

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A NEWS

February 2018



THE UNIVERSITY OF
THE THIRD AGE

www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

U3A London Events. We've previously told you about the events organised in London by the National Office, which include study days at the National Gallery and Royal Institute of Science. They are always popular and get booked very quickly, so in the past we've advised you to register for event update emails. It would seem that they have changed the way they promote these events as the details are now in their monthly newsletter. Here's a [link](#) to sign up for the national newsletter and a [link](#) to their current newsletter. Their email address is www.u3a.org.

Tickets for the Barn Dance are going fast, so many thanks for your support. We've booked additional room at the hall, so we can accommodate more members this time, so please don't hesitate to book using the application form at the end of this newsletter.

Due to a cancellation, we have one double room available on our Liverpool trip. Details can be found in the [October Newsletter](#). Please contact [Sandra McDonald](#) if you are interested on 01892 752196.

Finally, we've held three mid-month coffee mornings in the Chamberlain Court Care Home. Demand for these meetings has been low so we will discontinue them after the February meeting. Some of our groups will continue to use the meeting room for either planning meetings or to hold regular meetings, which means they can expand the numbers in their group. We are of course continuing our popular coffee mornings held at the Trinity café, normally on the last Friday of the month. Please note that the March meeting will be a week earlier on the 23rd as the last Friday is Good Friday.

Sue Brimlow. Chairman Tel: 01892 863691

COMING UP

MONTHLY MEETINGS

at 2.30pm at the Camden Centre

Thursday 15th February
The Joys of English

Thursday 15th March
Britain through the Seasons

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

at Trinity from 10.30 – 12.00

Friday 23rd February
! Friday 23rd March !

OUR OUTINGS

There will be outings on:

21st and 28th February
to the Royal Albert Hall
These outings are now full

21st March
to Mottisfont (NT)
and Guildford Cathedral
This outing has a waiting list

17th April
Sussex Coastal Curios
application form on page 9

BARN DANCE



on Saturday 10th March
application form on page 10

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Report on the Outing to **Holiday on Ice**

It was a dreary wet Thursday morning when the coach picked us up to take us to Brighton to see **Holiday on Ice**. The wish and prayer requested en route resulted in Brighton welcoming us with dry, overcast but pleasant weather. The channel was pond-like. **Holiday on Ice** didn't disappoint. It was a loud, colourful, fast and daring spectacle. The mass of skaters almost 30 in total treated us to backflips, lifts and spins but at times it felt a bit too safe. What were more impressive were the eight Principal skaters who did more dangerous moves. One showed off his amazing strength as he lifted the woman into the air and then spun her whilst she balanced on his head! At times we gasped out loud as the male skater swung the female skater round with her head centimetres from the ice.

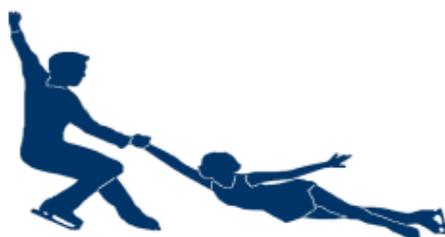


image from Wikimedia Commons

The amazing lighting tended at times to dominate and for some the chorus skaters went on a bit too long but generally the show was well received.

Thank you to Sandra Chandnani and Pat Micklewright for organising this.

OUTING NEWS

The outing to Mottisfont in March is now full with a waiting list.

Our outing in April is in conjunction with City and Village Tours. 'Sussex Coastal Curios'.

This is a treat as we are joined by a Blue Badge Guide for the day. We also have morning refreshments and a lunch included in the price.

City and Village have put together a lovely poster. (See following page)

The application form is at the end of this newsletter. Please write your name and address clearly, remembering to include your telephone and membership numbers.

To ensure ALL U3A members have an equal chance of coming on our outings the organiser MUST receive a paper copy of your completed application form please. A telephone call or email will not secure a place.

We are delighted to welcome 3 new members to the outings committee: Christine Dove, Lorna Jones and Sylvia Joyce. We hope you will enjoy what we have planned in the year ahead. This includes a Tudor Tower in Essex, Historic Rochester, Syon House, the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum and, hopefully, our first one night sleepover!! This will be to Oxford and Blenheim Palace in early October.

I am looking at another 3 night short break away in 2019. The focus could possibly be on Highclere Castle. (Downton Abbey). This gets booked up a year in advance for groups!

A double / twin room has become available for our 4 day trip away at the end of April to see the Terracotta Warriors in Liverpool. Please contact me if you are interested.

[Sandra McDonald](#) Outings Co-ordinator

Sussex Coastal Curios Tunbridge Wells U3A Tuesday 17 April 2018



On this ever popular tour we take you off the beaten track in an attractive part of England to discover some quirky English curios. The day is both entertaining and easy on the feet with the added attraction of sitting together as a group for morning coffee and a chicken lunch included in the tour fee. We'll be in the company of a top notch Blue Badge Guide throughout the day.

We meet at 10.30am in Bramber for morning refreshments. Many of the old cottages in Bramber were built with flint pilfered from the ruins of the Norman Castle. This is one of the prettiest villages in West Sussex, a frequent winner of the South East in Bloom competition, so we know that your folk will be delighted to know that they'll be coming back here for lunch.

We begin our day by visiting an architectural masterpiece of national importance – the soaring and many buttressed Gothic chapel of Lancing College - truly magnificent. The chapel is the spiritual heart of the boarding school attended by Evelyn Waugh, Sir Tim Rice, and Tom Sharpe.

We return to beautiful Bramber for lunch which today is seasonal chicken with potatoes and vegetables or a vegetarian alternative (please let us know in advance) A real treat this afternoon is the quite astonishing ceiling of an otherwise architecturally plain Catholic church at genteel Goring. Here a local artist and parishioner has created a unique reproduction of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel.

Last but not least we drive to the seaside at Worthing. Whilst the decadent Prince Regent established his seaside court at racy Brighton his delicate younger sister came to peaceful Worthing with her mother and aunts to enjoy the sheltered climate afforded by the South Downs. Here Oscar Wilde also came for holidays during one of which he wrote one of his most popular plays - *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Worthing is a super place to stop to buy tea to round off our day out before making tracks for home at 4.45pm.

**For this outing we are pleased to be using Cordery Coach (JG Theatre Club). We depart 8.50am from Southborough Fountain & 9.10am from Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall
The cost is £41.00 including morning refreshments and a one course chicken lunch.**



Barn Dance

There is still time to book tickets for the Barn Dance!

The application form is on page 11.



Group Reports

WINE APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 and 2

The Wine Appreciation Group will be two years old in March this year. Since its beginnings in 2016 we have travelled the world of wine with tastings from the new world, old world and even Romania and Slovenia.



We've tasted Sauvignon Blanc twice now and it's been amazing how different one grape can taste depending on where it comes from and how it is produced in the winery.

Before joining the group, I would largely pick wines from France, Italy and Spain and maybe New Zealand for some of their white wines. Now I know there is more to Riesling than Blue Nun and Black Tower; I'd been put off by possibly drinking them too often when younger and there are some great wines available using the Riesling grape.

We've also found some interesting wines from Australia where some boutique producers are now producing more refined wines to compete with some of the better known French and Italian vineyards and which don't have that big bold signature of many wines from Oz.

I'm still struggling to smell and taste all the flavours Jilly Goolden, Oz Clarke and other experts describe when tasting wines but perhaps it's just a question of keep on trying. After nearly two years of tasting I know more about wine and can be more confident about what to choose, but when you look at the variety of grapes and wines available there is a long way to go to become an expert.

In an evening we normally taste between 6-8 wines, depending on the number of attendees. There is a theme for the evening and the wines might include a dessert wine, port or even a Pedro Ximenez Sherry poured over ice-cream. It's always sociable, not just because of the wine, as we keep the group relatively small, and it's a very relaxed way to taste, appreciate and learn about the world of wine. There is a varied programme planned for 2018 which will include member and wine merchant presentations, a planned dinner with food matched wines and, following our successful visit to Hush Heath Vineyard in Staplehurst, a trip to Chapel Down Vineyard near Tenterden.

There will be a second group starting in March on the fourth Friday of each month and the current group meets on the 2nd Wednesday. If you are interested in joining, please contact either [David Britton](#) (Group Contact, Wine Appreciation 1) or [Ian Seddon](#) (Group Contact, Wine Appreciation 2).

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Please note this slight amendment to our timing

Because of changes in administrative procedure at the Camden Centre will you please note that our Art Appreciation Group meetings will not begin until **2.45 p.m.** and it will not be possible to come into the Main Hall until 2.30 p.m. so that the chairs can be put out in advance and our technical staff have adequate time to prepare.

We very much hope this will not inconvenience you in any way.

The Spring programme remains the same:-

Tuesday 20th February: **CHARLES THE FIRST: KING AND COLLECTOR**

Tuesday 27th March: **THE ART OF EVERYDAY: POTS AND PANS; PEARS AND PLUMS
AND AN UNMADE BED**

Tuesday 17th April: **POWER AND PROGAGANDA; WARTS AND ALL:
A STUDY OF PORTRAITURE**

We look forward to seeing you.

[Alison Turner](#) (Group Contact) 01892 526693

PUB QUIZ GROUP

Members of the Pub Quiz Group take part in a number of local pub quizzes, regularly at the Beau Nash on a Tuesday, and often at the Spread Eagle on Sunday evening and Wetherspoons on a Monday evening.

We are very pleased to report that on 2nd January a win at the Beau Nash of £31 pushed us through the £1,000 barrier and a win on 9th raised a further £74. To date £1,101 has been raised for charities that have included Hospice in the Weald, Demelza House, RNLI, Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance and Tunbridge Wells Churches Winter Shelter.

We look forward to further success in 2018, as well as having more great evenings out. For further information please contact: [Dick Hoare](#) or [Evelien Hurst-Buist](#).

ERRATA

Please note the following corrections to the January Group Listing:

Updates:

Italian Beginners Plus meets weekly on Wednesdays at 10.00am

Strollers Walking group and Book Group 5 have been disbanded.

Roman History should be entitled History of the Final Years of the Roman Empire in the West. Details on the website.

Pub Quiz contacts are Dick Hoare and Evelien Hurst- Buist Details on page.....

Wine Appreciation meeting dates as per newsletter and article by David Britton on page....

Errata:

Bus Pass and Train Explorers : Carol Boyd's email carol.boyd@blueyonder.co.uk

Knit and Natter: Rita Young's tel 01892 457349

Science and Technology: Sandra Blacker's tel 01892 459127

Spanish Intermediate: Helen Bright's tel 01892 527527

Update on Groups

Good News:

Christine Dove has kindly offered to lend support to coordinating our ever increasing number of groups. She will be helping at events such as New Members Meetings, Contacts' Lunch and the regular monthly meetings. Christine will also help with the group listings but please continue to email any changes to me jan.sumner@btinternet.com or phone 01892 860554

New Groups:

Wine Appreciation Two is new and will meet monthly on 4th Fridays at 7pm at Headway, 3 Culverden Park, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9QT. **Contact:** [Jan Seddon](#)

Wine Appreciation One meets monthly on 2nd Wednesdays and the contact is [David Britton](#)
For further information see page 4 above.

A **Second Spanish Beginners Group** is to be set up at Trinity on 31st January and there will be details on the website.

I hope soon to have sufficient interest to establish the following:

Out and About Explorers This group would share cars and venture out to discover stately homes, historic villages, castles, festivals and more.

Local Music Events If you would like to join a group to visit live music events at Trinity, The Assembly Hall, The Pantiles or any other nearby venue, please get in touch.

Changes

After many years' involvement in our U3A, Diana Barry has now moved out of the area. We should like to thank Diana for her work in co coordinating a discussion group and a book group. These now have new contacts. See details below:

Matters Arising Contact [Christine Bryan](#) or 01892 535690

Book club Volume 2 Contact [Jean Deas](#) or 01892 524667

Garden Visits 2 This group is to merge with Garden Visits One. Please contact [Val Waters](#) or 01892 680415

The Science Group will in future hold meetings at Chamberlain Court and is therefore able to invite a few new members. Contact [Sandra Blacker](#) or 01892 459127

These groups are looking for new members

Discussion Group A Friday morning group which is held **once a month** on the 2nd Friday. Contact [Angela Tutin](#) or **01892 724458**

Military, Aviation and Maritime Histories meets in the morning on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Please contact [Michael Polkinghorne](#) or 01892 539320 if you would like to know more.

Groups Listing errata and updates are on page 5 above

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

Jan Sumner, Groups Co-ordinator

Monthly Meetings

15th February: Tim Mooney: “The Joys of English”. Following his previous talk about Crossword puzzles, Tim proposes to take you through some aspects of our ever-growing language from the perspective of a professional crossword setter.

Not so much academic, his talk once again will be a light-hearted romp through some aspects that fascinate him, and indeed some he exploits in his cryptic clue writing. We may even be invited to crack a couple of cryptic clues (easy if you were paying attention at his previous talk!)

15th March: Tom Way: “Britain through the Seasons”. An award winning fine art wildlife photographer, Tom Way’s talk presents an array of British wildlife through our four seasons. Tom will talk about spending hours lying in the snow photographing mountain hares during the cold winter months, to waiting for fox cubs to appear from their den on the long summer evenings. Tom will go into detail about how including the different colours of the year can help improve your images and why photographing in extreme weather conditions can bring out the best in your photos.

19th April: Bernard Lockett: “The Social and Political Satire of Gilbert and Sullivan” focuses on the strong witty satire of Gilbert's words matched with Sullivan's melodious music.

Gilbert and Sullivan fans may be interested to know that the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival, with which Bernard Lockett is involved, will be performing a short season at:

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford; www.orchardtheatre.co.uk; Box Office Tel: 01322-220000

The dates are Monday 10th until Wednesday 12th September 2018:

Monday 10th September at 19.30 – *Iolanthe*

Tuesday 11th September at 19.30 – *Trial by Jury* and *The Sorcerer*

Wednesday 12th September at 14.30 & 19.30 – *The Pirates of Penzance*

The box office is already open and group rates and discounts are available.

17th May: Grace Davies: “Alfred Nobel and his Legacy”. Alfred Nobel was a 19th century Swedish scientist, businessman and inventor. When he died he left a large fortune for the establishment of five prizes ‘for those who, in the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind.’ This presentation and display explores Nobel’s life and work, the establishment of the prizes in Stockholm and Oslo and illustrates a number of the Peace Laureates.



Fiddle and Faff

U3A members were given an enjoyable welcome into 2018 by Fiddle and Faff, the stage names of Christine Adams and Lissie Bayford. They serenaded us during our January monthly meeting with their “Kentish Garland”, a selection of Kentish folk songs ranging from as far back as the time of the Peasants Revolt right up to the present day.

It was nice to see so many members attending and catching up over tea afterwards.

Linda Bateup

Photo of Sue Brimlow with Fiddle and Faff by David Walter





Events In February and March



We have the following events arranged for February and March

9 th Feb	Coffee Morning at Chamberlain Court
15 th Feb	Monthly Meeting: The Joys of English
23 rd Feb	Coffee Morning at Trinity
28 th Feb	New Members' Meeting (Camden Centre, Victoria Suite) – by invitation
10 th Mar	Barn Dance
15 th Mar	Monthly Meeting: Britain through the Seasons
23 rd Mar	Coffee Morning at Trinity. N.B. The coffee morning will not be on 30th March (the last Friday in March) as this is Good Friday

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

19 th April	Monthly Meeting: The Social and Political Satire of Gilbert and Sullivan
26 th April	Group Contacts' Lunch – by invitation
17 th May	Monthly Meeting: Alfred Nobel and his Legacy
? 5th June	Art History Seminar – date to be confirmed. Further details will be in a later Newsletter
21 st June	AGM
7 th August	History Seminar – further details will be in a later Newsletter
22 nd Oct.	Science Study Day – further details will be in a later Newsletter

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined since 1 January 2018

Fabienne Beale	Ruby Hills	Veronica Pickett	Hilary Tyrer
Eileen Byrne	Sue Humphries	Chris Ponsford	Michael Tyrer
Christine Drury	Ann Lovering	Margaret Pratt	Mary Watts
Diana Gourmand	Ann Marchant	Julie Procter	
Cyril Hills	Daphne Miles	Anna Saunders	

Useful Information and Important Messages

Your Committee

Chairman	Sue Brimlow	01892 863691
Vice-Chairman	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Secretary	Wendy Maher	01892 325272
Treasurer	David Scott	01892 701950
Group Coordinator	Jan Sumner	01892 860554
Membership Secretary	Ruth Johnson	01892 523097
Outings Coordinator	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196
Business Secretary	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Newsletter	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805

A message from the Editor:

Members' photos and articles about group activities, places visited and anything relating to U3A events are always welcome. We can't guarantee to print them but shall do our best if space allows.

All contributions to the March Newsletter should be e-mailed to [Eryll Fabian](mailto:Eryll.Fabian) by 28th February or phone 01892 513805.

National Events

Details of interesting national events appear on the website. They can be found on www.u3a.org.uk or by writing to: The Third Age Trust, 52 Lant Street, London SE1 1RB

SPRING BARN DANCE

Date: Saturday 10th March

Time: 7.30 to 10.30

Venue: Langton Green Village Hall TN3 0JJ

Price: £15 to include fish and chip supper.

Bring your own drinks, nibbles and glasses



Abbey Capers will be providing the music again and have promised that they'll gear the evening to our capabilities and will alternate between dance and music to listen to, if we need time to get our breath back. Priority will be given to U3A members, but if numbers permit you are welcome to bring a guest.

To reserve a place please complete the slip below and send it with your cheque made payable to **TW U3A** to:

Sue Brimlow, 1 The Grange, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 0HR

Receipts will be emailed or enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope if you prefer confirmation by post.



Please retain the above for information.

I/We wish to attend the U3A Barn Dance and enclose a cheque for £15 per person made payable to **TWU3A**.

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone No:

Email address:

Details of any dietary requirements

I enclose a cheque for £..... (£15 per person)