

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A NEWS

February 2019



THE UNIVERSITY OF
THE THIRD AGE

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

I'm really excited by all the plans we're putting in place for 2109. In addition to our normal groups, outings, short break and monthly speakers; we've now got 3 events booked; the Barn Dance in April, a carvery lunch in June and an evening BBQ in July. Further details are in the newsletter.

Adrian has also been very active in arranging our study day and two seminars. Those of you who enjoyed David Southwood's talk at the Science Study Day last October, will be delighted to hear that he has offered to give us another talk in August. To fit in with the 50th anniversary of the first moon walk, it will be called 'The Race to the Moon'. Julia Cruise will give a history seminar on June 11th and our Study Day at Paddock Wood will be on October 28th and this year's topic will be Art. We're hoping that Gayna Pelham will deliver some of the session and if you heard either of her talks at the National Gallery, you will know what an engaging and informative speaker she is.

The committee and other volunteers are essential to deliver all the above activities. We are a self-run, participative organisation and as you will see in the newsletter, we're seeking some replacement committee members. **Please** don't dismiss this request, especially if you've recently joined. Many long term members have already played their part and if you've recently retired you're likely to have the energy and time to take on these roles. Do check out the request in the newsletter.

[Sue Brimlow](#), *Chairman*, Tel: 01892 863691

COMING UP

MONTHLY MEETINGS

at 2.30pm at the Camden Centre

Thursday 21st February
James Bond –
a British Hero
a talk by Caroline Piper

Thursday 21st March
The Origin and Meaning of
Nursery Rhymes
a talk by Dr Linda Hall

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

at Trinity from 10.30 – 12.00

Friday 22nd February
Friday 29th March

OUR OUTINGS

There will be outings on
Wednesday 20th February
to
'GHOST'
THE MUSICAL
already fully booked

Wednesday 20th March
to
WINDSOR CASTLE
waiting list only

Wednesday 10th April
to
Bletchley Park
application form on page 10

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YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

Committee members are elected at our AGM and serve for a maximum of 3 years and then must be re-elected if they are prepared to stay on. After 6 years they have to step down for a minimum of a year. This means that a committee role is 'not a job for life' and equally importantly we balance continuity with the influx of skills and ideas that new members bring.

These rules are in our constitution (a copy of which is on our website on the About Us page) and is common to all U3As. As we are a charity, all committee members are automatically Trustees. We hold monthly committee meetings (apart from December), which we keep to 2 hours. In addition to that, committee members try to attend the monthly meeting and coffee morning if possible.

This year, my 3 years as Chair ends and David Scott wishes to step down as Treasurer, due to his other commitments. Jan Sumner would also like to step down as Groups Co-ordinator. These are key roles in our U3A and the first two must be filled if we wish to continue functioning. I am prepared to stand again but would only want to be in post for a year.

So over to you! You've got 4 months to consider the roles, by speaking to us and finding out what's involved and having your arm twisted by persuasive members.

Sue Brimlow

EVENTS COMMITTEE'S PLANS FOR 2019

I'm very encouraged that the new events committee is up and running and full of ideas for new events that we can put on for our members. It also means that the effort in putting on our existing events such as the AGM and Christmas meeting doesn't all fall on the main committee (see the above article). I'm very grateful to Marilyn Smart for persuading members to help.

The **Barn Dance** in April has already been organised and there is a reminder and application form in this newsletter.

The next event that has been arranged is a **carvery lunch at the Masonic Hall**. We know how popular the Christmas meal is, but we weren't sure how many people would like a similar one during the summer. So we've hedged our bets and just booked some tables for their regular carvery on May 12th. There is an application form at the end of the newsletter.

We've booked an **evening BBQ at the Nevill** on July 19th too. We're planning an old-fashioned games afternoon with afternoon tea in September. If we have enough energy and there is sufficient interest, we're thinking of a **quiz and ploughmans** in October.

Sue Brimlow

BARN DANCE

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

Please note

► Tickets for ONE non-U3A friend or partner per application ◀
are now available ◀



The application form is on page 12



SHORT BREAK TO BATH, BRISTOL, ETC. OCTOBER 2019

Following the notice in the January Newsletter I have received many enquires and rooms are going fast. Details are on page 11. If you are interested in joining us **please do not delay** in contacting [me](#).

*Sandra McDonald,
Short Breaks and
Holidays Coordinator*



OUTINGS NEWS

We have had a very successful start to our planned outings this year, both of our first two trips have been sold out and we have a waiting list for the **Windsor Castle** trip in March.

The next planned Outing is in April to the very interesting **Bletchley Park**, which is famous for code breaking in World War 2. It was said that, thanks to the people working at Bletchley Park, World War 2 was shortened, saving many lives. The application form is at the end of this Newsletter.

Coming up this year we have the following trips planned: **Standen (N.T) & Saint Hill Manor** in May, **Polesden Lacey** in June, **Hatfield House** in July, **RAF Manston History Museum and Spitfire Museum** in August, **Beaulieu** in September. Then we have our 3 day break in **BATH & BRISTOL** (see above). After that we have planned a second visit to the very popular **Kew Gardens & Lights** in November and finally in December there will be our Christmas Lunch and Christmas quiz as usual.

The application forms for our forthcoming trips will appear approximately two months before the planned trips. The tickets for these trips are allocated on a first come first secured basis after we have received a completed application form and cheque.

Joan Young, Outings Coordinator

GROUP REPORTS

LONDON EXPLORERS 4



We had a trip today to the Foundling Museum, Brunswick Square. Organised at the last minute by Christine & David Britton. Most interesting visit to the first home for children at risk of abandonment set up by Thomas Coram in 1739. The museum also has a collection of art by William Hogarth, Thomas Gainsborough & Allan Ramsay. Visitors can also read about the link with Gerald Coke Handle. Following the museum the group had an enjoyable lunch in a local pub, as you can see from my photograph, above.

Suzette Elliott-West, Group Contact

ITALIAN CONVERSATION ►

The Italian Conversation Group held their Christmas lunch at Il Vesuvio restaurant in Tunbridge Wells on 14th December.

*Photo by
Glyn Balmer*



*Photo by
Suzette
Elliott-West*



◀ FOOD APPRECIATION GROUP

On the 25th January, Burns Night, several of the members of the Food Appreciation Group went to "Daily Bread" in Rusthall to celebrate in traditional style. We toasted the Haggis and listened to a Robbie Burns recital, all to the strain of distant bagpipes (recorded, not present). I'm not sure everyone was converted into being a haggis lover, but we all had a great time, stopping short of doing the Highland Fling on the table.
More photos on page 7 *Marilyn Smart*

WINE APPRECIATION GROUPS

Following on the success of Tunbridge Wells' first Wine Appreciation Group a second group started in March last year. Whilst most months the groups have their own programmes there were a couple of joint events:

Chapel Down Vineyard visit

When visiting Chapel Down we had a short tour of the vineyard to view the various varieties of grapes they grow and learn how the vines are cared for throughout the year. After this we visited the winery to see the different types of grape crushers and learnt how they make their sparkling wines using the champagne method. The next part was perhaps the most important as we were able to taste several of their wines including their limited Kits Coty range. The visit ended with lunch and an opportunity to have another glass of our favourite wine from the tasting.



December Meeting

Because of the timing of WAG2's meeting it was decided to hold a joint meeting. The theme for the evening was to compare mainstream supermarket wines with those from the budget supermarkets and to try and identify where they were sourced. Perhaps it is not surprising that it was very difficult to tell whether the wine came from for example; Sainsbury's or Aldi.

Last Year

During the rest of the year we tasted wines from all over the world trying wines including New Zealand, Tasmania, North and South America as well as Eastern Europe and of course the rest of Europe. Both groups aim to extend their knowledge of wines, why the same grape can vary in taste depending on the winemaker, the area in which it is grown, the climate, etc. WAG2 are perhaps more focussed on trying to evaluate the wine a little more critically by considering carefully its aroma, appearance, palate, and so on.

This Year

Both groups have exciting programmes in place for this year, including another vineyard visit. Once again, the wines we will taste will be varied in price, location and grape variety with the aim of extending the groups' knowledge of wine.

So what things might you discover if you joined:

- How to taste wine
- Does price matter?
- What wine or grapes are my favourite?
- Are English wines worth the premium?
- How do they make Champagne and what's the difference between that and other sparkling wines?

Will you end up as a wine expert? Probably not but you will have some fun trying to find wines you enjoy as well as making it much easier to go and select wine for a dinner party or that special occasion.

For more information on the groups please visit the Wine Appreciation Group's pages where you can find some basic information and the programmes for this year

Photos of the group at Chapel Down and text by David Britton

UPDATE ON GROUPS

TEA AND POETRY

*We who are drawn to words and verses, to figures of speech and such
Plan to meet next month in February
On the 26th day at 10 o'clock to
Discuss
At the moment we are just four so if
You might like to join us
Contact me, Elaine, and find out more about our
Meeting.*

[Elaine Royall](#) or phone 01892 524537.

BEE WALKING Members of this new group will carry out their surveys between March and October. Their set up meeting will have taken place by the time you read this. To join them, please look for information on the website.

PLAY READING We had a very encouraging turn out for this group on a freezing day at the end of January. Anthea explained that there would be a certain amount of acting involved – no one was put off by this. Au contraire! Meetings will be held at her house in Langton Green on the 4th Monday of the month at 2.15pm. The contact is [Anthea Hall](#) or phone 01892 862027.

Proposals for new groups

A STUDY GROUP ON WAGNER'S RING

The aim of the group will be to explore how Wagner tells the story through music. An ability to read music would be helpful but not essential. The only necessary musical skill is the ability to recognize a tune after hearing it several times (and in The Ring you hear all the best tunes many, many times!) We have a leader for this group but please email [Jan](#) or phone 01892 860554 to register your interest.

SECOND STRINGS

Following the popularity of the FOLK SONG GROUP which started in the autumn (see p. 7), we would like to gauge whether there would be sufficient interest to start a second group. Please let me know.

A GUITAR GROUP

A BREAKFAST OR BRUNCH GROUP

The Groups below are looking for new members:

CREATIVE WRITING The group members agree a theme and read their offerings to one another in their monthly meetings. Meetings are on 2nd Thursday mornings. Contact [Don Laurie](#) or 01892 539951.

MATTERS ARISING This discussion group meets at Woods in the Pantiles on the second Wednesday of the month at 10.15 am. Contact [Christine Bryan](#) or phone 01892 535690.

LUNCH GROUP 2 has room for two more. They meet on the 4th Thursday of the month and go mainly to restaurants and pubs in TW. Please contact [Jill Weaver](#) 01892 459471 or [Jen Persad](#) 01892 546832.

5 MILE MONTHLY WALKING GROUP A small group who enjoy walking in the countryside and an occasional pub lunch. Contact [Joy Podbury](#) or phone 01892 315549.

WINE GROUP 1 and 2 Please see article by [David Britton](#) (phone 01892 528785) on page 5.

LONDON EXPLORERS 5 4th Wednesday. Contact [Bob Slater](#) or phone 01892 547520.

LONDON EXPLORERS 6 1st Friday. Contact [Helen Seddon](#) or phone 07866 67701.

Change of contact:

Pat Cox has taken over for the CRIBBAGE GROUP: nannapat@live.co.uk or phone 01892 542198

For more information or to join new groups please contact Jan Sumner, Groups Coordinator, twu3agroupcoordinator@gmail.com or phone 01892 860554

Folk Song Group

The U3A Folk Song Group is growing rapidly and developing its repertoire of chorus songs – even branching out into harmony ... St Johns Yard has made us very welcome so if you feel like a sing and an afternoon of good company please contact bobkenward21@gmail.com or phone 07885 642763.



Taking the No 26 bus to Paraguay: a talk with guitar by Richard Durrant

Richard is well-known to many Tunbridge Wells residents from his appearances at Trinity and it was a treat to have him at our January monthly meeting. It was fascinating to hear how his career as a classical guitarist started as a boy with guitar lessons to which he went on the No 26 Routemaster bus in Brighton. It then led, via the Royal College of Music, to an absorbing interest in guitar music, especially by Augustin Barrios, the virtuoso Paraguayan guitarist and composer. Richard told us about his many visits to Paraguay where he is warmly welcomed for his championship of Barrios's music. Better still, however, was the wonderful music itself which he performed standing up – apparently the only guitarist known to do so!

Eryll Fabian

Photo by Colin Turner

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

21st February 2019: James Bond – a British Hero, a talk by Caroline Piper, will explore what inspired Ian Fleming to create one of the best loved characters of English literature. She investigates Ian Fleming, the literary Bond he created, and how that was translated to the silver screen. She discusses the actors who have played him, the music, locations, gadgets and the women. The talk concludes with a fun quiz.

21st March 2019: Dr Linda Hall, a university lecturer who has lectured for the National Trust at Sissinghurst and Batemans etc will speak on **The Origin and Meaning of Nursery Rhymes**.

18th April 2019: The History and Work of Dogs Trust, a talk by Lara Murphy about the Dogs' Trust which is the largest UK charity supporting dogs.

More photos of the Food Appreciation Group's Burns Night Celebrations



*Photos
by
Marilyn
Smart*

◀ **The Haggis!**



Useful Information and Important Messages

Events in February and March

We have the following events arranged for February and March:

21 st Feb	Monthly Meeting: James Bond – a British Hero, a talk by Caroline Piper
22 nd Feb	Coffee Morning at Trinity
26 th Feb	New Members' Meeting (Camden Centre, Main Hall) 2.45 to 4.00 pm – by invitation
21 th Mar	Monthly Meeting: The Origin and Meaning of Nursery Rhymes – a talk by Dr Linda Hall
29 th Mar	Coffee Morning at Trinity

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

6 th April	Barn Dance – by ticket
25 th April	Group Contacts' Lunch – by invitation
12 th May	Carvery Lunch at the Masonic Hall – by ticket
11 th June	Seminar: Julia Cruse (History) – details in March Newsletter
19 th July	BBQ at the Nevill Golf Club – by ticket, details in March Newsletter
13 th August	Seminar: David Southwood (The Race to the Moon) – details in March Newsletter
28 th Oct	Study Day: Various speakers (Art) – details in March Newsletter

New Members

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

Carol Arnott	Louise Dubec	Katherine Hammerton-Fraser	Deborah Twiner
Loretta Bellman	Kaye Edwards	Oonagh McBrien	Jan Walker
Mark Bray	Doreen Fenton	Elizabeth Trigg-Knight	Amanda & Mark Wilton

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	Joan Young	01892 546687
Business Secretary	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Newsletter	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805
Short Breaks & Holidays	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196

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 will do our best if space allows.

All contributions to the **March** Newsletter should be e-mailed to [Eryll Fabian](mailto:Eryll.Fabian@u3a.org.uk) by 28th February (**earlier submissions will be welcome!**) 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
TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A



Visit to the Sunday Carvery

After our successful Christmas lunch in December at the function room in the Masonic Hall, we have decided to take a group of members to the regular **Carvery** on **Sunday 12 May**. Tables are for 10 people, the bar opens at noon, and the meal starts at 1.00 pm.

For those of you who have not been there before, the address is

The Masonic Hall, St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9UY

There is ample parking for cars at the venue, which is on the east side of the A26, approached by a driveway leading from the main road. *There are also buses from the town centre. Get off the bus at the stop for the Sports Centre, and then cross the A26 road, and walk to your right to enter the driveway between the white pillars.*

The cost per person for the two course self-service lunch is **£13.50**, which includes a choice of carved meats - Roast Sirloin of Beef, Glazed Gammon, Roast Pork, and Roast Turkey, served with a choice of 5 vegetables. After the main course, you can choose from several desserts.

There is a spacious bar as you go into the building, where you can buy your drink before entering the room, which holds 110 people. Other tables will be occupied by members of the public.

As we need to confirm numbers in advance, please reply before SATURDAY 13 APRIL.

Please post your completed application form together with your cheque for the ticket(s) to:

Jean Brushfield, Freshfields, Molyneux Park Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 8DN

Your ticket(s) will be emailed to you. If you require a paper copy, please send a SAE.

Please bring your ticket(s) with you on the day.

Any queries to Jean by email to: jean@brushfield.com, or phone her on 01892 520 630



I/We enclose a cheque for £made payable to Tunbridge Wells U3A

Name Membership no.....

Email address..... Phone no.....

If you are paying for a U3A friend, please include their details below

Name..... Membership no.....

Email address..... Phone no.....

A visit to Bletchley Park on Wednesday 10th April 2019

Coach outing to Bletchley Park Home of the WW2 Code breakers set within an atmospheric Victorian Estate. We will be free to explore, experience and enjoy the once top-secret world of iconic code breaking. There are indoor and outdoor activities, so comfortable walking shoes are recommended. No heel smaller than a postage stamp is permitted as they may damage the floors. Refreshments are not included. There is a coffee shop in the Visitor Centre and a cafe in one of the Huts which serves a range of hot and cold meals. Picnic benches are located around the site if you wish to bring your own food.

Itinerary

- 8.30 am Coach departs Tunbridge Wells, Crescent Road (opposite Assembly Hall)
- 8.45 am Coach departs Southborough Fountain.
We anticipate stopping en route for toilets etc
- 11.30 am Arrive Bletchley Park, collect tickets/guide books and book individually for guided tour
- 4.30 pm Coach departs Bletchley Park
- 6.15 pm Arrive Southborough Fountain
- 6.30 pm Arrive Crescent Road Tunbridge Wells

Cost £31.50 per person. No refreshments included. (Please note that once we are committed to paying out money in advance refunds will only be possible if your place can be taken by another U3A member).

Guide books can be purchased in advance at a reduced cost of £4.50. (£6.00 on the day).

Organisers are Judy Bailey 01892 529454 (mobile on the day 077060 25914) and Stella Westrup 01892 523413.

Applications to be sent to Judy Bailey, 105 Bidborough Ridge, Bidborough, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 0XB enclosing a cheque payable to **Tunbridge Wells U3A** and a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

Members are advised that neither the TWU3A nor the organiser will accept responsibility for any mishap of whatsoever nature during the outing.



Tunbridge Wells U3A visit to Bletchley Park.

Please reserveplace/s Guide book

I enclose a cheque for £.....and s.a.e for receipt.

I will join the coach at *Crescent Road () *Southborough Fountain ()

Name/s U3A No/s

Address/es

.....

Tel.No..... Mob.No.....

Signature Date

SHORT BREAK AWAY 2019

3rd - 6th October 2019

Holiday Inn, Bristol-Filton

Just for Groups
3 nights, Dinner, B&B

Longleat Safari Park -- Bath Roman Baths -- Wells --
Bristol SS Great Britain -- Tyntesfield (N.T) -- Stourhead (N.T) --
OR -- Lacock Abbey (N.T)

COST £336.00 per person sharing a double/twin room
Single room supplement £75

(Please note entry to N.T properties is an extra cost for non-members.)

Cost includes coach, hotel, all gratuities and entries where stated.

DAY 1

We leave Tunbridge Wells with a stop on route at the incredible **Longleat Safari Park** (included). With its 500 animals, 900 acres of stunning Capability Brown landscape and a beautiful example of an Elizabethan house this will be a memorable afternoon.

DAY 2

Small enough to explore on foot we spend the morning in beautiful **Bath** a designated **UNESCO World Heritage Site** famed for its hot springs. Bath houses the best preserved **Roman Baths** (included) from the ancient world. After our visit here we then have free time. Walking round its **Royal Crescent** you can soak up its stunning Georgian architecture and perhaps can take the mineral water in the elegant **Georgian Pump Room** (not included) restaurant. From here we drive to:

Wells

Medieval Wells is the smallest city in England. With its spectacular façade and its magnificent Cathedral is a must (not included). It houses one of the largest collections of stained glass in the UK. Adjoining the Cathedral is Vicar's Close believed to be the only complete medieval street left in England. Wells also has the splendid moated medieval Bishop's Palace (not included). Within the fortified Palace lie the ruins of the Great Hall, the private chapel and 14 acres of gardens.

DAY 3

This morning we head to **Bristol** only four miles away where we will visit the Victorian **SS Great Britain** (included) which dominates Bristol's historic waterfront. Designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel she was the first iron steamer to cross the Atlantic. Now she is preserved in her dry dock where she was originally built and painstakingly restored to recreate life on this luxury liner. In this amazing museum we can step back in time and experience a world of Victorian wonder. A giant eight meter head of Brunel gazes over the galleries of the award winning (new for 2018) **Being Brunel exhibition**. We will then have free time before we move onto:

Tyntesfield (N.T)

This is a spectacular near complete Grade 1 Victorian country house and estate with an abundance of ornate Gothic carvings that decorate it. The interior is richly decorated and furnished. The collection of thousands of possessions tells the story of 150 years of a wealthy family life. We visit the magnificent private chapel which very few Victorian houses had with its beautiful mosaic floor.

DAY 4

On our way home we have a choice. **Lacock Village and Abbey** (N.T) is famous as a filming location which include Harry Potter and Wolf Hall. Its village looks much as it did 200 years ago. Alternately we will drive to beautiful **Stourhead** (N.T) with its breathtaking landscape. It has classical temples built around a beautiful lake. The house is based on a 16th Century Venetian villa.

Please email twu3atours@gmail.com for an application form.

Sandra McDonald, Short Breaks and Holidays Coordinator

SPRING BARN DANCE

Date: Saturday 6th April

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:

Wendy Nice, 22 Asher Reeds, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 0AN, telephone 01892 863717, or on the day Carol Woodman 07710484065. 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**.

Please note that one non U3A friend may be included.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____

Email address: _____

Details of any dietary requirements _____

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