

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A NEWS

April 2018



THE UNIVERSITY OF
THE THIRD AGE

www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

I'm pleased to say that the Barn Dance was very successful again. Dancing is one of the activities that helps keep the brain active and we certainly exercised both our brains and bodies in keeping up with the caller. So we can continue holding events like this in the future, I'm renewing my request for helpers to join a new Events Committee. A few people have already offered to help and we just need a few more for it to be viable. Please do phone or email me if you think you could help.

I'll widen my request to ask you to let us know reasonably promptly if you are interested in any of the new groups or events in the newsletter. I know I'm partly preaching to the converted, as the very fact that you are reading this means that you have opened the newsletter! Often people mention a group they might be interested in, but haven't got round to letting Jan know. Our committee have many talents but we haven't yet mastered telepathy.

We lost quite a few members this year, following our subscription free year, but I'm delighted to say that our membership has now passed the 1,000 mark again. The majority of new members hear about us through word of mouth, so please do continue spreading the positive news about our vibrant and friendly group.

Finally, next Christmas seems a very long way in the future, but following a very successful meal last year, we have booked the Masonic Hall again for the **7th December**. So put the date in your diaries now.

Sue Brimlow, Chairman Tel: 01892 863691

COMING UP

MONTHLY MEETINGS

at 2.30pm at the Camden Centre

Thursday 19th April
**The Social & Political Satire
of Gilbert & Sullivan**
a talk by Bernard Lockett

Thursday 17th May
Alfred Nobel and his legacy
A talk by Grace Davies

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

at Trinity from 10.30 – 12.00



Friday 27th April

Friday 25th May

OUR OUTINGS

There will be outings on:

17th April
Sussex Coastal Curios

15th May
**Cressing Temple and the
Layer Marney Tower**
a few places remain –
see Outings Report

20th June
Historic Rochester
application form on page 10

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held at the Camden Centre
on Thursday 21st June 2018 at 2.30pm

Nominations are sought for the position of **Treasurer** and
Membership Secretary

A proposal about a minor change to the constitution will be made at the
meeting

All AGM documentation will be downloadable
from our website no later than 31st May 21 days prior to the meeting.

All nominations should be proposed and seconded and sent,
together with motions for discussion, to the
Hon. Secretary, Wendy Maher by [email](#) or by post to
22 Chancellor House, Mt. Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells TN4 8BT
no later than 21st May 2018

The AGM will be followed by strawberries and cream and a glass of bubbly
with a background slideshow of photos taken during the year.

PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION

Our U3A already has Privacy and Data Protection policies in place and takes the security of your information very seriously. In May 2018 the law on data protection is changing and you may already have received letters from organisations that you belong to, asking you to confirm that they can still contact you.

On behalf of Tunbridge Wells U3A, I'd like to assure you that your data is secure and we already use your data in accordance with the act. Our membership database **BEACON**, is hosted on a remote server and U3A members with functional access to the database have to sign our confidentiality and data protection policies before they can use it and their access is restricted depending on their roles.

When you joined our U3A, the application form contained information on how we use your personal data, which is for the efficient running of our U3A only. In future, to comply with the new requirements, the renewal form will ask you to renew your consent to this use.

To further protect your privacy, when you join a group you may be asked whether you are happy to share your email address (and possibly address and contact numbers) with other members of the group. This is to facilitate arrangements within the group and it is up to the group members to respect the confidentiality of each other's personal information.

Sue Brimlow, Chairman

Report on the Outing Guildford Cathedral and Mottisfont



When cold weather and snow returned the weekend before our outing, anxiety levels started to rise. Yet by some miracle Spring, appeared on Wednesday 21st March and we enjoyed a pleasant, sunny day.

Our first stop was **Guildford Cathedral** - finally completed post war by raising funds with a 'buy a brick appeal', whereby hundreds of thousands bought a brick for half a crown (12 ½ p in today's money). Thus, the exterior somewhat resembles

a power station but inside it is light, bright and beautiful. It was lovely to see school children there, painting and learning about Easter. Here another miracle occurred, in that one of our members, Lynne Monckton, realised that a lady volunteer

at the Cathedral had been her teacher at Grammar School – recognising each other after some 58 years (you must have been a memorable pupil, Lynne, although perhaps being one of twins helped).

We then travelled towards Hampshire to visit the National Trust property, **Mottisfont** - a house with a lot of history, having started life as an Abbey in the 1200s. The Art Fund tend to use



the top of the house for special exhibitions. So here we were able to see works by Heath Robinson, who earned his living as illustrator and creator of comic drawings in the first half of the 1900s. He is, of course best known for his humorous drawings of intricate gadgetry to achieve the simplest of tasks and these can readily raise a smile, even today (there is an excellent Heath Robinson Museum in Pinner, NW London).

This time of year the gardens at Mottisfont are not at their best, but nevertheless members were able to wander around and appreciate the beautiful landscape beside the river Test, including the fast flowing waters from the Font and the splash of colour in the Winter Garden.



Pat Micklewright

Photos by Stella Westrup and Lynne Monckton



OUTING NEWS

Thank you to Pat and Stella for the lovely outing to **Guildford Cathedral and Mottisfont**. (Please see separate article and photos).

The trip to **Layer Marney and Cressing Temple** on 15th May still has a few seats left. I did the recce for this and both places are fascinating. There is so much to see at Cressing Temple. The main attractions are the three Grade 1 listed 13thC barns (with displays inside) given to the Knights Templar. There are also other mediaeval buildings plus the Tudor walled garden painstakingly restored back to its former glory. Then onto Layer Marney to experience another Grade 1 listed property, this time a Tudor Palace Tower set in lovely gardens with far reaching views. Please contact Stella Tel: 01892 5241517

Below you will find the application form for historic **Rochester** on 20th June to explore the newly restored grade 1 listed 16th and 17th century Eastgate House. We also visit the only Huguenot Museum in Britain. This will be another great day.

Nor can I forget that 41 of us are off to see the **Terracotta Warriors** at the end of the month. I will have everything crossed for a memorable and enjoyable holiday.

I seem to be spending a lot of time on the M25 at the moment! The end of March saw me & my husband driving off towards Oxford to gather information for our one night stopover.

Thursday 11th October - Friday 12th October
Cliveden Gardens (N.T), Blenheim Palace, Bladen Church,
Oxford Walking Tour, Hughenden Manor (N.T)

Proposed Itinerary, Leaving Tunbridge Wells by executive coach with JG Theatre Club

DAY ONE Cliveden (N.T), home for more than 300 years to the wealthy and titled, commands an imposing position on high slopes above the Thames. The house is now a private hotel but its gardens, woods, and water garden are owned by the National Trust. With its terrace more than 110 metres long your eyes are drawn down to the Thames overlooking a spectacular Parterre. This is our stop on route where we can enjoy the gardens and views and have refreshments in the Orangery café.

Then we drive on to **Blenheim Palace** the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. We will stop here for the afternoon before getting back on the coach for a brief stop at **St Martin's Church in Bladen** where we find the gravestones of members of the Churchill family.

We arrive late afternoon at the Witney Oxford hotel for dinner and our overnight stop. The hotel meets our criteria for a one night stay as a group. It is well situated a few miles south of Blenheim Palace. On my visit the staff were welcoming, hardworking and helpful. The room was clean, well equipped with tea and coffee making facilities, iron, hairdryer, room safe, flat screen TV and toiletries. The evening dinner offered a varied 3 course meal. The breakfast was an extensive buffet. Please note the bar area is a bit dated and the hotel with 3 floors has no lift.

DAY TWO We leave promptly after breakfast to drive into **Oxford** to meet our 2 Blue Badge Guides for a walking tour, entry into a college and free time.

After lunch we make our way home stopping at **Hughenden Manor** (N.T) which was the home of Benjamin Disraeli. As well as a really impressive house and grounds to wander round we go below stairs to see the top secret mapping rooms from World War 11 codenamed 'Hillside'.

Then we are back on the coach for our return to Tunbridge Wells early evening.

COST £135.00 per person sharing a double twin room. This includes coach, gratuities, hotel with dinner B & B, entry to Blenheim Palace, Oxford Blue badge Guide and college entry. Cliveden and Hughendon are free to National Trust members. Additional cost to non-members.

Non-refundable Deposit £30.00 payable by cheque.

The single room supplement is £24.00. Single rooms are limited so please think of sharing with a friend.

People have already expressed an interest and we are now sending out application forms. Please click [here](#) to receive one. Sandra and Christine are your contacts.

[Sandra McDonald](#) Outings Co-ordinator

GROUP REPORTS

LONDON EXPLORERS 1

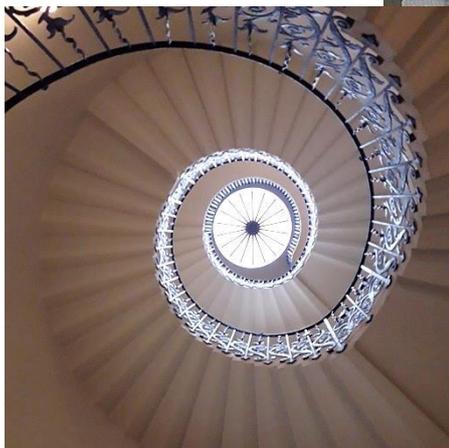
Our March trip was to Greenwich, where Helen MacNab provided us with a quiz whose route took us from the Cutty Sark to the Royal Observatory and back and made us really test our powers of observation. We were very lucky that the cold weather had passed and we had a bright but chilly day. We went up Crooms Hill, which runs on the western side of Greenwich Park. It's not as steep as the path through the park and it's full of interesting houses. A dog walker stopped for a chat and explained that it used not to be so desirable, so people who'd bought houses in the past were now living in very expensive properties. If you've not been to the Royal Observatory lately, the view has changed beyond recognition. Canary Wharf dominates the immediate view and the view of St Pauls is now obscured by other buildings. The photo shows the group having a welcome lunch and going through the quiz answers.



Sue Brimlow

LONDON EXPLORERS 4

Outing to the
Royal
Observatory
Greenwich.



A bit of a steep climb to the top but well worth it for the views. Followed by a visit to the Queens House which was amazing.

Suzette Elliott-West, Group Contact

Update on Groups

Local Music Events We held a lively meeting at Trinity at the end of last month with lots of ideas for visits to a variety of live music events in and around Tunbridge Wells. Members of the group will choose what they would like to attend and arrange to go together. For more information please contact [Sheila Casey](#) or phone 01892 549925

Beginners Italian There has been much enthusiasm for this group but also some concern that, like all our U3A groups, it relies on self-help and appropriate books and CDs. It can be good fun learning together but if we have any fluent Italian speaker in our U3A who might join in and help, they would of course be very welcome. Please let me know.

London Explorers 6 A group who will visit London once a month and find interesting walks and places to visits. These will take place on the 1st Friday of the month.

Four Seasons Bird Watching Visits to be organised to a range of sites throughout the year to see a variety of birds in different habitats. Car sharing would be encouraged.

Bead and Banter An amateur jewellery making group. Have fun with bangles, beads and baubles.

Out and About Explorers I have been asked to have another go at promoting this group and spring seems the right moment. Maybe you'd like to venture a little further afield, visiting villages, festivals, castles or gardens. Maybe you have a national trust card you'd like to use more often. The idea is to go out together, sharing cars. You don't have to be a driver. I have already been assured by one lady that she is happy to drive if someone else gives directions!

Folk Singing Group Bob Kenward who provided the music for our Barn Dance has offered to run a folk singing group. Further details will shortly be available on the website.

These groups are ready to receive new members

Ten Pin Bowling Bowlers meet every other Tuesday morning at Knights Park. Please contact [Lynn Brown](#) or phone 01892 543756 for more information.

Spanish Intermediate This group meets on 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons and uses a variety of materials and fun activities to enhance language skills and in particular to improve fluency in conversation. Members are welcome to visit and give it a try. [Helen Bright](#) will be pleased to receive enquiries either by email or by phone 01892 527527

Wine Appreciation Two If you'd like to taste and appreciate wine in a sociable atmosphere on the 4th Friday of the month, starting at 7.00pm, please contact [Ian Seddon](#) or phone 01892 527047

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

Military, Aviation and Maritime Histories meets in the morning on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Please contact [Michael Polkinghorne](#) or phone 01892 539320

Book Group 2 The new contact for this group is Jean Deas and there are spaces for new members. Please contact [Jean Deas](#) or phone 01892 524667

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

Jan Sumner, Groups Coordinator

A Report on the March Monthly Talk



At the Monthly Talk in March, **Tom Way**, an award winning Fine Art Wildlife Photographer, stunned us with his spectacular images of British wildlife and his description of a wildlife photographer's unusual life. While he admitted that spending days or even weeks waiting for the perfect photograph could sometimes be dull (not to mention uncomfortable and occasionally dangerous), his results make it all worthwhile, as was plain to see.

The photographers among us also gained some useful hints as he emphasised the importance of Light, Context, and Character. To demonstrate

the latter, he showed us a hare with its ears lying along its back – a fabulous photo but with little human appeal. Then came this amazing picture of a puffin in flight which is reproduced here with his kind permission.

You can see more of his photos at www.tomwayphotography.co.uk;

Facebook @ Tom Way Photography,

Twitter @ tomwayphoto,

Instagram @ tom.way.photography

Eryll Fabian

Monthly Meetings

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.

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.

21st June: AGM followed by strawberries and cream and a glass of bubbly with a background slideshow of photos taken during the year.

Art History Seminar

There is still time to enrol for this seminar which was advertised in last month's Newsletter. It will take place on Tuesday 5th June. Details and the application form are on page 9.

**The Barn Dance
on 10th March
was obviously
another success!**



Web applic



Events In April and May



We have the following events arranged for April and May

19 th April	Monthly Meeting: The Social and Political Satire of Gilbert and Sullivan
26 th April	Group Contacts' Lunch – by invitation
27 th April	Coffee Morning at Trinity
17 th May	Monthly Meeting: Alfred Nobel and his Legacy
25 th May	Coffee Morning at Trinity

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

17 th May	Monthly Meeting: Alfred Nobel and his Legacy
5 th June	Art History Seminar – Lee Miller and Man Ray: A Surreal Partnership
21 st June	AGM followed by strawberries and cream and a glass of bubbly
7 th August	History Seminar – Cunning Regal Women: English Queens before Elizabeth 1
22 nd Oct.	Science Study Day – further details will be in a later Newsletter
7 th Dec.	Christmas Lunch – date to be confirmed

New Members

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

Duncan Campbell	Patricia Gray	Siegrid Meyer	Marjorie Sinclair
Jean Campbell	Peter Gray	Alan Michael	Penelope Smith
Denise Collins	Anthea Hall	Anita Michael	Pamela Stubbs
Peter Collins	Pamela Heritage	Derek Reading	Roger Stubbs
Sandra Day	William Hunter	Val Reading	Jean Tune
Susan Evans	Kay Johnson	Christine Ripley	John Tune
Julia Faulkner	Liz Knight	Pamela Royle	Audrey Wallin
Fiona Findlay	Hilary Lagden	Sidney Searles	David Watts
Annette Goodfellow	Freda Marsh	James Shirley	

Useful Information and Important Messages

A message from the Editor:

Members' photos and articles about group activities, places visited and anything relating to U3A events are always welcome.

All contributions to the May Newsletter should be e-mailed to [Eryll Fabian](#) by 30th April or phone 01892 513805.

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



The U3A is a good place to make friends. These met in a U3A Spanish group and went together to Spain in March. Here they are enjoying a meal in Malaga. A kind waiter took the photo with Kathleen Gordon's camera.



TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A ART HISTORY SEMINAR ON TUESDAY 5TH JUNE 2018

lee miller and *man Ray* : A Surreal Partnership
[Signatures of Lee Miller and Man Ray from Wikimedia Commons]

In the spring of 1929, Lee Miller arrived in Paris with an introduction to Man Ray. She announced that she intended to become his student and assistant. Ray said he didn't take students, and that he was about to leave for Biarritz. "So am I" she responded, and thus began one of the most tempestuous and creative relationships in the history of 20th century art.

The speaker for this seminar is Jill Denman, who studied Art History at The Courtauld Institute, is an assistant lecturer for the University of Kent and teaches for local WEA branches. She is also a freelance gallery educator and runs courses at the Jerwood Gallery in Hastings and the Towner Gallery in Eastbourne. Jill specialised in 18th century French art when studying at The Courtauld Institute, though her main focus is now 20th century British and European art.

Date: Tuesday, 5th June 2018
Venue: The Main Hall, The Camden Centre, Tunbridge Wells
Cost: £6 per person



Photo of Man Ray and Salvador Dali
by Carl Van Vechten
[Public domain],
via Wikimedia Commons

Programme: Registration – from 2.30 pm
2.50 - 3.50 We will begin by exploring the careers of both Miller and Ray prior to this momentous meeting. We will then focus on specific works which they produced during the three intense years they worked side by side in Ray's studio, first as artist and assistant, then as lovers and artistic equals and finally, as bitter adversaries.

3.50 - 4.15 Tea break

4.15 – 5.15 We will conclude by examining the work and careers of Miller and Ray after 1932. Despite the acrimony and resentment immediately following their separation, they were later reconciled and their relationship developed into one of deep and devoted friendship, which would last until Ray's death in 1976.

Organiser: Adrian Twiner 01892 459352 or email [Adrian](#)
N.B. This Seminar is open to U3A members in West Kent



Lee Miller in 1944
by David E. Scherman/
United States Army Signal
Corps/
[Public domain],
via Wikimedia Commons

To reserve a place, please copy and complete the slip below and send it with your cheque and SAE to: Adrian Twiner, 16, Bishops Court, Bishops Down Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 8XL Please remember to enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for your ticket.

Please retain this section for information

I/We wish to attend the Tunbridge Wells U3A Art History Seminar on Lee Miller and Man Ray: A Surreal Partnership, and enclose a cheque for £6 per person made payable to TW U3A.

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone No: Email address

I enclose a cheque for £..... (£6 per person)

Outing to Historic Rochester, to explore the newly restored Eastgate House and the only Huguenot Museum in Britain. Wednesday 20th June 2018

Eastgate House is an impressive grade 1 listed 16th and 17th century town house, which was an inspiration to Charles Dickens. The house has recently been restored through £2.2m Heritage Lottery funding and now benefits from a lift for those unable to climb the 33 stairs to the second floor. Several rooms are furnished from when it was the family home of Sir Peter Buck, a senior officer at the Royal Tudor Dockyard; one reflects the use of the building as a boarding school and one illustrates the "Mystery of Edwin Drood".

The **Huguenot Museum** brings to life the story of persecution and flight of the French Protestants and of their settlement, integration and eventual assimilation in England, Ireland and elsewhere. We will learn about the skills in finance, medicine and arts and crafts, which they introduced, seeing examples of their work. The **Family History Centre** may be of interest to the one in six of us with Huguenot ancestors!

We will visit as **groups A and B** to enable us to see the various exhibits, in the relatively small spaces. As time allows members may wish to visit other nearby attractions such as the Six Poor Traveller`s House, the Guildhall Museum and the Cathedral, browse the shops or take photographs. Many options are available for lunch at own expense.

9.00 a.m Coach departs Crescent Road, non-Assembly Hall side.

9.20 a.m departs Southborough Fountain

10.30 a.m Arrive at Rochester, with drop off behind the Visitor Centre, in the High Street (facilities available)

10.45/11.0 a.m Short walk for Coffee/Tea and homemade cake or traybake in the **Cathedral Cafe in the Crypt** , down 12 stone steps, with handrail (refreshments included in cost)

12.00 p.m. Group A visit Huguenot Museum/Group B visit Eastgate House for guided tour

2.00 p.m. Group A to Eastgate House/Group B visit Huguenot Museum
Remaining afternoon available for further exploration or a cup of tea at own expense.

4.25 p.m. Meet coach to depart for Tunbridge Wells

COST: £30 per person to include coach travel, gratuities, entry to the Huguenot Museum and Eastgate House and refreshments on arrival.

(Please note that once we are committed to paying out money in advance, full refunds will only be possible if your place can be taken by another member)

APPLICATIONS: (including cheque made payable to Tunbridge Wells U3A and SAE for reply) to Rosemary Rees, 23 Springhead, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 3NY
Tel: 01892 541517 Mobile on day only 07979 622270

Also for queries, Sylvia Joyce Tel: 01892 319070 Mobile on day only 07702 014681

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

Tunbridge Wells U3A Outing to Rochester Wednesday 20th June

Please reserve -----place/s @ £30.

I enclose a cheque for £.....and SAE

I/We will join the coach at: **Delete as appropriate**

*Crescent Road (Assembly Hall) 9.00am / * Southborough Fountain at 9.20 am

Name/s

U3A No/s

Address/es

Tel NosMobile Date

Signed