

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A NEWSLETTER February 2020

www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org



LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Third Age Matters is the U3A magazine that some of us receive. The February edition will be the first one with the new editor Joanne, whom we met last year (and gave her some critical and hopefully useful feedback). It will be interesting to see how it changes. I know there are complaints about the type of advertisements and inserts, but they keep the costs down so we only pay 62p per issue.

If you do read it, you may have seen the recent thread of letters and articles about volunteering – with one correspondent saying he was a member, not a volunteer. He felt that now he was retired he had left the responsibilities of running things behind. You might argue that this is understandable, but we wouldn't have a U3A at all without volunteers: on the committee, as group contacts and helping at meetings and social events. The last response in this thread suggested that the U3A provides a framework for older people to get involved in creating, joining and running lots of activities that improve their knowledge and skills, enhance their physical and mental wellbeing and keep them socially connected. I think that's quite a good definition.

We're up to nearly 1100 members again, but probably only 10% are volunteers; the rest are participants. I'm sure you can guess where I'm heading with this. In June, Wendy has to step down as secretary. Our U3A can't continue if that position isn't filled. At the very least, please do consider if you could do this role. Marilyn is also stepping down as Events Committee contact. We've lots of helpers and detailed instructions for the past events, so we can continue running those, but we do need someone to co-ordinate the committee. **Please consider whether you could help.**

Sue Brimlow, Chairman, Tel: 01892 863691

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COMING UP

MONTHLY MEETINGS

at 2.30pm at the Camden Centre

Thursday 20th February
Passports, Assassins, Traitors
& Spies, a talk by Martin Lloyd

Thursday 19th March
The Forensic Investigation of
Homicide, a talk by David Tadd

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

at Trinity from 10.30 – 12.00

Friday 28th February



Friday 27th March

OUR OUTINGS

There will be outings on

Thursday 26th March
Anglesey Abbey & Lode Mill

Wednesday 22nd April
Spike Heritage Centre and
Dapdune Wharf, Guildford
application form on p. 9



Colin Smith / Dapdune Wharf
From Wikimedia Commons

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 9
or you can buy them at the Monthly Meeting on 20th February**

OUTINGS NEWS

The first outing of the year, to Swan Lake, is to take place this month on the 12th and is now full.

Anglesey Abbey trip in March was almost full at the time of writing so you need to be quick to get a place on this outing, the application form can be found in January's newsletter.

For April we have a very interesting day planned at The Spike Heritage Centre, a former workhouse built in 1838, and then to a nearby National Trust property, Dapdune Wharf, in the heart of Guildford. So as usual if you want to go on this day out, please complete and return the application form at the end of this newsletter as soon as possible to secure a place.

Please remember when we visit National Trust venues, members need to bring their Trust membership cards.

Members are reminded that the time stated for the coach is the time we hope to **leave** the destination, so please arrive 5-10 minutes early so we can leave on time.

I hope to see many members of the U3A on these pre-planned trips which are organised by our volunteers who do a wonderful job arranging all these varied and exciting outings.

Joan Young, Outings Co-ordinator

RIVIERA TRAVEL

It's the time of the year when we're planning our holidays. Bookings made with Riviera Travel can earn 10% commission payable to our U3A. To use this option for either group or individual holidays, visit www.utariviera.co.uk or call **01283 523470** and quote your U3A name to earn your 10% commission. Any additional funds like this all help us to keep our subscription at its current level.

NATIONAL U3A DAY ON WEDNESDAY 3rd JUNE

The very first national U3A Day – celebrating the learning, activity and fun that happens every day in U3As across the country – will take place on Wednesday 3 June 2020. Its purpose is to raise the profile of the U3A so that there is more awareness nationally, to help challenge negative perceptions of older adults, and to invite other Third Agers to learn how U3A supports the lives of retired people.

Each U3A will celebrate the day in its own way and plans for our involvement both on our own and in conjunction with other local U3As are already in hand.

However, we are looking for ideas that showcase the fun and diversity of what we do, so any ideas will be gratefully received. If you want an idea of how inventive some groups are, watch Dulwich U3A's video on [YouTube](#). Nearer the time we shall be looking for volunteers to help with our publicity drive, so please keep the date free in your diary!



FACT OR FICTION; SCAMS AND HOAXES

We get details of scams and frauds sent to us every now and then, so this is an occasional article to pass them on.



We are sorry to let you know that the TV License could not be automatically renewed. Something's gone wrong with your payments.

This is the beginning of an email asking you to set up a new direct debit. I received this and realised it was a scam. Genuine emails from TV Licensing will always contain part of your postcode. **Do not click on the link.**

Also, please note to that **BT will never ring you** to tell you there is a problem with your internet or broadband. Similarly, when you get a call saying that you've been involved in a car accident that wasn't your fault, asking them for the date of the supposed accident or your registration number normally ends the call quickly.

NOT TRUE!

Message from a Banker

- * A very useful tip while withdrawing funds from an ATM.
- * Press 'cancel' button twice before inserting the card. If anyone has set up the key pad to steal your PIN code, this will cancel that set up.

Please make it a habit and part of every transaction that you make.

Please share with those about whom you care.

One thing that isn't true is that pressing cancel twice before using an ATM will disable any fraudulent tampering of the ATM. You should always hesitate to use an ATM if it seems unusual and always shield your pin.

Sue Brimlow

SHORT BREAKS NEWS

May Devon 5 days. (there is a waiting list for this trip)

November 25th and 26th

THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

2 nights (only 2 double/twin rooms left)

*Britain's **BIGGEST** festive show*

Delux seating centre front

Magical surroundings of **mechanical organs** and **fairground carousels**.

130 dancers, singers and musicians, **65** musical numbers.

1.5 million rhinestones, **2,000** pom-poms, **100** metres of feathers!!

3 hours singing, **dancing**, music, **humour** and variety!

COST £254 per person. Includes coach, gratuities, 2 nights Grade 11 listed Heacham Manor Hotel (Half board).Thursford ticket, Entry to Ely Cathedral and Stained Glass Museum. Bury St Edmunds.



For a booking form please contact:

[Sandra McDonald](#), Short Breaks Organiser, or phone me on 01892 752196.

Sandra McDonald, Short Breaks Organiser

GROUP REPORTS

CHEERFUL CHESS GROUP



If you had happened to be in Trinity Arts Centre on the first and third Tuesday mornings of the month, amid all the chatter and the clink of coffee cups you may have heard the sounds of knights being unhorsed, bishops being defrocked and kings being toppled. That would be the U3A Cheerful Chess group, proving that it's not just a game for teenage nerds.



We include (and welcome) all chess enthusiasts from complete novices to club level players. There's always someone on hand to pick up a challenge, explain the 'en passant' rule, or demonstrate the moves, principles, tactics and strategy of this great game. In between twice-monthly meetings we exercise the little grey cells with a selection of instructive chess problems and puzzles.

So whether you want to give Magnus Carlsen a run for his money, or just hold your own against the grandchildren, this is the place to come to enjoy a game of chess, a cup of coffee, cheerful company and lively conversation.

[Howard Jones](#), Group Contact, 01892 531060

FOUR PAWS

Four Paws is a new group set up for those of us who like to try out different walks with our dogs. We meet once a month (depending on weather) on Friday afternoons. We have a WhatsApp group / mobile phone numbers so we can confer if the weather isn't looking too promising.

Each walk is suggested by a group member, takes about 2 hours and hopefully has somewhere doggy-friendly for a coffee to end the walk!

Our first walk was hosted by Shally. Four of us (plus dogs) met at Toad Rock, Rusthall. We walked a circular walk from there through Hurst Wood and ended back at the Toad Rock Retreat for a nice coffee and chat afterwards. Fortunately it was warm enough to sit outside as our dogs were very, very muddy!

The next walk will be around Penshurst on Friday 21st February at 1.30pm. If you would like further details please email [Lynn Birchard](#), who sent in this super photo, or call her on 07739999495.



Who could resist Lynn's dog, Ted?

UPDATE ON GROUPS

It's February already and the days are getting longer so it's a good time to remind everyone that in March the Bee Walkers will be out again on Tunbridge Common, keeping count (contact [Bridget Sands](#) or phone 07944438223). And Tennis sessions will begin again at St John's Tennis Club – friendly games with tea and cake and table tennis on offer as well (contact [Laura Collins](#) or 07802 643696). And more in the great outdoors, here's a reminder about the new Dog Walking group ([Lynn Birchard](#) 07739999495) and Garden Visits ([Sheila Mulholland](#) or 01892 537200). The dog group (see Four Paws on page 5 above) had its first outing last month, a circular walk from Toad Rock finishing with coffee. The next one will be at Penshurst on the afternoon of 21st February, please contact Lynn if you'd like to join.

We are holding a meeting for new members at the Camden Centre in March and several of our group contacts have kindly agreed to come along and offer information about their group. New groups will be on offer. I am already collecting names for the following:

- A second Recorder Group: We need a few more recorder enthusiasts to have a viable group. No matter what your ability or experience do consider giving it a go. I can put you in touch with someone for more details if you wish.
- A second Crochet Group: Beginners welcome. The first crochet group has been very successful, progressing from simple squares to communal projects such as blankets for charities. There will be help on hand where needed.
- A new Spanish Group: There may be more than one new group as requests have come in from beginners and those with some fluency.
- A Musical Instrument Group: A group for people who are attempting to learn a new instrument and would like to meet to work on simple tunes. The suggestion comes from a lady who is attempting to learn to play the cello and who recognises how much more rewarding it is to practise with others.

If you have any suggestions for new groups, or expertise which you would be willing to share with other members, this would be a good time to send them to me.

The following groups have spaces available which will also be offered at the New Members' Meeting:

- Cycling Group
- London Explorers 6
- Music Appreciation
- Rummikub



Finally may I say a big thank you to **Lindsay Hassel** who has come to my rescue and is now working with me on groups before taking over the role in June. Thanks also to **Christine Dove** for her continued support.

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

REPORT ON THE JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING



As a member of the 'Walk on the Wildside' group I was invited to write a short report on the talk at the Camden Centre by Tom Way, Wildlife Photographer. We don't actually see many lions & elephants on our walks but I suppose there's a vague connection!

What a fabulous talk. Having studied sport at university Tom Way was briefly a personal trainer but soon abandoned that for the loves of his life, wildlife and photography, and he has now been travelling the world for eight years taking the most amazing photographs and winning many awards. His aim is to capture the personality & character of the animals and this can take days, weeks or even months of patience, trekking through jungles, wading through rivers, lying on the desert floor, driving across the Savannah or just sitting waiting for days, often in dangerous situations.

Photo by kind permission of Tom Way Tom showed us some fantastic photographs: water cascading off the tail of a blue whale in the Indian Ocean; 'In Mother's Arms', orangutans in Sumatra; 'Windows to the Soul', mountain gorilla in Uganda; the drama of the annual wildebeest migration; cheetah; lion; giraffe; leopard, to name but a few. The descriptions of how he managed to get the photographs were fascinating and entertaining.

When Tom finishes his current UK tour in February he is off to Kenya again but has promised us a return visit in the future. Some of his work can be seen at www.tomwayphotography.co.uk.

Debbie Croll

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

20th February	"Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies", a talk by Martin Lloyd.
19th March	"The Forensic Investigation of Homicide", a talk by David Tadd.
16th April	"Dig for Victory", a talk by Russell Bowes.
21st May	"The Role of the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Ambulance Trust", a talk by AAKSS.
18th June:	AGM

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY LINE DANCING?

We really want to know!

We are considering adding an afternoon or evening of line dancing to our social events for this year. Line dancing is for persons of either sex who dance singularly but in a line to music, and it originated in the USA in areas where there were a lot of men and very few women. I am told the steps are simple and straightforward to follow. Basic instruction will be given, so no previous experience will be necessary.

It is unlikely to take place until the second half of this year.

Could anyone who would be interested contact me, [Miranda Baston](mailto:Miranda.Baston@...), or phone 01892 315852.

If there is enough interest, we will begin planning and then let those interested know.

Miranda Baston, for the Events Committee

Useful Information and Important Messages Events in February and March

We have the following events arranged for February and March

13 th Feb.	Basic First Aid Course – by invitation
20 th Feb.	Monthly Meeting: Passports, Assassins, Traitors & Spies , a talk by Martin Lloyd
28 th Feb.	Coffee Morning at Trinity
17 th March	New Members' Meeting – by invitation
19 th March	Monthly Meeting: The Forensic Investigation of Homicide , a talk by David Tadd
21 st March	Barn Dance

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

17 th April	Group Contacts Lunch – by invitation
3 rd June	National U3A Day
18 th June	AGM
17 th Oct.	Quiz Night
11 th Dec.	U3A Christmas Lunch – by ticket

New Members

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

Heather Blakeway	Jennifer Graham	Alison Quill
Clive Cassel	Michael Jay	Lavinia Robinson
Claire Dimitros	Kay Kinmonth	Paul Robinson
Andy Evans	Jane Le Baigue	Carol Williams
Trisha Evans	Carol Merryfield	Nicky Williams
Joan Fry	Jill Neve	Rosy Wright
Ian Graham	John Pelham	

Your Committee

Chairman	Sue Brimlow	01892 863691
Vice-Chairman	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Secretary	Wendy Maher	01892 325272
Treasurer	David Brimlow	01892 860598
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.

If anyone objects to their photo being reproduced in this Newsletter, they should contact the editor.

All contributions to the **March** Newsletter should be e-mailed to [Eryll Fabian](mailto:Eryll.Fabian@u3a.org.uk) by 29th February at the latest (**earlier submissions will be welcome!**) or phone 01892 513805.



National Events

Details of interesting national events appear on the website and in the national Newsletter. Find out more and sign up for the Newsletter at www.u3a.org.uk or by writing to:
The Third Age Trust, 52 Lant Street, London SE1 1RB



SPRING BARN DANCE

Date: Saturday 21st March 2020

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 once more 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 phone Carol Woodman on 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**.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____

Email address: _____

Details of any dietary requirements _____

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

U3A Outing to The Spike Heritage Centre and Dapdune Wharf, Guildford
Wednesday, April 22nd 2020

On the periphery of **Guildford**, the **Guildford Union Workhouse** was built in 1838 as a result of the Poor Law Amendment Act and housed the forgotten classes of Edwardian/Victorian England. See a working cell and what a vagrant had to do to earn his keep. Explore the lives of The Spike inmates. Learn about the treatment of the homeless, past and present, and experience the sights, sounds and smells of a Casual's Ward. It can be a chilly building, so please wear warm clothes and suitable shoes for uneven floors. **Dapdune Wharf** is a nearby NT area where past meets present, rural tranquillity meets urban heritage and people meet nature. Set in 4 acres of grounds in the heart of Guildford, Dapdune Wharf is the historic home of the Wey barges that worked the waterways from Guildford to London in the first half of the 19th Century. There is an award winning **Visitor Centre** and there will be an opportunity to board a barge.

- 8.30am** Coach departs Crescent Road (opposite Assembly Hall)
- 8.35am** Coach departs St. John's Road (opposite local Sainsbury's)
- 8.45am** Coach departs Southborough Fountain
- 10.00am** Arrive at The Spike Heritage Centre for tea/coffee (not included)
- 10.30am** Tour of The Spike in two groups
- 12.30pm** Buffet Lunch in nearby Community Centre
- 1.30pm** Depart for Dapdune Wharf
- 1.45pm** Arrive at Dapdune Wharf and explore at leisure, visit shop and enjoy a cuppa
- 4.30pm** Depart for Tunbridge Wells
- 6.00pm** Arrive back at Crescent Road (depending on traffic)

Choices for Lunch (please see application form below)

Cost: £31.00 to include entry to The Spike, buffet, coach and gratuities
£35.50 for non NT members.

Please note that once we are committed to paying out money in advance, full refunds can usually only be given if your place is taken by another U3A member.

Applications (including cheque payable to TWU3A and SAE for reply) to **Stella Westrup, 19, Oakwood Rise, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3HD. Tel. 01892 523413.**

Also available for enquiries, **Rosemary Rees, 01892 541517**
or mobile on day only 07979622270.

Members are advised that neither the TWU3A nor the organiser will accept responsibility for any mishap of whatever nature during the outing and are advised to consider personal insurance cover.

TWU3A Outing to The Spike Heritage Centre and Dapdune Wharf, Guildford
on Wednesday, April 22nd 2020

Please **PRINT** your name and address.

Please reserve.....place/s for this outing. I/We enclose a cheque for £.....and SAE for reply
 I/We will join the coach at Crescent Road at 8.30am..... St. John's Road at 8.35am.....
 Southborough Fountain at 8.45am.....

Name/s..... U3A No.....

Address.....

Tel.no..... Mobile no.....Signed

Date

Choices for **two course lunch** (water and squashes included).

Please choose one from either A&B or one from B&C

A Starter

- Tomato Soup
- Prawn Cocktail

B Main Course

- Macaroni Cheese(with or without Bacon)
- Moussaka

C Dessert

- Sherry Trifle
- Apple Crumble (with ice cream) ...