



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I hope you have noticed what a variety of events we organise for you! This month there will be Bingo on Friday 17th March (there is still time to join in) and, by popular demand, in April we are having another posh tea with music by Café Society at the Masonic Hall. The application

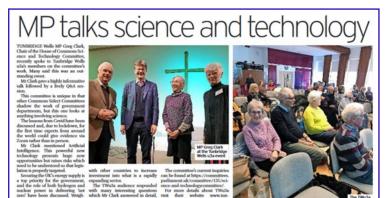
form is at the end of this Newsletter. I am looking forward to both events, different though they are!

Last month I mentioned the very interesting talk which Greg Clark, our MP, gave to the Science and Technology Group and other members. Those of you who read the Courier, may have noticed the half page spread about this event which appeared in the paper on 24th February. Events like this,

and our display at the Imago Volunteers' Fair in the Royal Victoria Place on 7th March, help to raise our profile but word of mouth is still one of the most effective methods of recruiting new members. New members bring new ideas and fresh enthusiasm so please keep spreading the word!

Eryll (01892 513805)

Please note that photos taken at u3a events are often used in publicity material. If you do not want your picture used in such ways please make a member of the committee aware of this at the event you are attending. Thank you.



Coming up

Thursday 16th March 2.30: **Monthly meeting:**

The amusing story of Kentish public

Friday 17th March 2.15 - 4.15: BINGO afternoon

Friday 31st March 10.30: **Coffee morning at Trinity**



Thursday 20th Apr 2.30:

Monthly meeting:

Who's Wally? The story of a stoker in the British Navy in WW2

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Hybrid Monthly Meeting at the Camden Centre Thursday 16th March 2.30pm



Christoph Bull: The good, the bad and the ugly the amusing story of Kentish public libraries

This is an illustrated rip-roaring virtual tour through the history and funny stories associated with a much loved public service. Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge libraries both feature as part of this experience. Don't expect to quietly doze!

April Monthly Meeting at the Camden Centre Thursday 20th 2.30pm

John Griffiths-Colby: Who's Wally, the story of a stoker in the British Navy in WW2

Walter Stafford Colby came from a long line of Yarmouth fisherfolk and was drafted into the Royal Navy early in World War 2. 80 years on and 25 years since he passed away, we discover that he was a Stoker 1st Class aboard the carrier HMS Indomitable when it was struck by an Italian torpedo during the Invasion of Sicily.

Do come and join us to find out more.





Enjoy some old fashioned fun and games at this popular event.

Venue: Indoor Bowls Club at Hawkenbury

Date: Friday 17th March

Time 2.15 - 4.15

Cost: £10

Tea and Cake included.

Application form at the end of the Newsletter



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Afternoon Tea and entertainment by the wonderful *CAFÉ SOCIETY*



Jazz and Swing Classics

The Date: Saturday 22nd April 2023 at 2.30

The Place: The Masonic Centre

The Cost: £24.00 per person

Further information and application form at the end of this Newsletter



Hi, I'm Bob and I book the speakers for our u3a Monthly Talks.

I'm stepping down soon so I'm looking for someone new to take over.

I work in my own time (no committees), have masses of speakers to choose from, and enjoy arranging a varied programme – there's plenty of scope.

It's easy and fun and you meet some very interesting people!

I will hand over all the information to set you up.

If this sounds like something you'd like to do, please email me

by clicking this link

or phone me on **01892 547520**

New Members' Meeting

All new members who have joined since 1st November 2022 (the date of our last New Members' Meeting) will have received, or will shortly receive, an invitation to the next meeting which will be held from 2.30 to 4.30pm on **Tuesday 18th April** at the Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship Hall. This will be an opportunity to hear about the u3a movement and TWu3a in particular, meet committee members and group contacts, ask questions, and meet fellow members over a cup of tea.

If you do not receive an invitation or if you were unable to come to the last meeting and would like to join us on 18th April, please contact Eryll Fabian, at

twu3achairman@btinterent.com or phone her on 01892 513805.



Book and Puzzle Exchange

Don't forget to bring a book or a jigsaw puzzle to the monthly meetings and exchange it for something different.

Cranbrook u3a invite Tunbridge Wells members to their Jazz and entertainment night with MIKE HATCHARD

Mike Hatchard plays piano and violin and sings as well, having an enormous repertoire of just about any sort of music that you can think of. His improvisation is superb. Not only does Mike play but he is a great raconteur and has many amusing stories and anecdotes to share.



He has also worked with David Essex, the Pasadena Roof Orchestra, Barbara Thompson's Paraphernalia, the Syd Lawrence Orchestra, Julia Migenes Johnson, Herbie Flowers, Liane Carroll, Alan Barnes, George Martin and Tina May.

If you would like to come, please email Geoff at pipers@homecall.co.uk and send a cheque in advance (made out to Cranbrook u3a) to Geoff Piper, Hillside Cottage, The Hill, Cranbrook TN17 3HP.

The cost is only £7.50 per head.

FRIDAY 17th March at 7.30: Cranbrook Vestry Hall, Stone St, TN17 3HA

Please don't arrive till doors open at 7.15pm Bring your own picnic/drinks/crockery/cutlery for half-time

Outings Coordinator

In May we will be travelling to see The Vyne in Basingstoke to explore this former Tudor powerhouse turned 17th century family home, set in gardens, woodlands and wetlands. It is a nationally recognised Treasure House with a pre-Reformation chapel, an Oak Gallery and

tapestry room. The Garden has a Lime Avenue leading to 17th century а summerhouse and 600year-old oak tree plus a walled garden, orchard and bird hide. If you wish to eat the thev have Cosv Brewhouse tea-room serving light refreshments. There are also plenty of



picnic areas. Should you wish to do some shopping, next to the tea room, is the shop (the former coach house), selling highlights from the National Trust ranges alongside locally sourced goods. If you wish to go on this trip, please see the application form at the end of the newsletter. To ensure a place send your application /email promptly, to avoid disappointment.

At the beginning of March, we went to Richmond, which included a visit to the theatre to see the Fisherman's Friends show. A full review of this day will be in next month's newsletter.

The April trip to Basildon Park is full with a waiting list.

Please note that all future emails regarding outings and u3a business should be sent to me on the following email address: jyoutings@gmail.com

Joan Young

Groups Coordinator Update

TW u3a groups......by the members, for the members

NEW GROUPS

Several members would like to start a **Spanish Beginners** group, and one is willing to be the group contact. If you are interested in joining please contact the Groups Coordinator.

We also have a new member keen to start a **Craft** group. Details from the Groups Coordinator.

GROUPS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Both the **Poetry** group and **German** group would welcome new members.

Updated Group Contact lists are available via email from the Groups Coordinator.

GROUP CONTACTS WORKING BREAKFAST ON MONDAY 20th MARCH

Our thanks to the group contacts who have replied to the invitation to the Working Breakfast on Monday 20th March at the Baptist Church. The meeting will last for a couple of hours, so if you are a group contact who has not yet replied please get in touch and also check the Groups page on our website.

Our morning's aim is to revitalise and update Group entries, and add photos, to the TWu3a website.

Any details about groups or the listing please contact the Groups Coordinator:

Ihaselltwu3a@gmail.com

Group News



London Explorers 3 visited the Guildhall Art Gallery and the Roman Amphitheatre that was rediscovered whilst work was being done on the Gallery Site. They walked to St Stephen Walbrook which is considered to be one of Wren's finest churches. In the centre is a huge circular sculpted stone block used as the altar. It was from this church that the Samaritan support service was launched. After lunch they had a fascinating tour of the magnificent Mansion House, the home and office of the Lord Mayor of London.

Diana Jenkinson & Debbie Croll

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

Numbers at the **German Conversation Group** have fallen of late under the impact of Covid and as members' circumstances change and we are looking for new recruits. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 10.00 a.m. in the homes of members by rotation. The standard can best be described as medium but there is a wide range of ability and conversation is lively. If your German is a bit rusty, come and polish it up. We are a friendly lot.

Please email <u>lain Hamilton</u> on phone him on 01892 532654.



The Theatre group thoroughly enjoyed a performance of Cinderella 23 from The Merry Opera Company.

The group are always grateful to Sue who sits up until after midnight to book tickets when they are released by TW Opera House.



RTW U3A High Fliers (London Explorers 2) at Biggin Hill Memorial Museum

Our guided tour started with a warm welcome from the Museum Director Katie, and there was an opportunity to have coffee before we started. Paul was our volunteer guide with an obvious enthusiasm and knowledge of Biggin Hill, and its history, especially its famous links with the RAF. It is well known for the role played by the young Spitfire and Hurricane pilots protecting London and the South-east during WWII.

The Museum has recently been refurbished and the exhibits were well-displayed. We were able to spend some time looking at these before

moving to the Chapel to see the exhibition celebrating the work

of the Air Transport Auxiliary, with some moving reminders of the bravery of the pilots who ferried the aircraft from factories to the airfields. 10% of these were young women, who had some notable stories to tell!

We were then shown round the Chapel by the Verger, Margaret, who was equally enthusiastic and knowledgeable about her subject. There was so much



to see and do that all too soon we had to leave for our lunch venue at The Aperfield Inn, where we had a good meal and catch-up in comfortable surroundings.

Anne Golds

More Group News



A few members of the **MOTO2** group met to flip pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

The **Amblers** walking at Scotney Castle



Having spent the cold winter months indoors learning a bit from Malcolm about portrait photography,

the **Photo** group eventually set foot outside with a visit to Knole

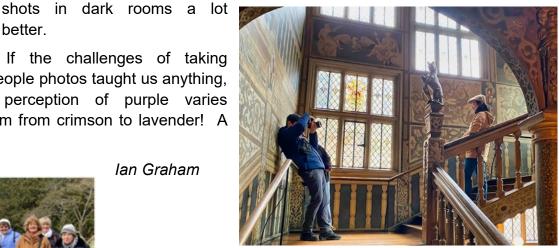
Park. Knole House is a magnificent building with lots of tremendous rooms and historical artefacts to look at. There were lots of portraits of some very affluent beauties many of whom, it has to be said, had very strange proportions. We were all very challenged as we were not allowed to use flash and the cameras struggled in the low It is a good job that some of us

remembered to use our mobile phones as they definitely handle the routine

better.

If the challenges of taking

abstract, purple, and people photos taught us anything, that people's perception of purple varies throughout the spectrum from crimson to lavender! A lot of fun for all.



Ian Graham



Out and About Weekenders combined a winter plastic bottle walk, seeing the recycled sculptures, at Sheffield Park with a Sunday jazz lunch at Trading Boundaries.

Last month's talk

Nigel Stapple gave us an intriguing overview of local archaeology. Who knew so many sites had been excavated in our area? Southborough, Rusthall, Langton and TW itself are all rich in History but by digging underneath the ground so much more can be discovered. Most history of this area focuses on 1630 onwards because of the founding of TW as a Spa town so much of the history before that time has been overlooked and undiscovered.

The past easily gets lost as time moves on and archaeology seeks to uncover and record it before it completely vanishes. Archaeologists will survey, dig, collect, classify, film, photograph, map, draw and report their findings and then allow the present day to continue with new buildings and landscapes.





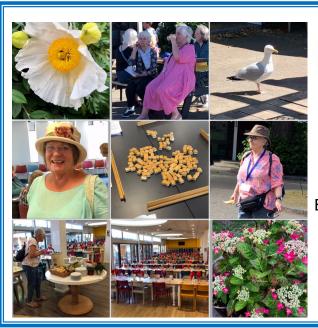
Nigel explained that as we do not naturally have flint in our area, finding flints at a dig are significant as are they must have been brought in and as such are worth looking at more closely. The word 'lithic' means 'related to stone' hence neolithic etc, being part of the stone age. Finding pottery is always useful as it can be dated more easily.

The recent dig on the Rusthall roadside has turned out to be quite a complex site. There is possible evidence of a prehistoric temple, a fish carving on a step, a large stone on the verge which has markings that could identify it as a marker for a natural spring, and pipes, flagons and stoneware from later times.

One locally produced stone tool is from the Palaeolithic and could be one of the oldest yet discovered in the country (between 30,000-300,000 years old).

And there is still so much to discover... if you are interested in local history you could have a look at these sites. The library also has a local studies room to investigate.

https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.HeritageMaps.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx





South East Forum U3 learn, laugh, live Summer School 2023

Held at the University of Chichester again this year.

The dates have now been released

4-7 September

By the time you receive this Newsletter the programme will have been announced.

If you're interested click the link below

https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/events

PADDOCK WOOD U3A STUDY DAY 2023 ---- CLIMATE CHANGE

<u>The Natural World Under Threat</u> was the overall title for the study day presented by Paddock WoodU3A to about 100 concerned members from neighbouring U3As, including several from Tunbridge Wells. The dangerous level of carbon emissions, pollution (particularly plastic pollution), and habitat destruction were the over-riding concerns of the day.

Charles May of the Paddock Wood Climate Change Group chaired the meeting and presented seven able speakers, including himself, who each concentrated on a different aspect of the central problem.

John Halladay of Greenpeace opened with an expert lecture – Oceans and Forests: Saving the Planet's Life Support Systems. From the melting of the Arctic, through misuse of the oceans by over-fishing and sea-bed drilling, to the deforestation of the Amazon, he showed the absolute necessity of conserving planet earth so that its resources are preserved and renewed. Levels of consumption and waste, especially in the wealthy developed nations such as the USA and ourselves, are much too high and must be reduced.



Tim Marks of PW U3A spoke on Biodiversity Loss.

Biodiversity includes all living things from the largest plants and animals to the millions of minute organisms that most of us know nothing about but on which the pyramid of life depends. Increasingly often we hear of yet another species on the danger list or completely extinct. There have been several mass extinctions in planet earth's history but previously each one has spread over millions of years. The current rate of loss is more than 10.000 times as fast.

Howard Lee of Hadlow College spoke about Climate Change and Farming: The Answer Lies in the Soil. Farmers need a stable weather pattern. Extreme weather events – fire, flood, drought – are economically disastrous. Agriculture can help moderate carbon emission by planting trees, reducing livestock, maintaining drainage and a varied habitat. People must help by eating a more plant-based diet, perhaps eating meat only once a week, and by growing and buying locally, thus reducing air-miles on imported food.

Charles May suggested some Tech Solutions to the Climate Crisis – primarily the development of renewable energy to replace fossil fuels. Wind, solar, tidal and geothermal power may be expensive initially, but all show a rapid reduction in cost as their use increases. Today's technical aim is to improve and increase the power and efficiency of batteries.

David Mairs of the CPRE spoke of Climate Change and the Countryside with particular reference to Kent and **Matthew Bailey** of TWBC, Reducing Carbon Footprint, analysed the council's carbon emissions. The waste collection service is responsible for the biggest carbon output. To reduce carbon the council is installing more solar panels, LED lights, etc.

Finally **John Hurst** of the Green Party talked about National Policy and Targets on Climate Change with a resume of the UK's attitudes and political climate plans, successful and otherwise, during the current century. He hopes for a fairer and cleaner society.

The problem of controlling carbon and reducing pollution was central to every lecture. We must all accept responsibility for our share of the damage caused by the way life that we have come to regard as our natural right. Already minute particles of plastic, discarded in the oceans and the soil, have been ingested by fish and animals, spread through the food chain and can now be found in food, drinking water, milk and even in people. Who knows what harm it may do to the future health of our grand-children and their families?

Thankfully a small amount of optimism was allowed provided people are willing to change their habits enough – 'people' meaning both individuals and nations. At the beginning of the day John Halladay presented us with that wonderful photo of the earth taken from space and quoted Marshall McLuhan. "There are no passengers on Space-Ship Earth. We are all crew."

Helen MacNab

Important information

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

16 Mar 2023	Monthly meeting: The good, the bad and the ugly - the amusing story of Kentish public libraries
17 Mar 2023	Bingo afternoon at the Indoor Bowls Club
20 April 2023	Monthly meeting: Who's Wally, the story of a stoker in the British Navy in WW2
22 April 2023	Afternoon Tea at the Masonic Centre with the wonderful Cafe Society

New members

A big welcome to our 6 new members in January

Jim Ffrench Rosemary Frost Judith Green Colin Hall Jean Mason and Stephen Robinson

Your Committee

Chairman	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805
Vice-Chair	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196
Secretary	Fiona Findlay	07872 169146
Treasurer	David Brimlow	01892 860598
Group Coordinator	Lindsay Hasell	01892 673180
Membership Secretary	Judy Horwood	01892 537601
Outings Coordinator	Joan Young	0750 4919081
Short Breaks & Holidays	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196
Events Coordinator	Philippa Bernstein	07788 498606
Newsletter	Bridget Sands	01892 546161

A Message from the Editor

Any publication is only as good as its contributors and I do hope you will continue to support the Newsletter as it is such an easy and effective way to communicate with you all. If you have a great idea for an article or there is anything interesting you would like to see in the newsletter in the future please let me know.

If anyone objects to their photo being reproduced in this Newsletter, please contact me as soon as possible.

All contributions for the **April** Newsletter should be e-mailed to <u>Bridget</u> by March 31st at the latest (earlier submissions are very welcome!) or phone 01892 546161.



u3a Office

Keep up to date with u3a Office news on the website: www.u3a.org.uk or write to:

The Third Age Trust, Room 104, Lenta Business Centre, 156 Blackfriars Rd, London SE1 8EN

For u3a Members Only. A fair amount of walking, please wear suitable footwear and clothing.

The Vyne House & Gardens, Basingstoke RG12 9HL Wednesday 17th May 2022

Outing Code: F18 Outing Organiser: Valerie Apps Email: valarieapps@btinternet.com

Vyne House is a Tudor property in Sherborne St John near Basingstoke, built around 1550 and modified throughout the centuries. It was gifted to the National Trust by Sir Charles Chute in 1956. At present there is an exhibition showing the house over 600 years and hopefully this will still be on for our visit. The gardens are laid out with a mixture of woodland, wildlife areas and sweeping lawns to the lake. However, ongoing conservation work is being done to the reservoir area and extra care is advised when in this area. Also due the coach is unable to remain on site, so passengers will be set down and collected at the front of the house. A 15-minute talk is available on the history of the house at 12pm outside the house's main entrance. There is a café on site.

The cost of the trip is £17.70 and includes the driver's gratuity. An entrance fee will need to be paid on the day if you are NOT a National Trust member.

To pay by BACS, Email valarieapps@btinternet.com with your name, mobile/home phone number, & date of payment for **The Vyne House & Gardens F18** Also include where you would like to board the coach.

To pay: Make an online transfer to: Tunbridge Well u3a - Sort code: 40-52-40 - Account number:00024097

(Your account may not recognise our CAF account, but as long as you have entered the details correctly, you can go ahead with the transaction.) **Reference: Outing Code and Your Surname.**

To pay by cheque: Please post the application form below to Valerie Apps, 22 Oakwood Rise, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3HG. Add your email address or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

Application Form

Outing name and Code: Vyne House & Garden F18 I enclosed a cheque for £made payable to Tunbridge Wells u3a			
Name, mobile and home phone number			
if you are paying for a partitler of uoa mena, please include their details below.			
Name, mobile and home phone number			
Please tick where you would like to board the coach:			
Crescent Road opposite the Assembly Hall - Pick up time 9 AM			
St. Johns opposite Sainsbury's local 9:05 AM			
Southborough Fountain 9:15 AM			

We expect to be at Vyne House at approximately 11 AM. We will leave at 15:30, and hope to arrive back in Tunbridge Wells around 17:30 PM.

My contact number for any enquiries regarding this trip is 01892536577 OR 07768790647. Along with Stella Westrup 01892 523413. On the day: 07768790647.

Please note that once money has been paid in advance full refunds will only be offered if your place can be filled by another u3a member. Members are advised that neither the TWu3a nor the outing's organiser will accept responsibility for any mishap of whatever nature during the outing. Members are advised to consider personal insurance cover and reminded to bring any necessary medication with them.

If you have not previously given us details of your next of kin or person to be advised in an emergency, please let us have their name and telephone number. This will be stored on TWU3A's secure database.

Tunbridge Wells u3a Event Application Form BINGO



EVENT NAME: Bingo **EVENT CODE: BINGO**

Venue: Indoor Bowls Club at High Woods Lane, Hawkenbury TN2 4TU.

Date: Friday 17th March

Time: 2.15 - 4.15

Tea and Cake included. Cost: £10

To pay by BACS firstly please email: Bridget at editortwu3a@gmail.com and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and Name of Event and Code (as above).

Then: make an online transfer to:

Tunbridge Wells u3a Sort code: 40-52-40 Account No: 00024097

[Your bank may not recognise our CAF account, but as long as you've entered the details correctly, you can go ahead with the transaction].

Please use the reference: Event code Surname e.g. BINGO Your Surname

Bingo BINGO

OR To pay by cheque: please post the application below to: Bridget Sands, 1 Onslow House, Castle Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 8BY. Add your email, or mobile/home phone number for confirmation of receipt.

NB: Once money has been paid, refunds will only be offered if your place can be filled by another u3a member.

APPLICATION FORM

enclose a cheque for £ payable to Tunbridge Wells u3a	
lame and home/mobile phone number	
you are paying for another u3a member, please include their details below	
lame and home/mobile phone number	

Travel Information

Event name and Code:

If you are coming by bus we suggest using the 285 leaving the West Station at 13.40 arriving at 13.50 at the United Reform Church. It departs at 16.39 or 17.29.

Otherwise, there is plenty of parking.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A AFTERNOON TEA wíth CAFÉ SOCIETY SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2023 AT 2.30PM

£24.00 PER PERSON

Join us for a delicious Afternoon Tea at The Masonic Centre, St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9UJ and enjoy a Journey through Jazz with the brilliant Café Society The Band will take us on a magical tour of Jazz and Swing classics and bring us right up to date with hits from Caro Emerald and Adele.

Fabulous singer Lelia di Domenico will steer us through a delicious cocktail of sounds in what promises to be a glorious cabaret-style show.

Event Code: CST23 Organiser: Isobel Martin

Afternoon Tea with Café Society

To pay by BACS: please email <u>isobelm3@gmail.com</u> and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and name of event together with the event code (CST23)

To pay: Make an online transfer to: Tunbridge Wells u3a Sort Code: 40-52-40

Account No 00024097 [Your bank may not recognise our CAF account, but as long as you've entered the details correctly, you can go ahead with the transaction].

Reference: Event Code and Surname, e.g: CST23 Your Surname

To pay by cheque: Please post the application below to Isobel Martin, 27 George Smart Close, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5FN.

Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

APPLICATION FORM

Afternoon Tea with Cafe Society/Event Code CS123		
enclose a cheque for £ made payable to Tunbridge Wells u3a		
Name plus home and mobile phone numbers		
paying for your partner or a u3a friend, please include their details below:		
Name plus home and mobile phone numbers		