christmas Quiz with carols, mulled wine and mince pies. Please just turn up as usual at the Camden Centre and each table will become a team.**

**Those of you who are joining the meeting on Zoom will be able to sing along with the carols and join in the quiz on your own, but sadly we can't bring the mulled wine and mince pies to you!**

**\*\* Please note that Main Hall of the Camden Centre will be unavailable until the roof has been repaired. Our November monthly meeting will therefore be held in the much smaller Victoria Suite in the Camden Centre and you may prefer to attend on Zoom. If you are not a member of the Zoom Talks group and would like an invitation to the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November, please email [Eryll](mailto:Eryll).**

## Autumn Talks

Here are the next dates to put in your diary. **These talks are free of charge and start at 2.30.** However, you can still use Zoom if you wish but you will need to be on the mailing list. Please email [Eryll](mailto:Eryll) to be added to the group.

<b>4th Nov</b>	Sarah Slater	<b>Zoom Talk:</b> Sex, Secrets, Scandal and Salacious gossip of the Royal Court 1660-1830
<b>18th Nov</b>	Neil Sadler	<b>Hybrid Talk:</b> Gongoozling for Beginners – life on the canals
<b>2nd Dec</b>	Geoff Doel	<b>Zoom Talk:</b> A Kent Christmas

### **HYBRID TALK November 18th Neil Sadler Gongoozling for Beginners– life on the canals**

After 30 years as a police officer in Sussex, Neil thought life on the canal sounded just the tonic for retirement; relaxing, stress free and with the chance to grow his beard and hair (and even get to wear a leather hat instead of a policeman's helmet !)

This is a light hearted journey around some of the 2000 miles of navigable waterways with just a small dose of history, lots of humour, a rather wet puppy and only one broken arm...so far!

And don't worry if you don't know what "gongoozling" is....all will be revealed on the day.

For those coming in person please arrive in good time for the 2.30 start. Also please note that face masks are required in communal areas and the use of hand sanitiser on arrival.



### **ZOOM TALK December 2nd A Kent Christmas by Geoff Doel**

An exploration of the evolution of Christmas & New Year celebrations from the Middle Ages to the recent past and their distinctive Kentish elements. In the villages Mummers Plays, the Kent Hooden Horse and Wassailing reflect a parallel, grassroots Midwinter traditional culture, with secular and wassail songs paralleling the official sacred songs and West Gallery local carols.



Geoff & his wife Fran are the authors of the best selling local books *A Kent Christmas* (Sutton) and *A Kent Christmas-- A New Selection* (History Press). These can be purchased from Geoff & Fran for £6 each including postage – Geoff & Fran Doel, 27 Nargate Street, Littlebourne, Canterbury CT3 1UH.

Telephone 01227 721972.

E-mail: [geoffdoel@btinternet.com](mailto:geoffdoel@btinternet.com)

## Short Breaks Report

## POTTERS



At the end of September 39 of us spent five lovely days together at the Potters resort in Norfolk. Mark, our driver looked after us well. En route we had a guided tour of Sutton Hoo with its amazing ship burial ground from the time of the Dark Ages. The motorised scooter to get about was especially enjoyed by Carole.



We were kept very busy going to Felbrigg Hall with its enormous walled garden and Norwich, where Dippy the Diplodocus is on tour in the cathedral.



We fitted in a trip on the Norfolk Broads and a very windy visit to Cromer. The matinee End of Pier Show was a highlight. With our one full day on site, we had great fun with a few of us including myself, Alison, Chris and Judy whizzing round on the Segways.

Some swam in the lovely indoor pool or chatted together in the Jacuzzi. Others played crazy golf, archery, table tennis or walked along by the sea.

The food was excellent and being all inclusive meant a few of us sat in the Garden Bar enjoying a pre-dinner drink or two!

No names mentioned! I am easily led. To finish off the busy days we headed to the Potters' theatre to see their top class evening shows.



Our return journey saw us stopping at Lavenham with its beautiful Medieval houses.

*Sandra McDonald*

## Outings Coordinator

Our outing in October was to Audley End's splendid house and gardens, a full report of the day can be seen in the Outing News.



The last trip of the year will be to RHS Wisley Glow on 1st December. This outing is now full, but if you would like to go on the waiting list, please complete and return the application form at the end of the newsletter. Do not credit the u3a account (if you wish to pay by Bacs) until I have allocated a place for you or alternatively send a cheque, which will not be banked until I have advised you. We always get a few cancellations due to illness and hospital appointments etc., so you do stand a good chance to go on this outing.

*Joan Young*

### Outings News— Audley End

The first sighting of Audley End House was magical. The morning sun lit up this beautiful house, sat comfortably in the most amazing gardens.

The house and tea rooms were available upon our arrival, with no time restrictions on viewing the house, giving us the freedom to explore Audley End from top to bottom. Guides were on hand and happy to answer our questions.



There was so much to take in, paintings of residents past by Holbein and Canaletto, and many Dutch and Flemish old masters .

Venturing into the huge laundry we found the household linen left hanging above our heads to dry. I believe the kitchen and the laundry have been used in many period dramas along with the stables.

Needless to say there's something for everyone. We enjoyed all Audley End House had to offer.



*Sheila Austin.*

## Colin's Quick Quiz

### AUTUMN MISTS AND MELLOW FRUITFULNESS

1. Which English poet composed "To Autumn"?
2. Who did Autumn Kelly marry in May 2008?
3. In Australia, autumn begins in which month?
4. The loss of which pigment causes leaves to turn russet?
5. Which celebration is the Celtic autumn festival Samhain?
6. What modern language formed the term autumn?
7. Which British garden bird is known for its "Autumn Song"?
8. According to records, myths, where did the first game of conkers take place?
9. When is the Autumn Equinox?
10. What is the Autumn Full Moon known as?



Answers P.10

## Groups Coordinator

The Cribbage, Canasta and Country Dancing groups would all welcome new members. If you are interested in joining them (probably from January 2022) then please get in contact with the [Groups Coordinator](#).

We are thinking of starting a spiritual group.

How are you dealing with stress/anxiety? Are you interested in sharing your spiritual experiences with others? eg by examining our personal interpretations of healing, the after-life, meditation, dowsing etc.

If you are interested in joining this new group please get in touch, so that we can arrange a start-up meeting in early 2022.

The MOTO group (Members On Their Own) has a busy, varied diary. They organise regular meet-ups, occasional nights-out and often meet at weekends. The group has become so popular that group contact, Sylvia Joyce, has now had to close it to new members. If you would like to be part of a new MOTO2 group please contact [Sylvia](#) or the [Groups Coordinator](#).

### Thank you

u3a is a real team organisation that exists because its members are willing to roll up their sleeves and get involved. Our group contacts liaise, organise and chivvy their groups so that they can keep in touch, meet up and plan future events.

Tunbridge Wells u3a is only as good as the links that group contacts provide for members. Thank you to those group contacts who joined the committee for lunch on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.



It was lovely to meet in person again. Without group contacts our u3a could not function...so many thanks also to those contacts who did not manage to join us.

[Lindsay Hasell](#), Groups Coordinator

## Group News

### The crochet group



We have kept going via Zoom over the past 18 months until we could start meeting face to face again. This blanket is the result of our labours. It fits a double bed and each member contributed one or more strips of 13 squares which were then collected via park rendezvous and letter box drops and sewn together. This will be given to the charity RefugEase who help those fleeing conflict and help them rebuild their futures. It really was lovely to be able to keep the group going through such a difficult time and support one another. A win-win all-round!

*Sue Bareham*

### The Amblers

Here are the Amblers on a beautiful day in early October admiring the view of Bayham Abbey. Soon afterwards the heavens opened and they all got drenched!



### The Theatre group...

...went to see 'The Play that goes Wrong' at the Assembly Hall. Some loved the slapstick and clever timing of this am-dram spoof but a few others were not so keen. As they say "You can't please all of the people....!"



### The Tea Team



Eight Tea Ladies (and one Tea Gentleman!) had a very pleasant October walk. We set out from Hoopers and walked up Grove Hill Road, learning some local history about The Pound which took in stray animals, The Mews and the interesting Victorian tile pillars incorporated into the Fire Station. They were rescued from the demolition of the Monson Road site of the swimming baths and original Fire Station.

After admiring The Mews and other original houses, we made our way through an archway into The Grove, a very pretty and intimate oasis. Then we walked along Claremont Road past some very attractive houses including one lived in by Madame Caballero, a well-known society lady of the day before walking through Calverley Park designed by Decimus Burton where there are some amazing old trees, so well maintained.

We ended our walk through Calverley Park Gardens, already showing autumn colours.

*Stella Westrup*



## Last Month's Talks

### Agatha Christie—Queen of Crime Davin Allen



Agatha Christie wrote 66 detective novels, 18 plays, 150 short stories, has been translated into 100 languages and sold 2 billion books, beaten only by the Bible and Shakespeare. She also wrote 6 successful novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott.

By her own account she had an idyllic upper middle-class childhood in Torquay. Although often on her own as her siblings, Madge and Monty, were 11 and 10 years older than her. When she was 10, her father died, her sister married and her brother joined the army; it was then, she says that she grew up. However, her life continued to be one of reading, swimming in the summer, rollerskating in the winter and dancing.

She wrote her first story at 17 while she had flu and was rather bored. It was called *The House of Beauty* and was a spiritualist tale. Her first novel, *Snow upon the Desert*, was rejected 6 times. Meanwhile Agatha got married and became a volunteer nurse during WWI. While she trained as an apothecary after the war, her sister challenged her to write a detective novel. Thus Hercules Poirot was born, possibly inspired by the Belgian soldiers she had nursed and, some say, borrowed a little from Hercules Popeau, Marie Belloc Lowndes' French detective. *The Affair at Styles* was published in 1921 and Agatha was paid £25.

Agatha had a daughter, Rosalind, went on a world tour, became the first woman to surf standing up and published more novels. However her private life took a downward turn when her mother died and her husband asked for a divorce. She then famously disappeared for two weeks and probably suffered a nervous breakdown.

At 40 she married an archaeologist and spent the rest of her life travelling and writing. Agatha commented that archaeologists made the best husbands because the older the wife gets the more interesting they become.

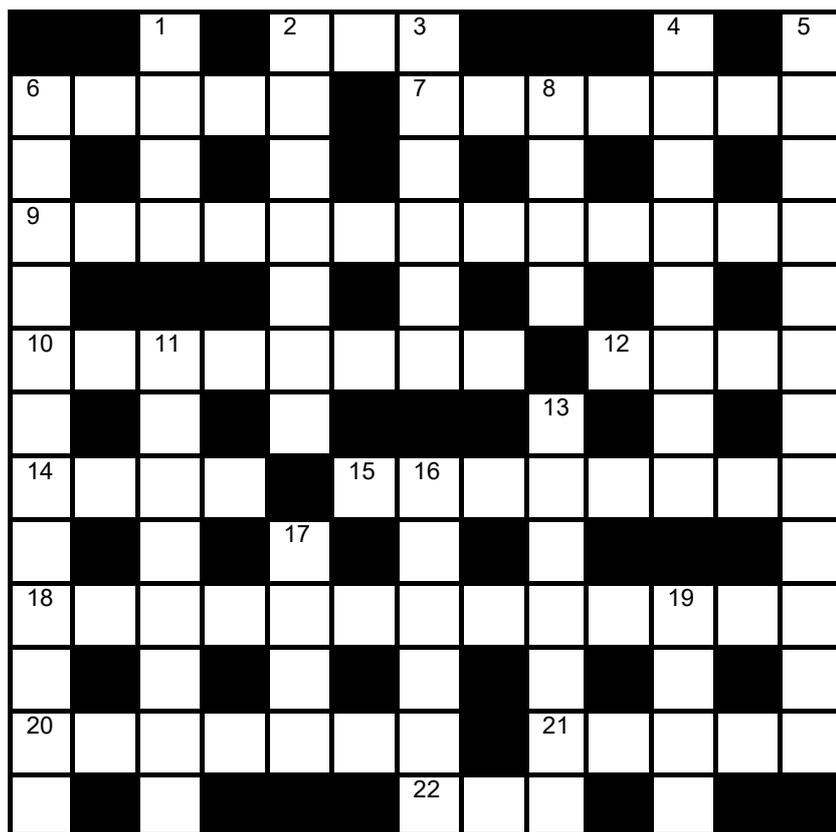
She left 2 scripts in a bank vault for her husband and daughter. After her death in 1974, *Curtain* was published which tells of the death of Poirot (Agatha is reported to have said "I can't bear him!") In 1976 *Sleeping Murder* was published and Miss Marple lived on.



### Choice Joyce by Pat Bryer

Pat was a professional actress and obviously still keeps her hand in with this tribute to the wonderfully understated Joyce Grenfell. We were treated to many of her sketches including Lumpy Latimer at the school reunion, Shirley's Girlfriend with her misplaced emphasis in polysyllabic words and, of course, the Nursery School Teacher. My favourite was the song 'Stately As a Galleon' about the dance class where due to a lack of male partners one has to dance with other women - bust to bust!

## CROSSWORD - answers to CRYPTIC and QUICK clues are identical.



*By kind permission of  
Eastbourne Meads u3a  
Cryptic Crossword Group  
2021*

*Answers on the next page*

### CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS

- 2 Blue in winter? (3)
- 6 Roused approval in awe (5)
- 7 Six deliveries managed to go too far (7)
- 9 Like a winter morning near the mulberry bush? (4, 3, 6)
- 10 Promoted old currency and French journalist (8)
- 12 Decrease metal (4)
- 14 Apply balm to what Mary had (4)
- 15 OU clause distressed agent of chaos (8)
- 18 Offered with centre included to be compassionate (13)
- 20 Finished Dad. Really poor result at golf (4, 3)
- 21 Love Lydd weirdly (5)
- 22 Not hard to listen with this (3)

### QUICK CLUES ACROSS

- 2 Unhappy (3)
- 6 Came to (5)
- 7 Invade (7)
- 9 Wintry morning weather (4, 3, 6)
- 10 Advertised (8)
- 12 Decrease fabric (4)
- 14 Meat (4)
- 15 Lead "Pink Panther" character (8)
- 18 Soft (13)
- 20 Bogey in golf (4, 3)
- 21 Unusually (5)
- 22 Organ (3)

### CRYPTIC CLUES DOWN

- 1 Leon came back for Christmas (4)
- 2 Unusually dead set to be anaesthetised (7)
- 3 Daughter added to lots of endless scribble (6)
- 4 Keep jam? (8)
- 5 When Observer comes out for limited shopping hours? (4, 2, 6)
- 6 Account I maul produces hoard (12)
- 8 Peer arrives before time without you (4)
- 11 What's left without a prompt (8)
- 13 Member of the clergy loses energy instead of exhibition director (7)
- 16 The French horse lost speed in Pakistan city (6)
- 17 Look both ways (4)
- 19 Part of coat I dyed to be neat (4)

### QUICK CLUES DOWN

- 1 Yuletide (4)
- 2 Calmed (7)
- 3 Draw aimlessly (6)
- 4 Retain (8)
- 5 Exclusively during the Sabbath (4, 2, 6)
- 6 Build-up (12)
- 8 Nobleman (4)
- 11 Memento (8)
- 13 Conservator (7)
- 16 City in Pakistan (6)
- 17 Squint (4)
- 19 Orderly (4)

## Virtual walks group

Members of the virtual walking group automatically get details of each 'walk'. The walks costs £5 each. Please email me if you wish to join the group .



Caroline Piper  
Blue Badge Tourist Guide  
<http://pipertours.com>

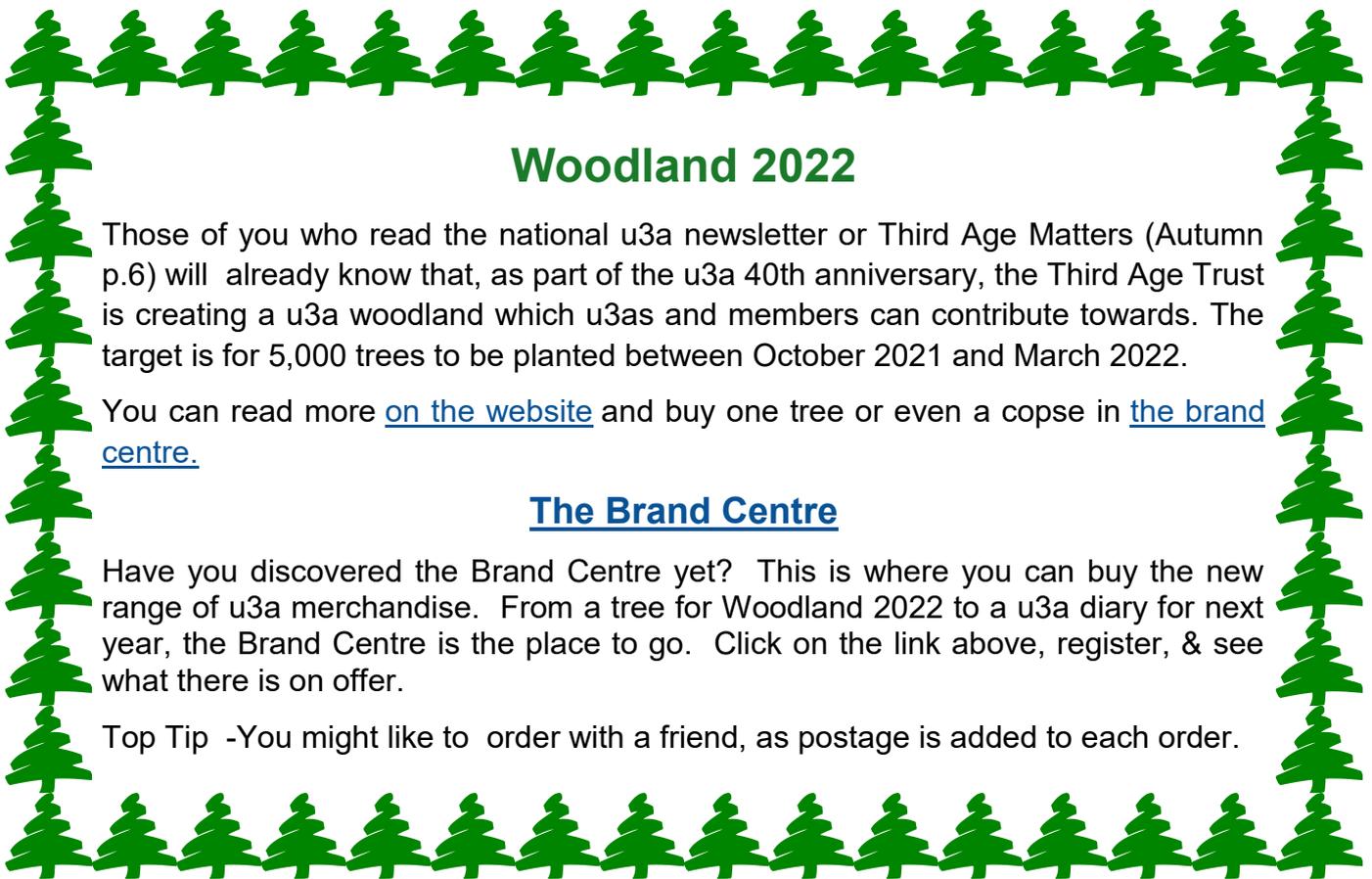
Please follow me on  
[www.facebook.com/pipertours](http://www.facebook.com/pipertours)  
Or see Tripadvisor for reviews

### Here are the dates and topics:

Tuesday 9th November at 2pm - **A Virtual Urban Safari; Exploring the Animals of London**  
Wednesday 8th December at 2pm - **A Virtual London Christmas Quiz**

**To be rearranged - Virtual Tour of the V&A British Galleries 1500 - 1760**

[Sue Brimlow](#)



## Woodland 2022

Those of you who read the national u3a newsletter or Third Age Matters (Autumn p.6) will already know that, as part of the u3a 40th anniversary, the Third Age Trust is creating a u3a woodland which u3as and members can contribute towards. The target is for 5,000 trees to be planted between October 2021 and March 2022.

You can read more [on the website](#) and buy one tree or even a copse in [the brand centre](#).

### [The Brand Centre](#)

Have you discovered the Brand Centre yet? This is where you can buy the new range of u3a merchandise. From a tree for Woodland 2022 to a u3a diary for next year, the Brand Centre is the place to go. Click on the link above, register, & see what there is on offer.

Top Tip -You might like to order with a friend, as postage is added to each order.

## Colin's Quiz Answers

- |                |  |  |
|----------------|--|--|
| 1. John Keats  | 2. Peter Phillips (Queen Elizabeth's grandson) | 3. March                               |
| 4. Chlorophyll | 5. Halloween                                   | 6. French, but from the Latin Autumnus |
| 7. Robin       | 8. Isle of Wight                               | 9. 22/23 September                     |
|                |  | 10. Harvest Moon                       |

## Eastbourne Meads Crossword - Solutions

**ACROSS:** 2 Sad 6 Awoke 7 Overrun 9 Cold and frosty 10 Marketed 12 Iron 14 Lamb 15 Clouseau 18 Tenderhearted 20 Over par 21 Oddly 22 Ear

**DOWN:** 1 Noel 2 Sedated 3 Doodle 4 Preserve 5 Only on Sunday 6 Accumulation 8 Earl 11 Reminder 13 Curator 16 Lahore 17 Peer 19 Tidy

## Important information

### Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

10 November 2021	30th Anniversary Tea at Masonic Hall
10 December 2021	Christmas lunch
19 March 2022	Barn Dance (details later)

### New members

A big welcome to our **14** new members this month.

**John Dailley, Alison Farthing, Patrick Harris, Elaine Higgs, Sally Hill, Muriel Anne Horne, Christopher Johnston, Felicity Johnston, Sue Kempner, Victoria Moll, Sara Newman, Brian Swift, Jo Vale, Grant Wickens**

### Your Committee

Chairman	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805
Vice-Chairman	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
Newsletter	Bridget Sands	01892 546161
Short Breaks & Holidays	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196

### **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 **December** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by November 30 at the latest (**earlier submissions are always welcome!**) or phone 01892 546161.

### National Office



Keep up to date with National 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

**RHS WISLEY GLOW**

On December 1st we will be travelling to Surrey to visit RHS Wisley gardens for the festive Wisley Glow event. This is a walking tour of the garden illuminated by lights, fire candles, fountains and with a spectacular horticultural display inside the glasshouse. You can celebrate in style with a seasonal supper in their terrace restaurant or look in the food hall for food on the go, where you can find hot drinks and tasty treats to keep you aglow along the trail. The garden centre will be packed full of beautiful decorations and gift ideas for all the family. Don't miss the festive chalets by the garden entrance for seasonal goods to buy or browse. So let's get into the festive mood with this spectacular event.

- 2.00pm. Coach departs Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells (Opposite the Assembly Hall)
- 2.05pm. Coach leaves the bus stop opposite Sainsburys local, St Johns Road
- 2.10pm. Coach leaves Southborough Fountain
- 4.00pm. Coach arrives RHS Wisley Gardens
- 7.30pm. Coach departs for Tunbridge Wells
- 9.00pm Coach arrives back at Southborough Fountain
- 9.05pm. Coach arrives back St Johns Church
- 9.10pm. Coach arrives back at Crescent Road.

The cost for this trip to include the gardens, coach and drivers gratuity is £25.00 for non members of RHS, or £22.45 for members of RHS.

Any queries to Joan Young by email or telephone 01892 546687. Payment ideally on-line bank transfer to Tunbridge Wells U3A Sort code 40-52-40 Account number 00024097 reference Surname F4 eg. for me it would be Young F4.

Or enclose a cheque made payable to TWU3A with your application form. Please post your completed application form (with a cheque if not paying by bank transfer) to Joan Young 21 Coniston Avenue, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9SP.

I will confirm by email or alternatively please enclose a SAE for confirmation of your application.

Please note once monies have been paid out full refunds will only be given if your place can be filled by another U3A member.

Members are advised that neither the TW U3A nor the outings organisers will accept responsibility for any mishap of whatever nature during this outing. Members are advised to consider personal insurance cover.

.....  
TWu3a Outing to RHS Wisley Glow on Wednesday 1st December 2021

Please print your name and U3A number

.....  
Please reserve .....place/s for the outing.  
I/We have transferred £ .....by Bacs or I/We enclose a cheque with a SAE for £ .....

I/We will join the coach at Crescent Road at 2.00pm.....  
Opposite Sainsburys local, St Johns at 2.05pm .....  
OR Southborough Fountain at 2.10pm.....

Telephone number home & mobile .....

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

# TUNBRIDGE WELLS u3a CHRISTMAS LUNCH FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021

To be held at the Masonic Hall, St Johns Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9UJ at 12.30 for 1pm.  
£30 per person to include a welcome drink, three course Christmas lunch and gratuities.



S1 Prawn Cocktail  
S2 Carrot and Coriander Soup  
S3 Duck Salad



~~~~~  
M1 Roast Turkey plus all the trimmings  
M2 Baked Salmon with rosti potatoes  
M3 Vegetarian Risotto Cake topped  
with Mediterranean vegetables  
with glazed goat's cheese

~~~~~  
D1 Christmas pudding  
D2 Baileys crème brûlée  
D3 Pear and Fig Tarte Tatin with ice cream and butterscotch sauce  
D4 Cheese and Biscuits

~~~~~  
Tea or Coffee

Please indicate your choice of starter (S), main (M) and dessert (D) in your application.

To join us: **If paying by BACS please email:** [marilyn.tw@btinternet.com](mailto:marilyn.tw@btinternet.com) including your name, email address, phone number and date of payment. **If paying by cheque please post application below but add your email for reply if appropriate.** If you are paying for your partner or another u3a member please include their details.

We will be making a table plan with tables of nine. If you would like to sit with friends, please include their names with your application. Please use a separate sheet of paper or reverse of application form if necessary. If you are coming on your own, we will place you with other friendly people!

**To pay, make an online transfer to:** Tunbridge Wells u3a Sort code: 40-52-40 Account No: 00024097 Reference: Surname XMAS- e.g. mine would be Smart XMAS

Your tickets will be emailed to you. Any queries, please phone Marilyn Smart 01892 510194  
Applications by Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December please.

**If you do not use on line banking,** please complete the application form and send it with your cheque and SAE to: Marilyn Smart, 49a Birling Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5LY

## PLEASE BRING YOUR TICKET WITH YOU

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### APPLICATION FORM

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

Name and phone number .....

Menu choices: .....

If you are paying for your partner or a u3a friend, please include their details below

Name and phone number .....

Menu choices: .....