

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



As I write, the committee is busy preparing for tomorrow's New Members' Meeting when we shall welcome new members and tell them about u3a in general and TWu3a in particular.

One thing which I shall emphasize is that membership gives access to so many national u3a events and services. This, I think, is something that many of you are not aware of. If you would like to know about what is available, search the national website, <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>. Click the Log In button at the top of the Home page and, as a member of TWu3a, you can create an account and search the site.

Another source of national u3a news is the national newsletter which you can sign up for at the bottom of the u3a website Home page. It is free and will be sent to you by email every month. Those of you who already subscribe may have noticed that the article about TWu3a celebrating u3a Day under the Millennium Clock which appeared in the Times of Tunbridge Wells on 28 September, was reproduced in full in the October national newsletter. You can view it by scrolling down to Media News near the bottom of the newsletter at: <https://mailchi.mp/u3a/your-u3a-national-newsletter-october-2022?e=14b4b55a81>.

So, do make full use of your membership and keep on telling others about it!

[Eryll Fabian](#) (01892 513805)

#### Coming up this month

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Nov:**  
**Monthly meeting:**  
**The Jewels of the Duchess of Windsor**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov:**  
**Coffee morning at Trinity**



**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec:**  
**Monthly meeting:**  
**Christmas Festive Social**

#### Inside this issue

- |   |                                |   |   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Chairman's Update; contents    | 6 | Group News; New Group?                  |
| 2 | Monthly Meetings               | 7 | Short Break News; <b>Urgent notice;</b> |
| 3 | Upcoming Events                | 8 | Useful Information                      |
| 4 | Outings Coordinator & write up | 9 | Christmas Lunch Application Form        |
| 5 | Group Coordinator update       |   |   |

**Hybrid Monthly Meeting on Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup> at 2.30**

**at the Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship Hall**



## The Jewels of the Duchess of Windsor



Janie Ramsay worked for Sotheby's during which time they sold the possessions of this most iconic and controversial couple. This talk will introduce you to the Duchess' magnificent jewellery collection, designed by the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most renowned jewellers.

Selling for exceptional prices, many of these unique pieces have come to auction since that record-breaking original sale and have acquired even greater status and provenance, partly due to the world famous stars who wanted to possess them.

Wallis became one of the most photographed women of the world in her time, leading a film-star lifestyle. But just where did all the money come from and how did this twice divorced American commoner provoke the abdication crisis that shocked the world?

## **u3a CHRISTMAS FESTIVE SOCIAL**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2.30pm**

TW Christian Fellowship Hall

**Mulled wine**

**Crackers**

**Music**

**Mince Pies**

**and a Quiz**

**PRIZE for most cheerily dressed person!**



## REMINDER

### Christmas Lunch

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

Tickets are selling fast so please send in your application soon if you would like to join us. There will be a seating plan, so let Eryll know if you would like to sit with a few friends. Don't worry if you are coming alone – this will be a great opportunity to meet new people.

The application form is on page 9.

### 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

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

**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

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



### CALLING ALL CHESS PLAYERS



There are still TWu3a members who regularly play chess at Trinity.

Please let [Lindsay](#) know if you would like to join them and she can give you the contact details.

## Outings Coordinator

The festive outing to Bedgebury in December is full. If you would like to go on the waiting list, in case we have a cancellation, please contact Sandra Chandhani on 01892 538655. The full details are in September's newsletter.

In March we are going to Richmond for the day to include a theatre visit in the afternoon to see *Fishermen's Friends*. We need definite number of members wanting to go by the 28th November, as Richmond Theatre will only reserve the seats until then. There are still a few places left, so if you would like to go on this trip please contact me on 07504919081, the full details of the outing are in October's newsletter.

We are busy planning our monthly outings for next year. If you enjoy coming on these trips why not join us on the Outings Committee? Please contact me on my mobile number as above.

Joan Young

### October Outing to Polesden Lacey

William McEwan bought Polesden Lacey as a "party house" for his daughter, Margaret Greville, (Maggie) in 1906. The salon glitters in scarlet and gold, full of Maggie's objet d'art. The L-shaped galleries provide a show case for her eclectic collection of paintings



The gardens are lovely but the pièce de résistance is the Long Walk, overlooking a bucolic landscape of wooded hills, pastures dotted with sheep, and an endless sky. It must have provided a perfect promenade for ladies in billowing gowns and gentlemen in top hats.

William McEwan made his fortune(s) from trade, primarily brewing and railways. To an aspiring hostess this was a decided disadvantage, but if that were not enough, Maggie was illegitimate. Her mother came from a humble agricultural family and her liaison with William McEwan was so secret that, when she became pregnant, he sent her down to London for the birth. In fact Maggie was 21 before William married her mother.



So, how did this daughter of trade become accepted by High Society and entertain Royalty? Undoubtedly her father's fortune helped but Maggie also inherited her father's shrewdness. She married a minor aristocrat to obtain a title and for his Society connections. She kept firm control of her own fortune. The death of her husband, before his father, meant that her hopes of obtaining a title were dashed but "better a beeress than a peeress" said Maggie and she still made full use of her husband's connections including cultivating Alice Kepple, Mistress to Edward VII.

Finally, she was immensely practical. She installed a lift at Polesden Lacey and moved the kitchens next to the dining room so the food arrived hot. She had, according to Edward VII, a genius for hospitality, and this little lady of no particular beauty and absolutely no background used that one skill to forge a reputation for making her guests comfortable.



She had the money, she had the setting and she used them.

*Sheila Casey*

# Groups Coordinator Update

Thank you to all the group contacts who got in touch to update or confirm the details of your groups. We have now been able to draw up an updated list which focuses on "Spaces only" to share with new members at the New Members' Meeting. It is so helpful to hear from group contacts and photos are interesting too.

The **Walk On The Wildside** walking group are an observant lot! This photo of Devil's Fingers or Octopus Stinkhorn was also shared on the TWu3a fb page and received a show of interest from members of the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons fb group.



The **Ukulele Players** group is growing and is hoping to play fortnightly at the Sea Cadets Hall on Albion Road.

**MOTO 2** are meeting for a non-competitive Games Morning every month at the Old Auction Rooms. The next one is on 7<sup>th</sup> November and new members are welcome to come along and give the group a try out.

Some of the original members of the **Country Dancing** group were inspired by the Barn Dance and still would love to start up again BUT the group needs at least 12 keen members who will attend regularly.

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

*[Lindsay Hasell](#)*



**London Explorers Group 4** excellent day at Eltham Palace. One of the childhood homes of Henry IV. In the 1930's Stephen Courtald owned it and restored it in the Art Deco style. A grand and interesting home. Well worth a visit.

*Suzette Elliott-West*

Having abandoned their coordinator to a very wet and lonely session on the TW Common last month, with excuses such as "my camera is not waterproof", this month, **the Photo Club** members finally braved the weather to visit Scotney Castle. It was actually a lovely day for photography and the venue was full of gorgeous autumn colours. It always amazes me how many photographs can be taken of a building from just one position and yet all look so different. Members elected on



fungi and autumn as the subjects for the challenges. With all of the trees at and around Scotney, I could see that this might be a bit difficult for them, but they were clearly up for it. Some even embarked upon a 3 mile round trip in the woods nearby to get their fungi shots. You would be surprised at how many different fungi there were.

Needless to say, our website albums are brimming with photos this time, and reflect a great time had by all.

*Ian Graham*

## Group News

On a sunny October morning our **London Explorers Group (2)** were treated to yet another hidden gem, this time nestled behind Ludgate Hill, just below St Paul's.

Despite its proximity to the Cathedral, Stationers Hall survived the Blitz, but the original building Abergavenny House wasn't so lucky, and was destroyed in the Great Fire of London, 1666. Fortunately however, the Clerk of the Stationers Guild had time to remove most of the Guild's records (dating back to 1403) which survive to this day.

Our tour took us through the four impressive main rooms of the building, built in the 1670s, and ended in the peaceful garden, dominated by an enormous plane tree, possibly the oldest in London.



We learnt a lot from our guide: who knew that Stationers have that name due to the fact that the books they sold around St Paul's in the 14th and 15th centuries were too heavy to carry, so they traded from 'fixed points' i.e. stationary?! The goods they sold (pens, paper and writing materials) became known as stationery.

After our successful morning we then went and had an enjoyable lunch at Cafe Rouge, opposite St Paul's. We look forward to our next adventure!

Anne Golds



### **NEWS OF AN ENVIRONMENT GROUP STARTING IN JANUARY 2023**

*"The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share." (Lady Bird Johnson, 1967)*

We are planning to launch an Environment Group in January 2023. This is our opportunity to explore and distinguish facts from fiction about the impact of climate change on our environment, on our day-to-day life, on our future.

The Environment Group is for anyone who wants to be informed, who wants to share ideas, who wants to join the move worldwide to ACT NOW to conserve the environment.

Interested? Two members have already agreed to be the group contacts.

**For more details and enquiries about any groups please contact the [Groups Co-ordinator](#)**

# SHORT BREAK to the DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

SAVE THE DATE      **October 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

4 nights half board 3\* Belle-Vue Hotel, Vianden

**A very exciting first for our u3a.      Travelling by coach across the channel!**

Highlights include:

- ◆ City of Tournai, Belgium (en route)
- ◆ Villeroy & Boch porcelain factory
- ◆ City of Luxembourg tour
- ◆ Military History Museum (the Battle of the Bulge)
- ◆ Vianden Castle guided tour.
- ◆ Mullerthal (Little Switzerland guided tour by coach)
- ◆ Echternach medieval town
- ◆ Trier (Germany's oldest town) inc the Roemer Express (electric train)
- ◆ Moselle Valley wine tour & tasting
- ◆ Dinant Belgium (return journey)



This is being organised through Simply Groups.

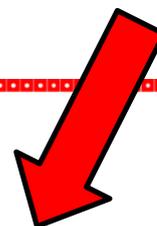
Please contact [Sandra McDonald](#)  
(01892 752196)

for more information and to receive the flyer and booking form.

**If you have read through this newsletter and thought how lovely it is to have so many activities and events available to you. Then maybe you should consider this...**



**URGENT!**



**Are you a good organiser? Do you like people?**

**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](#) (01892 513805), or speak to any of the present committee members for more information.

## Important information

### Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 15 Dec 2022 | Monthly meeting: Christmas Festive Social |
| 8 Dec 2022  | Christmas Lunch                           |

### New members

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

**Christine Barton Robert Barton Diana Bowden Roger Bowden Pat Bristow  
Charlotte Cocks Alan Harvey-Legg Christine Anne Hill Barbara Martin  
Fiona McEntee Anna Monaghan Martin Richards Diane Stacey Madeleine Stuart  
Greta Thompson Robin Thompson Duncan Warmington and Helen Warmington**

### 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 **December** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by November 30<sup>th</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



# 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.

**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:

- Starter**
- S1. Carrot and Coriander soup
  - S2. Prawn Cocktail
  - S3. Chicken Liver Pate

- Main Course**
- M1. Roast Turkey and all the trimmings
  - M2. Stuffed Pepper topped with Goats Cheese
  - M3. Cod Mornay, served with New Potatoes

- Dessert**
- D1. Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Butter or Cream
  - D2. Fruit Salad with Ice Cream or Cream
  - D3. Cheese and biscuits (please indicate if you require gluten free)

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

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

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