

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last month, on 12<sup>th</sup> November, Tunbridge Wells u3a had its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. We celebrated with a special tea and a lively performance from the Rock Choir at the Masonic Hall and took time to remember how much we owe to our founders. From a handful of far-sighted men and women who wanted to continue to pursue their interests and make new friends, TWu3a has become a large and thriving organisation. We now have 950 members and are growing all the time.

In the pages that follow, you will find reminiscences, snippets, and descriptions of events along the way, some taken from old Newsletters — our archives contain every one since the first one issued in December 1991. Above all, the u3a's principal of mutual aid and the camaraderie and pleasure which result from doing things together, shines through. What a help it has been during the pandemic!

The Committee and I hope you will enjoy this unusual edition of the Newsletter. We hope you will stay safe and well and we wish you all

**a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

[Eryll Fabian](#), Chairman (01892 513805)

### Inside this issue

1	Chairman's Update; contents	8	Group Contacts – old and new
2	Main Events	9	Snippets from newsletters and the TW Times
3	Art Appreciation Monthly talks	10-11	Reminiscences
4	How it all began	12	Crossword
5	Old & new members reminisce	13	Caroline's Walk Dates Crossword solutions;
6	The Anniversary Tea	14	Useful Information
7	Outings Coordinator	15	February's Outing Application form

### Coming up

**16th Dec**  
**Christmas Quiz**

**31st Dec** **Coffee morning at Trinity**

**20th Jan:** **Hybrid talk: Rock Choir**

## Christmas Quiz

### IMPORTANT— CHANGE OF VENUE

On Thursday 16th December at 2.30 p.m.

The Christmas Quiz with carols, mulled wine and mince pies will be held at the Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship, Hanover Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1EY. This is the large hall on the first floor above the Tesco Express in Grosvenor Road . The entrance is in the side road beside Tesco. Parking in Meadow Road Car Park.

Those of you who are joining the meeting on Zoom will be able to sing along with the carols and join in the quiz, but will have to supply your own mulled wine and mince pies!



### A message from the Tea Team

At the Christmas Quiz we will be using biodegradable cups which would be ideal for starting seeds off for gardens or allotments. Or making some personalised Christmas decorations. (There are loads of ideas on-line)

So why not bring a small bag and take some home to reuse?

*Linda Bateup*

On 20th January, Pippa Binham (seen here conducting the Rock choir at the Anniversary Tea) will be talking about the origins of Rock Choir and why it is so good for you.



As from January 2021 we shall be returning to our usual one talk a month. **These talks are free 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. **Venue to be confirmed.**

## Art Appreciation Group January - March 2022

In 2022, meetings will continue on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2.15 p.m. for a 2.30 p.m. start in the Victoria Suite of the Camden Centre.

**12th January** We shall look at the life and work of **Dame Laura Knight** using a mix of slides and a 30 minute film. Her work is having a bit of a revival and there is an exhibition "*Laura Knight - a Panoramic View*" currently at Milton Keynes Gallery ending on 20th February. I have seen it and it's well worth a visit if you are in the area.

**9th February** The subject will be **Surrealism** – not to everyone's taste but looking at it might help us appreciate some of the work in the exhibition "*Surrealism Beyond Borders*" at the Tate from 24th February to 29th August, 2022.

**9th March** We shall look at the **Camden Town Artists Group**. These artists were working a decade or so before the Surrealists, but they painted the daily reality of life in London in the years before 1914. Walter Sickert whose work is the subject of an exhibition at Tate Britain opening on 28th April was one of the founder members and we shall include a look at his life and work.

I haven't booked an external speaker this time so if you want to join in any of the sessions, no matter how many you attend, the cost for the three will be a total of £5 which is to cover the cost of hiring the hall. Space for new members is limited so if you are interested in joining the group, please email me [here](#), or telephone 01892 524537 for more details.



*A Balloon Site, Coventry*  
Laura Knight

Elaine Royal

## By the time you read this Geoff Doel will have given his talk:

### A Kent Christmas...

If you enjoyed it, you might like to know that Geoff & his wife Fran are the authors of the best selling local books *A Kent Christmas* (Sutton), *A Kent Christmas-A New Selection* (History Press), 'Folklore of Kent' (History Press), 'The Hop Bin' (History Press) & 'The Kent Hooden Horse' (History Press).

The Two Kent Christmas books 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)

## Neil Sadler

### Gongoozling for Beginners– life on the canals

This was a fun talk about the pleasures and perils of narrow boating along the British canals in retirement.



And for those who couldn't make the talk and are still wondering about gongoozling: the word may derive from canal workers' slang for someone standing idly on the towpath or, from the Lincolnshire word 'gooze' meaning to stare or gaze. Today it is used to describe people who stand watching someone performing a task and offer 'good' advice but no help.

June 2001

### Fancy that !

By definition, we aim our activities on the serious learning side of life. So it can be refreshing when your committee comes across items that are unusual enough to cause a trifling special interest or even a smile. Of course we do get a lot of advertising mail, just as you do at home and most of it goes straight into the circular file (also known as the waste paper basket) without so much as a glance, but just now and then an item catches our attention for a moment.

We all know we live in a global economy, but it was a surprise when one letter recently invited us to look for participants in a distant Jazz Appreciation trip to the USA next year. Another, this one by Email, advertised a course of twelve lectures with an overall subject title of "Silence is golden". The mind boggles!

This month I think pride of place must go to a six page circular inviting us to interest ourselves in the preservation of wild camels, with an emphasis on their plight as an endangered species in Northern China and Mongolia. So you can see, Committee labours do not always have to entail concentrated work with furrowed brow. One volunteer still needed!



## A word from a founder member...

### TWu3a 30th Anniversary

A 30th anniversary is a reminder that it is a whole generation since TWu3a began. Some of our new members may have parents who were among the TWu3a original members in the early 1990s.

Looking back, these 30 years have been a period of great change; TWu3a was founded against a background of a flourishing and affordable Adult Education system and a number of active clubs and associations in TW and the villages and this is unfortunately in many cases no longer true. It has also been a time of unprecedented technological change.

Now we are all wondering what the lasting effect of coronavirus will be. When the railways came in the mid 19th century it was said that they were like Noah's flood in dividing the time before them from the time after. So even if coronavirus has such a major effect, we know that similar problems have been experienced before and we can be confident of our future.

**Peter Batts (Membership No 1)**

## Fran remembers how it all began...

We moved to Tunbridge Wells from Bromley in 1985 and, naturally, kept in touch with our old friends there. After a few years, June and Derek Ings who lived in Keston, began to talk about a lively new organisation, the University of the Third Age, in Bromley which they had joined. By this time, I had joined the WI for the first time, the Neville WI, and was the Committee Member who arranged speakers for our group. It occurred to me that this would make an interesting talk.

June and Derek put me in touch with their Chairman and we invited him down to dinner with them so we could learn more about the University of the Third Age. It sounded fascinating. It had started in France with the purpose of providing university education for people whose studies had been blighted by WW2. When it reached the UK, it changed in character to the organisation we know and love. The Chairman agreed to give a talk to Neville WI and it was duly advertised to the local WI groups.

Doreen Batts, of Langton WI, spotted the talk and thought it could be something to keep her husband busy as he was about to retire. I didn't know Doreen and didn't know she was part of our audience that evening. The talk was fascinating and stimulating, full of possibilities for enhancing the lives of the over 50s. Soon afterwards, Doreen contacted me. I arranged for her and Peter to meet the Bromley Chairman over dinner and explore the possibilities. Peter was inspired by the idea and an inaugural meeting was set up at Trinity. Many of us became members on the spot and 12 groups were set up. We led 4 of the first 12. John started a German and a Computer group. I started a French and a Spanish group. It was all very exciting. We had members from Pembury, Tonbridge, Mayfield, Crowborough, all round.

Quite soon, the surrounding areas set up their own u3a groups and the Tunbridge Wells group has grown enormously with a large number of different subject groups. The national organisation is amazing and the possibility of involvement in all kinds of ways is vast, including travel. People give their time and their skills unstintingly and many friendships are made. It really is a wonderful organisation.

**Fran Bennett (Membership No 54)**



## And thoughts from a new member...

During COVID we decided to move from Essex, where we had lived and made many friends over 15 years, to Kent. We have family in Tunbridge Wells and, the not too distant, Surrey. With trepidation we started the process of house hunting during a pandemic. This was not the easiest of situations. Stress levels grew. Concerned we would not meet like-minded people and sad to leave our friends I joined the U3A in Tunbridge Wells long before we had even agreed on a house! I need not have worried.

It began with zoom coffee mornings! So I learnt how to do that. Some Committee members attended and explained the mechanics of how to join something that interested me. From the monthly Coffee Mornings I also heard about what was happening in several groups and events like the Summer BBQ at The Nevill which we thoroughly enjoyed. The welcome my husband and I have received from the U3A members has been marvellous. I have joined several groups and received the warmest of friendly welcomes. It is not easy to make friends once one ceases to work or family commitments reduce so I am thrilled, yes thrilled, to have met some really lovely people. Here is a photo of an outing by the Amblers, which my husband and I both greatly enjoyed. We saw a "hop picking" machine partly made by the Group Leader's father. A marvellous sight.



*Jane Anderson*

## Technology!

### Email and the Internet.

There are now many members of U3A throughout the World who communicate with each other by email. The main benefit is that it is a speedy and cheap way of keeping in touch. As short or as long as you please, it departs at the cost of a short local phone call and reaches the addressee almost as soon as it is dispatched.

Grandparents who are used to receiving only an occasional letter from distant offspring can now exchange frequent mail and keep up-to-date with events. You do not need a fast expensive machine to enjoy these benefits.

If you have never thought of using a computer ask someone who already uses one whether they would return to pen and paper.

Jan 2000

### Photographs

As an experiment Sam Brookes has inserted two photographs into the newsletter. We hope members will be patient as we struggle with this new technology!

June 1999

### Epidiascope

The Art Appreciation group use an Epidiascope as a projector for pictures or text from paper originals. It belongs to the U3A and is available to any Group Leaders who feel it might be useful in their Groups. If you are interested please telephone Matt Scott.

Sept 2002

I would also like to hear from any member who is willing to take a turn at operating the slide projector. It has to be admitted that listening for the next "next" can reduce your appreciation of the talk, but if we can have a group of 4 or 5 members who are willing to take their turn it means only a couple of times a year, rather than have someone doing it every time. Contact me if you will take a turn - "training" can be given!

Nov 2002 Long before Government briefings!

We first heard about the U3A on a SAGA holiday. A group of people including the secretary of Bromley U3A were talking about their experiences. He gave us a contact in Tunbridge Wells and as it seemed such a good idea we decided to join. We joined a walking group and also much enjoyed the church visits with the knowledgeable Peter Batts. There was an interesting course on castles and monasteries in Kent and Sussex where we had visits. Brian served several terms as Treasurer in the early 2000s. Jo started a country dance group with a friend who was a caller but that finished when he died. We continue to enjoy the wide variety of talks albeit now on Zoom.

*Brian and Jo Bailey*



**PETER SAMUEL**

I remember the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon which was held in the Spa Hotel and included a presentation to the Treasurer. Peter Batts was involved and the lunch was possibly in his honour as founder member.



# Tunbridge Wells u3a 30th Anniversary Tea



## Outings Coordinator

The first outing for 2022 will be to the Congress Theatre at Eastbourne to see the multi award-winning international musical, **Chicago**. Set in the razzle-dazzle decadence of the 1920s it is full of murder, corruption, exploitation, adultery and treachery.

The story is about Roxy Hart a housewife and nightclub dancer who murders her lover after he threatens to walk out on her. Desperate to avoid being convicted she hires the slickest criminal lawyer to transform her malicious crime into a barrage of sensational headlines, the likes of which might still be seen in today's tabloid newspapers.

We will be going to the matinee performance on Thursday 17th February. Although we are not going till February, I could only reserve a block of seats until 31/12/21 without payment. So if you wish to see this musical you need to apply for your tickets before the end of December. As usual the application form will be at the end of this newsletter, so either email me or send an application in ASAP to avoid disappointment.



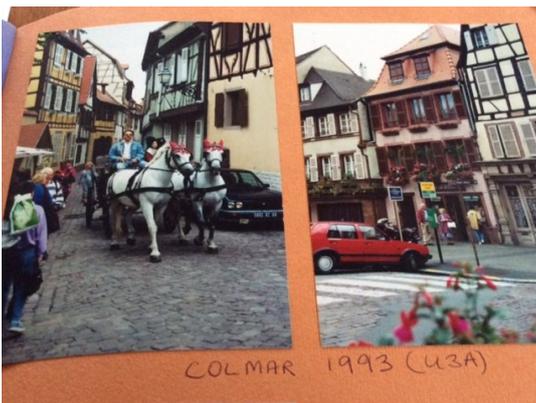
*"Chicago Musical Ambassador Theater, Broadway NYC - Manhattan, New York City, USA" by Marie Berne is licensed with CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.*

[Joan Young](#)

### COLIN AND JENNY EVANS

#### Tunbridge Wells U3A – Early memories.

Jenny and I were encouraged to join the Tunbridge Wells U3A in early 1992 by Margaret Howarth ex head of Twigs. I think we were fairly early joiners as our numbers are 101 and 102. We hosted 2 groups in the early nineties. One was teaching bridge to beginners which went on for quite a while. The second was led by Bob Goodall on France and the French, we studied the Institutions, customs and the people themselves. Arising from this group, in 1993 the International Year of the Elderly, Jenny and I organised a visit to the European Parliament to be hosted by our then Euro MP Ben Patterson. Naturally we assumed we would be going to Brussels but it turned out to be the week when the European Parliament upped sticks and moved to Strasbourg.



Fuggles organised the travel arrangements including our hotel in beautiful Colmar just South of Strasbourg. While the visit to the Parliament building was the highlight of the visit we also managed cultural and gastronomic events as well, including Strasbourg cathedral, the Vosges Mountains, an Alsace vineyard and a visit to a Champagne House near Reims on the way home in spite of the fact that most Champagne Houses were on strike at the time. After a thoroughly enjoyable trip we even got a short article in the local newspaper.

### JOY STACEY

It's hard to believe it's the 30th anniversary but on the other hand, I can't really remember a time when I didn't belong to U3A. I made many friends, some sadly departed now but with 3 years on the Newsletter, some years on the committee, some as Groups Organiser etc, I have really enjoyed my time with U3A. It was only by volunteering to help in various areas that I enjoyed so many years with you all.

I have been a longtime member of the Computer group and remember being interviewed before I was allowed to join and then I was group leader for a long time, started a beginners' group for people who were afraid things would break if they touched them - then I started a golf group, not for me as I don't play, but for my husband as he was keen - what memories.

## BOB HOLLY

My first experience of U3A, sixteen years ago, was, I must confess, not entirely positive. I had gone to the monthly meeting and, on entering the hall, was confronted by a sea of grey heads. 'I don't belong here' was my initial thought, but I did and soon realised that the grey hair was simply insulation for brains containing lifetimes worth of knowledge and experience.

The first group which I joined was Digital Photography; the late Brian Barrett was its group leader, as they were called then. Brian was great at finding all sorts of photo editing to fire our imaginations and I owe a lot to him. I had always enjoyed photography but the advent of digital and participation in the group started something for me which has lasted ever since.

My own group, Jazz Appreciation, I started eleven years ago making it clear that I didn't consider myself to be an expert. How true. In that time there have been members who have seen many of the great names and even met and were acquainted with prominent jazz musicians. So, I was in the learning seat again.

## Group contacts

You don't have to be an expert to lead a group and you don't have to be the host either. What you do need is a bit of confidence and the determination to make a start. You can advertise in the Newsletter to find out who may be interested in joining - as you can see later in this issue. There is plenty of help available, especially if there is an existing group to give advice from their experience. Contact Jane if you think you can rise to the task and she will give you all the help she can to get going. Remember, you benefit just as much as the other members.

Nov 2000



Oct 2021 46 group contacts  
lunching at the Masonic Hall

### The first 5 groups as advertised in the first Newsletter Dec 1991

1. POETRY - Ruth Wakefield - 523983. Third meeting 6 January.
2. UNDERSTANDING NUMBERS  
- Margaret Howarth - 541579. Third meeting 7 January.
3. SIX LOCAL CHURCHES  
- Peter Batts - 862387. Second meeting, Speldhurst,  
10 January at 2.00 pm
4. STAINED GLASS  
- Cecil Beeby - 529885. First meeting 16 January.
5. EVENING PLAY-READING  
- Helen Warriner - 548642.



Group Leaders lunch. Our photo shows one of the advantages of leading a group. You are invited annually to a posh buffet lunch - hopefully in the sunshine, as on 29th August this year.

Oct 2002

## DAVID SEAMAN Rail Studies Group

We cannot remember when we started but it must be close to 20 years ago. In that time we have covered a wide area of subjects from the start of the railways 200 years ago.

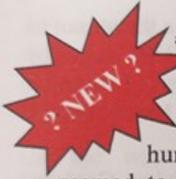
In between our monthly meetings we have made many rail trips to experience the operation of the network and stations but also to visit places of interest there.

Lunch is an important feature and our studies extend to judging the local beers. The extremities of our trips are Weymouth, Bristol, Gloucester, Birmingham, Litchfield, York and Norwich to cover journeys achievable in the day on Off-Peak tickets. We have had plenty of memorable trips including York Railway Museum, the Isle of Wight to travel on the remaining public and private railway, Bristol where we visited Brunel's ship Great Britain and Loughborough to travel on the old Great Central line. We even had one trip on Eurostar to Lille.

I wonder what happened to these groups...

Sept 1998

**Group News**  
**Humour Group** Pierre Engels writes: This group will be meeting fortnightly commencing Tuesday 29 September at 2.30pm in Mayfield. To me, humour is the outstanding difference between mankind and his cousins the apes, and other lower species. The human predicament, so minutely dissected by Aldous Huxley, is best illustrated perhaps by the following prayer: "Forgive, O Lord, my little jokes on Thee, and I'll forgive Thy great big one on me". Please phone \_\_\_\_\_ for more information.

**Humour Group**  
 In the most recent copy of *U3A Sources* there was an article encouraging the formation of humour groups which I thought seemed to be a good idea. So if anyone is interested in sharing stories, poems, anecdotes etc that would raise a laugh I, Enid Wells, 01892 \_\_\_\_\_ would be willing to host a small group in my house in Matfield.

July 2009

**BUDDHISM**  
 Clive Davies, 5 Prospect Cottages, Lamberhurst Down, TN3 8HD Phone/fax: \_\_\_\_\_ would like to Form/Join, NOT LEAD a Group to discuss Buddhism. If interested, please ring, write or fax – sorry no email.

April 2003

**In the Media**



**Chairman's Column**

First, I want to wish all our members a happy and healthy New Year.  
 May I record a heartfelt thanks to Peter Batts for stepping in to help me on 20th December. I was telephoned by the local BBC in mid-afternoon about the activities of our U3A and after giving them a welter of information, was asked to go down to the Great Hall, then and there! Well, I had to say that I could not, as I had someone calling at 4pm. They pressed me for an alternative and I named Peter Batts. Fortunately he was available and took part in an excellent interview that went out on the local BBC TV news that evening. Some of you will have seen it. I have to admit that he did a far better job than I could hope to have done. Thanks again Peter, if there is anything that I can do for you, you have only to ask.

*Peter Samuel*

Jan 2002

**Special day marks the idea of Learning, Laughing and Loving**

THE first ever national U3A Day has taken place. The group, which has the motto 'Learn Laugh Live', celebrated U3A Day on June 2. U3A was founded in 1982 to bring people together in their 'third age' (active retirement). In Tunbridge Wells, 26 members joined a 'claret plaque walk' to see some of the plaques that commemorate famous or important people connected with the town. Since it was half term a 'Spot the Toy Animals' Treasure Hunt was organised for parents and children to join, and members of the Watercolour group painted wooden butterflies that were then displayed around the town. The World of Sewing on Camden Road allowed TWu3a to dress two of their windows to draw the attention of passers-by. There are 1,039 U3As with over 430,000 members in the country. To find out more go to [tunbridgewellsu3a.org](http://tunbridgewellsu3a.org) or call the chairperson on 07471190127.



Times of TW June 2021 Note the misquote of the u3a tagline - learn laugh live.

On the 25th Anniversary **Peter Batts** wrote a piece for the newsletter. This last paragraph is so apt I think it is worth printing again...

Had anyone suggested that TW U3A would only last ten years we would have settled for that, so 25 not-out is a good beginning. So many other organisations in TW and the villages around have ceased to exist in our 25 years that U3A's importance has increased. It must continue to evolve to meet the members' needs and members must continue to play their part. U3A is not just a spectator sport. So here's to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## LIONEL COLE

In 1991 I had recently moved to Pembury from the Lake District and knew few people. I joined the Tunbridge Wells Ramblers and on one of their walks overheard Robert Green, a retired schoolmaster from Bradford discussing a new organisation proposed to be set up in Tunbridge Wells. This aroused my interest so I must have made contact. There was a meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> 1991 of potential group leaders in Peter Batts's house. Robert Green was there and Robert Goodall and a lady who later became the chairman of TWU3A. I said that I would organise a course on Russia, this being the time of Gorbachev, and Peter insisted on a snappy title: "Whither Russia?"



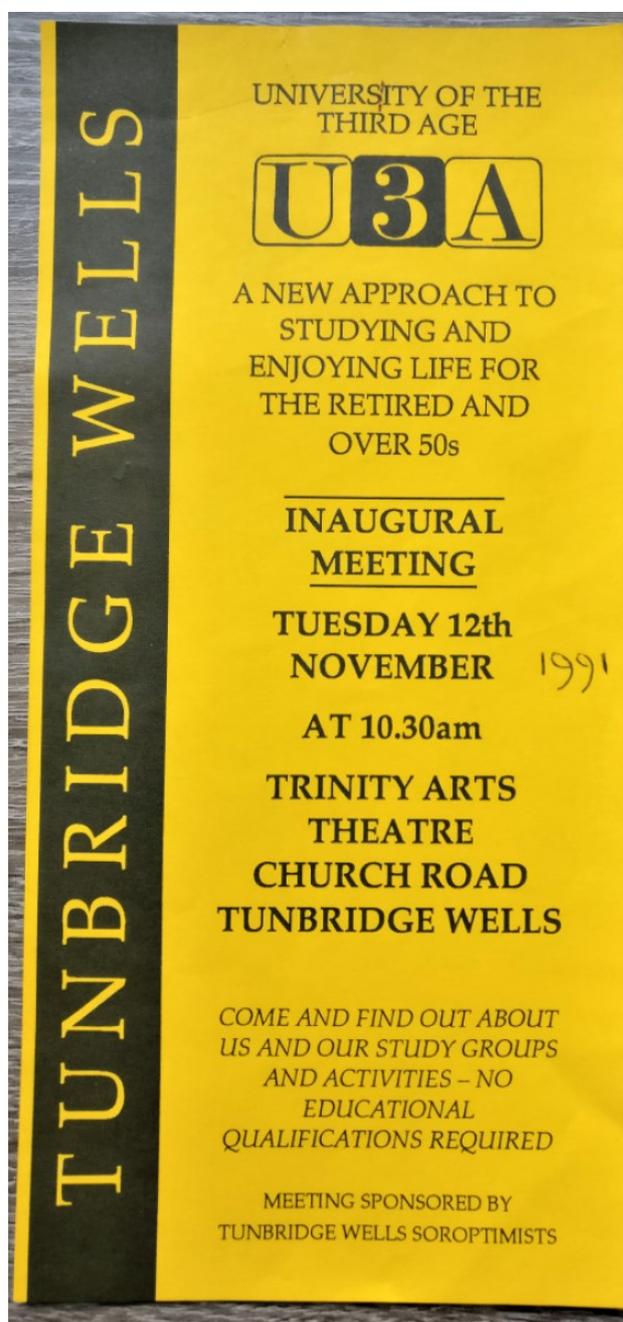
I attended the meeting in Tunbridge Wells Town Hall at which TWU3A was set up on January 14<sup>th</sup> 1992 and announced my

course. Various people signed up and I gave my first talk to my group on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

I went on for some months discussing Russia and the following season ran a course on the countries in eastern Europe which were emerging from Communism. For several years I attended every monthly meeting, some interesting, some less so! In 1994 I moved to Hawkhurst but continued running groups and attending meetings.



Just a further thought. When I joined U3A and went to meetings I felt myself to be one of the youngest members. There was an age limit of 50 and I was in my early 50s. If I went to a meeting now I would surely not be one of the oldest, but I am heading in that direction!



TUNBRIDGE WELLS

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
THIRD AGE

**U3A**

A NEW APPROACH TO  
STUDYING AND  
ENJOYING LIFE FOR  
THE RETIRED AND  
OVER 50s

INAUGURAL  
MEETING

TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup>  
NOVEMBER 1991

AT 10.30am

TRINITY ARTS  
THEATRE  
CHURCH ROAD  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

COME AND FIND OUT ABOUT  
US AND OUR STUDY GROUPS  
AND ACTIVITIES - NO  
EDUCATIONAL  
QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

MEETING SPONSORED BY  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS SOROPTIMISTS

## GILLIAN PENNY

I joined the U3A not long after I had retired and moved to Rusthall. I was helping at the Charity Christmas Card shop and my co-volunteer told me all about it, and it sounded just the thing. I went to a meeting in January 1998 and joined several groups in the next few months. These included a very enjoyable Book Group led by Heather Nettleton, a Walking Group called the Amblers led by Elsie Emes, and a Computer Group with John Hobbs.

In those days most of us were novices with computers, so it was very useful to discuss our problems, and learn more. It is fun to look back on the notes I made at the time, and to realise how far things have come since then.

After a while I joined a group playing recorders with Olivia Seaman. This was good fun - I had never played the recorder before, just the piano and violin, but the soprano recorder is not difficult to learn, and I soon moved to the tenor recorder in our group of 8. After a while we sometimes went to play to residents in Care Homes, which they mostly liked, though one day I heard one lady say to her neighbour "*don't worry dear, they will soon have finished!*"

We had some outings by coach each year, in the excellent care of Alison and Dennis Turner, and these were always very enjoyable and well organised.

In the early days there was a very interesting group - the History Group. One of the things we did was to research street names in Tunbridge Wells and also Rusthall. One tends to take these names for granted, and it was fun to try and find out their origins, and learn more about local history in the course of so doing.

The Amblers was great for finding out more about the surrounding country, especially for someone who had lived in Surrey and didn't know the area. We were not a large group, about 10 I think, and we always finished with a pub lunch, so it was a pleasantly sociable occasion.

## MARY BLINKS

I can't remember exactly when or how I came to join Tunbridge Wells U3A. It can't have been long after I retired in 1996. Very few of us had computers then, or even knew how to use one. We picked up our programmes at the monthly meetings. Before one of our monthly meetings, which was a talk on Chernobyl, I luckily came across our speaker who was lost in the Victoria Place!

I joined one or two groups, the main one being the Historic Towns Group run by Helen Clarke exploring the wealth of historic towns and castles in our area. About a week before each visit, we would meet in her house, where she would tell us about what we were going to see, giving us detailed printouts, maps and plans, prices and timings. We shared cars to go to Rochester in the north, Tenterden to the east, Battle, Pevensey and Lewes to the south, West Hoathly and East Grinstead to the west among others.

Some  
things  
never  
change..

### Final, final reminder

Our membership year commences on 1st September and you will have seen the various reminders about renewal in the newsletter. The vast majority of members have of course already re-joined, but there has to be a **cut-off date for renewal**. If you have not renewed and received your membership card (green this year) by the end of November, it will be assumed that you no longer wish to be a member. You will be deleted from our records and this will be the last newsletter sent to you.

If you are uncertain about your membership, please ring Alison Turner (01892 526693).

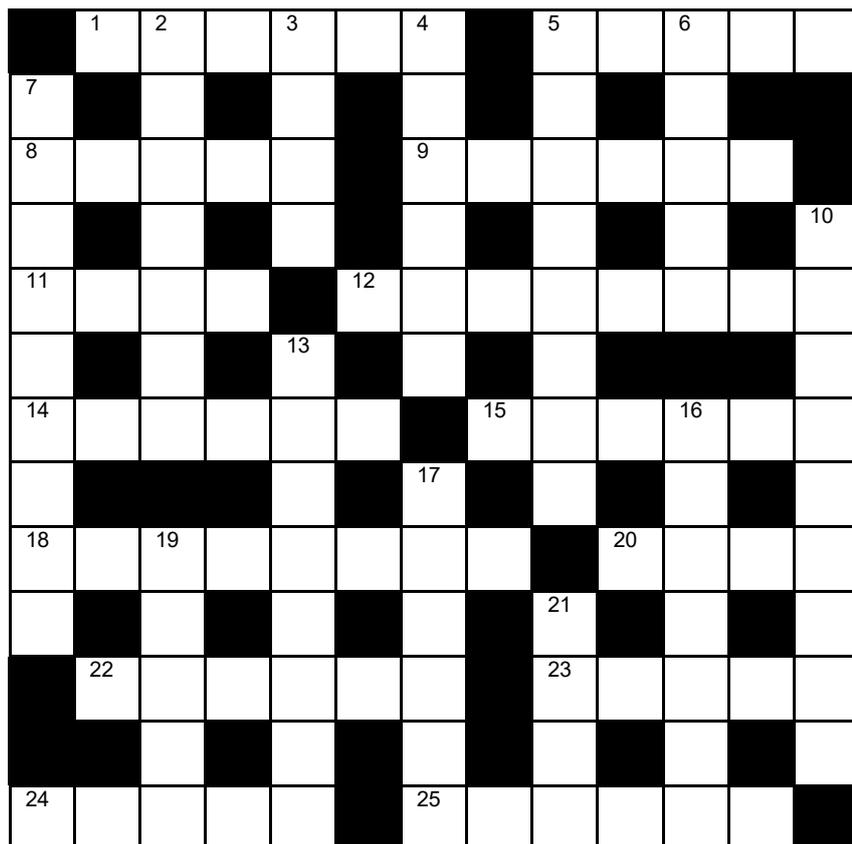
Nov 2002

From *500 Beacons, The U3A Story* by Eric Midwinter, Third Age Press, London, 2004

*A year or so ago Jeremy Paxman asked the contestants on University Challenge a leading question, the gist of which was 'what educational institution was introduced from France into the United Kingdom by Michael Young, Peter Laslett and Eric Midwinter?' Glory beckoned – but glory is a fickle jade, for none of the boneheaded students knew the answer.*

# CELEBRATION THEME CROSSWORD - CRYPTIC and QUICK

answers are identical.



*By kind permission of  
Eastbourne Meads u3a  
Cryptic Crossword Group  
Answers on the next page*

## CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Improves mood expressed when clinking glasses (6)
- 5 Extremist concealed difficult radical view (5)
- 8 Perhaps Royal is doing cake decoration? (5)
- 9 From dawn to dusk the French lady cavorted (3,3)
- 11 Clean up when yours truly had turkey gutted outside (4)
- 12 Managed to infect wedding paperwork (8)
- 14 Christmas Eve worker hesitates after rush (6)
- 15 Loosely record meet where Diwali may be celebrated (6)
- 18 Sounds like you will be hitched for Christmas! (8)
- 20 So the entrance of elves and reindeer must come before grotto is emptied (4)
- 22 Neckerchief originally cost ridiculous amount plus tax! (6)
- 23 Doctor with dysfunctional family gets sniffer! (5)
- 24 Tailless sea fish with the Italian herb (5)
- 25 Dress reversal often seen in pantomime where Napoleon is man dressed as woman! (6)

## QUICK CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Bottoms up! (6)
- 5 -----violet; extreme (5)
- 8 Cake topping (5)
- 9 Early morning to night (3,3)
- 11 Neat (4)
- 12 Thrown at celebrations (8)
- 14 One of Santa's reindeer (6)
- 15 Place of worship (6)
- 18 Christmas (8)
- 20 Therefore (4)
- 22 Gentleman's tie (6)
- 23 Sip (5)
- 24 Drink (5)
- 25 Adoption of female dress and manner by a male (6)

## CRYPTIC CLUES DOWN

- 2 I went into Harrods after Rex removed tangled coiffures (7)
- 3 Easter treats, for instance Gilbert and Sullivan (4)
- 4 Spice up the turkey, maybe, one of four each year (6)
- 5 Delighted, I left pud baking (8)
- 6 Raise a glass to a wonderful good person (5)
- 7 Disturbed hybrid and sat for anniversaries (9)
- 10 Sparks coming from sack factory (9)
- 13 Fat Elvis organised outdoor rock concert (8)
- 16 Sea trip arranged for celebrations (7)
- 17 Dancing white swan might be duck with outstanding bill, so to speak (6)
- 19 Ten of these are jumping at 18 across? (5)
- 21 Past Prime Minister's garden (4)

## QUICK CLUES DOWN

- 2 Coiffures (7)
- 3 Chocolate gifts at Easter (4)
- 4 Winter or Spring, for example (6)
- 5 Elated (8)
- 6 "Good health" (5)
- 7 Annual celebrations (9)
- 10 Pyrotechnics (9)
- 13 Glastonbury, for example (8)
- 16 Social gatherings for pleasure(7)
- 17 Swan Lake heroine (6)
- 19 Upper house (5)
- 21 First garden (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 .

[Sue Brimlow](mailto:SueBrimlow@gmail.com)



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 is the next date-

**11th January 2022 Virtual Tour of the V&A British Galleries 1500 - 1760**

### London Safari

Four of the animals spotted on Caroline's urban Safari.

The polar bear (with real snow!) is one of the animal statues by Kendra Haste at the Tower of London.



Originally a gift from the Russian Ambassador in 1664, the pelicans are fed daily in St James' Park next to Duck Island Cottage.

Hodge is the name of this black cat, the favourite of Samuel Johnson. He is sitting on the famous dictionary in Gough Square.



In 2009 a statue was unveiled on the Mall of the Queen Mother. Around the statue are bronze relief panels. This one showing her with her beloved corgis which she had kept since the age of 7.

I'm not sure where this came from but it was in the TWu3a archive. You may not think it very apt or you may find it amusing.

Frankly, I have become a frivolous old girl – I am seeing 7 gentlemen everyday!

As soon as I wake up **Will Power** helps me out of bed. Then I visit **John**, next it is time for **Earl Grey** followed by **Postman Pat**. Shortly after **Arthur Ritis** shows up and stays for the rest of the day. He does not like to stay in one place for very long so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I'm glad to go to bed with **Johnnie Walker**, oh yes... and I am also flirting with **Al Zymer**.

## Eastbourne Meads Crossword - Solutions

### ACROSS

1 Cheers 5 Ultra 8 Icing 9 All day 11 Tidy 12 Confetti 14 Dasher 15 Temple 18 Yuletide  
20 Ergo 22 Cravat 23 Drink 24 Basil 25 Eonism

### DOWN

2 Hairdos 3 Eggs 4 Season 5 Uplifted 6 Toast 7 Birthdays 10 Fireworks 13 Festival  
16 Parties 17 Odette 19 Lords 21 Eden

## Important information

### Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

	The events team are working on next year's line up—look out for more details in future newsletters.
24 September 2022	Barn Dance-details to be confirmed

### New members

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

**Patricia Baldwin Margaret Barty Ann Rose Brooks Rhiannon Carney  
Pauline Cavie Tim Cooper-Jones Ian Hamilton Penny Hamilton  
Barbara Hodgson Jacky Jones Malcolm Lewis Sue Swift  
Audrey Thomson and Rosalie Vicars-Harries**

### 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 **January** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by December 31 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

**A visit to the Congress Theatre Eastbourne to see Chicago**

**Thursday 17th February 2022**

Our first monthly outing for 2022 will be to the Congress Theatre Eastbourne to see the musical **Chicago**. Set in the razzle-dazzle decadence of the 1920's. Murder, corruption, exploitation, adultery and treachery. The multi awarded international musical Chicago, tells the story of Roxy Hart, a housewife and night club dancer who murders her lover after he threatens to walk out on her. Desperate to avoid being convicted she hires Chicago's slickest criminal lawyer to transform her malicious crime into a barrage of sensational headlines, the likes of which might still be seen in today's tabloid newspapers.

The coach will leave Tunbridge Wells at 10.30 to arrive in Eastbourne in time for lunch or some shopping before the performance at 2.30 p.m.

- 10.30 a.m. Coach leaves opposite Southborough Fountain by the bus stop
- 10.40 a.m. Coach leaves bus stop outside St Johns Church
- 10.50 a.m. Coach leaves Crescent Road Tunbridge Wells
- 12.00 p.m. Coach arrives in Eastbourne
- 14.30 p.m. Performance begins at the theatre

The coach will depart from Eastbourne immediately after the performance, I cannot give exact times, as the theatre did not have the timings yet. I estimate it will finish around 17.00pm. I will confirm the departure time nearer the day.

The cost will be £50 to include the ticket for the performance of Chicago, the coach and the driver's gratuity. No food or drink will be supplied on this trip.

Our preferred method of payment is by Bacs. To pay, make an online transfer to Tunbridge Wells u3a Sort Code 40-52-40 Account number 00024097. Reference: F5 Surname e.g. mine would be F5 Young. If paying by Bacs send an email to me at [jyoutings@gmail.com](mailto:jyoutings@gmail.com) confirming your name, telephone number (preferably mobile) and most important, where you want to join the coach. That is all the information I require. If you are making a Bacs payment on behalf of someone else, please do a separate transfer with their details on the transfer; for accounting reasons, we need separate payments.

If you do not use online banking, please complete the application form and send it with your cheque to Joan Young at 21 Coniston Avenue Tunbridge Wells TN4 9SP. Please do not send SAE, I will acknowledge your application by email or by telephone for the few members that do not use the internet.

My telephone number on the day or any queries—07504919081

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

Name.....Telephone numbers.....

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

Name.....Telephone numbers .....

I/we will join the coach at Southborough Fountain. 10.30a.m. ....

Bus Stop outside St Johns church 10.40a.m.....

Crescent road 10.50a.m.....

Members are advised that neither the TWu3a nor the outings organiser/s will accept responsibility for any mishap of whatever nature during the outing. Members are advised to consider personal insurance cover.