

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Because our Newsletters do not reach you until around the 9<sup>th</sup> of each month, the Coronation of King Charles III will have taken place before you receive the May Newsletter. I am sure that you will all have your own way of celebrating this momentous event, but have you heard about [The Big Help Out](#) when, to mark His Majesty The King's Coronation, thousands of organisations across the country are getting together to give us all the chance to help out in our own local communities? As you know, I am always looking for volunteers – this time it is a pleasure to be asking you to look beyond TWu3a!

Below you will see the first notice about our Annual General Meeting which will be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Sandra McDonald and I are stepping down after serving for 6 years though you will be pleased to hear that Sandra has agreed to continue organising her very popular short breaks. There will be some reorganisation of the committee as a result, but change is good as it brings in new faces and fresh ideas. Please put the date in your diaries.

**PS Don't miss the important notices on page 2 about the monthly meeting!**

[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.**



This happy looking group are the lucky winners from the Bingo afternoon

### Coming up

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Apr 2.30: Monthly meeting:  
CHANGE OF SPEAKER: The RNLI**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr 2.30:  
Afternoon tea & Jazz**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Apr 10.30:  
Coffee morning at Trinity**



**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2.30: Monthly meeting:  
The work of the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance.**

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that April's monthly meeting will be held in the Christian Fellowship Hall, Hanover Rd, TN1 1EY, as the Camden Centre is continuing work on their roof. Consequently, there will be no book or puzzle exchange this month.

## Hybrid Monthly Meeting at the **Christian Fellowship Hall**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2.30pm

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

**UNFORTUNATELY THIS TALK HAS BEEN POSTPONED  
DUE TO PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

Bob has sprung into action and come up trumps with this alternative talk.

Jan Pierce will talk about  
the marvellous work of the  
RNLI



## May Monthly Meeting at the Camden Centre

**Kent Surrey Sussex**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2.30pm



**Air Ambulance**  
A Charity That Saves Lives

### The work of the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance.

'We are Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS), and we fight every day to save lives. We are a close-knit team of dedicated, skilled, sector-leading experts with an incredible level of expertise. When the call comes, we can reach any part of Kent, Surrey or Sussex in under 30 minutes.'

(Quote from the KSS website)

**Still time to book!**

**Afternoon Tea and entertainment  
by the wonderful *CAFÉ SOCIETY***



**Jazz and Swing Classics**

**The Date: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 at  
2.30**

**The Place: The Masonic Centre**

**The Cost: £24.00 per person**

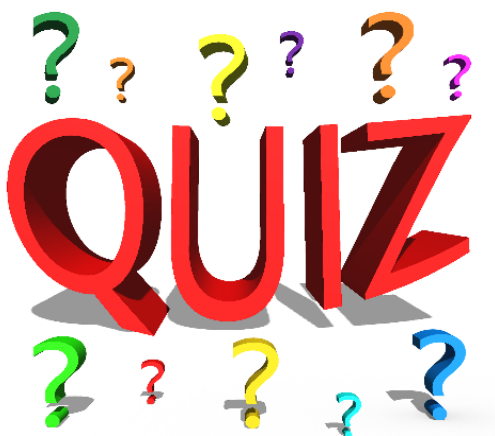
**Further information and application form  
at the end of this Newsletter**



**Reminder**

**New Members' Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April**

All new members should have received an invitation to the New Members' Meeting which will be held from 2.30 to 4.30pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April at the Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship Hall. If you have not done so and would like to join us please contact [Eryll Fabian](#) or phone her on 01892 513805. It would be helpful if those who have not yet replied would do so, so that our Tea Ladies know how many to cater for.



**U3a quiz**

When? 27<sup>th</sup> May starting at 7pm

Where? Langton Green Village Hall

Cost? £10 includes a ploughman's  
supper

We're bringing back our popular quiz, with teams of 6 people. Ideally, we'd like people to apply as a team, but we're happy to take individual requests and we'll put you in a team.

We provide the questions and the food, you bring your own drinks, glasses and cutlery. The application form is at the end of the newsletter.

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held at the Camden Centre  
on Thursday 15 June 2023 at 2.30pm.

Anyone unable to attend who would like to appoint a proxy should obtain a Proxy Notice from [Sian Shaw](#) by email or phone her on 07835 300193. Proxy Notices must be returned to her at least 7 days before the AGM.

Nominations are sought for the positions of:

**Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Groups Coordinator,  
and Newsletter Editor**

Nomination forms can be downloaded [here](#) or obtained from the [Hon. Secretary](#).

All nominations should be proposed and seconded and sent, together with motions for discussion, to the Hon. Secretary, Fiona Findlay, by [email](#) or post to 12 Faraday Lodge, Badger's Holt, Tunbridge Wells TN2 3DX no later than 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.

All AGM documentation will be downloadable from our website no later than 25th May, 21 days prior to the meeting.

The AGM will be followed by strawberries and cream and a glass of bubbly

We hope as many people as possible will attend.

Please send apologies for absence to [Sian Shaw](#) or phone her on 07835 300193 as the Hon. Secretary is unable to attend the AGM

## TUNBRIDGE WELLS u3a's EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

We are beginning to develop our EDI policy and encourage our members to feed back. Equality, diversity and inclusion are important national principles for u3a. A mixture of people, cultures and ideas contribute to the richness and variety of our lives. It's important that everyone feels welcomed, included and valued in Tunbridge Wells u3a.

You can read our EDI policy [here](#) as well as [U3A's national EDI overview](#) and our town's most recent [ONS census section](#).



## Outings Coordinator

In June we are going to be travelling to two beautiful gardens. The first visit will be to Wakehurst Place. The horticultural highlights on display this June at Wakehurst will include peonies, roses, alliums and lupins. Wakehurst's Coronation Meadow of native flowers and grasses are beginning to bloom with a range of colourful summer plants. The visit will also include a guided tour and the seed bank exhibition. Our second garden is Sheffield Park, a horticultural work of art, formed through the centuries of landscape design, with influences of Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton. Iconic bridges, lakes and the Pelham Falls cascade which links five mirror like lakes creating dramatic reflections of shape, texture and colour. To avoid missing this delightful trip please complete the application form at the end of this newsletter asap.



In March we had a lovely sunny day at Richmond –see Chris' review below.

**Save the dates:** our July outing to Knebworth House on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July and on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August to The Rural Life and Living Museum near Farnham Surrey, which will appear in May & June's newsletter.

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

[Joan Young](#)

### Last month's outing to Richmond Theatre - Fisherman's Friends

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 39 members boarded the coach for a trip to Richmond to see the musical Fisherman's Friends. Once on the coach we welcomed our new Ham's driver, Gideon, and after a smooth ride, we were dropped off outside the lovely Victorian theatre facing Richmond Green.

We had a couple of hours before the afternoon performance to take advantage of the sunshine, have coffee or lunch and explore the area before taking our seats in the stalls.

The musical tells the story of a group of fishermen from Port Isaac who came together to carry on the singing of traditional sea shanties while raising money for charity. They were spotted by a music manager who happened to be on a trip from London. He heard the friends singing and after some soul searching by the friends, they were persuaded to sign a record deal. A successful disc was launched followed by another and three albums which "went Gold". Two films followed which led onto the making of a stage musical that is now touring the country.

It was an afternoon of non-stop *a capella* singing, dancing and music by a superb cast. The scenery really took one down to the sea and after plenty of foot-tapping, clapping and cheering, we left with smiles on our faces and a happy heart. A really superb show.

.....Heave away, haul away! We're bound for South Australia!"

*Chris Hyder*

## Groups Coordinator's update

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

It is thanks to new members being willing to become group contacts that 2 more groups will hold their first meetings in early April. Juana will facilitate a Spanish Conversation group on 4<sup>th</sup> April and, due to the perseverance of Glyn, a craft group will also begin meeting. 3 enthusiastic ladies keen to share and learn different crafting skills sat and planned at March's monthly coffee morning. The group quickly grew to 5 members who, over the next few months, would like to try weaving, embroidery, simple crochet, painting on stones and on glass. Would you like to join them?



Some existing groups are now full and providing members are willing to become the group contacts we can begin to plan start-up meetings. Are you interested in.... \* Breakfast Brunchers 2 \* Cribbage \* Out & About 2 \* Table Tennis 2 \* London Explorers 7 \* Country Dancing \* Posh Nosh Diners 2 \* ?

*Have you ever thought of trying your hand at dowsing? Now is your chance! Dowsing is not all about water divining! Dowse in your garden to make sure you have the right type of soil, dowse for that lost set of keys. Develop your intuition, dowse indoors, outdoors, standing up or reclining.*

*Register your interest in 4 x one and a half hour sessions in June by contacting the [groups coordinator](#).*

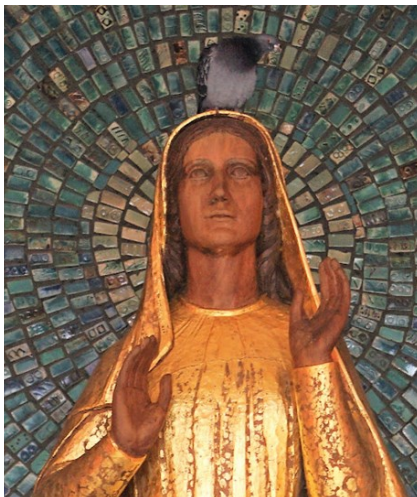
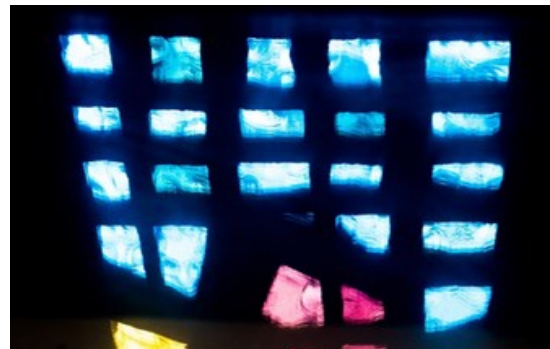
For any group details please contact the Groups Coordinator on [groupstwu3a@gmail.com](mailto:groupstwu3a@gmail.com)

[Lindsay Hasell](#)



The **Ukulele group** in full swing!

The **photo club** have been busy again. This month they took their cameras to Aylesbury and one of their themes was 'blue'.





## Group News



The crochet group have been very productive since Christmas and we have welcomed several new members. We made some Christmas decorations for the U3A Christmas tree in King Charles the Martyr tree festival for charities. We also made some Easter decorations for the charity shop to sell, as well as donating several blankets and scarves to Refugease who are working in Ukraine and in Turkey with earthquake relief. We all enjoy meeting up for a chat, learning from one another and tea and cake of course!

*Susan Bareham*

The **Bee Walkers** have started their 2023 Bumblebee counting season, despite March's wet and windy weather. Bees spotted –1.

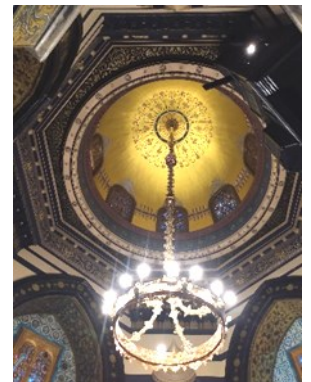


**Ramblers Too** enjoying the daffodils at Groombridge Place

**London Explorers 2** Despite the dreadful weather forecast we were lucky to have no more than a light sprinkle of drizzle on our walk from Kensington High Street to Leighton House. On the way we passed pretty walled gardens filled with blossom: magnolias, early flowering cherries and camellias. All benefiting from London's more clement climate.

Leighton House, since our last enjoyable visit in 2019, has had a big refurbishment which includes a new light-filled coffee shop overlooking the garden.

We watched a video of the history of Sir Frederick Leighton, and the development of the house, which he built on an empty plot in 1864. The house evolved into a palace of art, combining domestic accommodation, a large painting studio, spaces for entertainment and a setting for his collections. It has had many new recent acquisitions to admire and enjoy. This house was amongst a collection of 9 purpose-built studio-houses built in close proximity on Holland Park Road and Melbury Road, but today only 3 are left. It must have been a thriving artistic community in the nineteenth century.



Our second visit was to another nearby property: Sambourne House. This was bought in 1874 by illustrator and cartoonist Linley Sambourne shortly after his marriage to Marion Herapath. They raised their family here and stayed for the rest of their lives.

After their deaths the house was maintained by their two children, and then their grand-daughter Anne, Countess of Rosse, who has worked to preserve the house as a museum. It looks very much as it did when Marion and Linley lived there and is a fascinating glimpse into life in the late Victorian/Edwardian era.

*Anne Golds*

## Last month's talk

### The Good, the Bad and the Ugly by Christoph Bull



This intriguing talk about Kent Libraries was certainly not dry and dusty as one might think, but full of information with a fund of stories and amusing details about life within the library system gleaned over his 35 years experience.

His first picture showed us a Victorian workhouse between, on one side the Red Lion pub with a local drunk leaning on the wall, and on the other an early reading room. This needed no explanation! Victorians were keen to educate folk and from 1850 onwards some local towns and villages funded libraries, mostly reference, for their residents - an early 'google'! In 1921 Kent County Council made provision for areas without local availability, not always with good grace, from the local council. Elina Busk from Westerham opened her own front room for a library when the council refused to provide, and then

gave money in her will to buy ground for a proper library. Our own library founded in 1920 became the Dudley Institute in 1922.

A huge variety of buildings were used, from some rooms above the local fire station to a converted house complete with bathroom!. Christoph showed us slides of some more modern purpose built buildings that provided the 'ugly' in the title. However, Carnegie, the millionaire philanthropist, provided and paid for many elegant and dignified buildings as long as the town gave the land. Dartford Library is one of these, built in 1916 and still in use.

It was not always easy to borrow books as most early libraries were Closed Access Systems when a reader must get a ticket from a vestibule to exchange for a book stored in the back. The reading room had newspapers and magazines screwed to a desk after the librarian had obliterated the racing results! How times have changed.

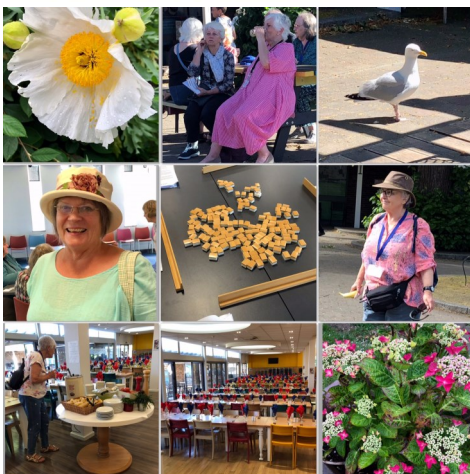
Let me finish by quoting Christoph who told us that only illegal books were actually banned and so *Lolita* (by Vladimir Nabokov) had to be on the shelves despite the huge controversy!

*Yvonne Spencer*



## South East Forum Summer School 2023

University of Chichester **4-7 September**



- **Cycling**
- Fun with **French** – Intermediate
- **Mahjong** – Beginners
- **Mathematics** demystified
- **Poetry** 'A World of Dreams'
- **Ukulele** Intermediate (change of level)
- **Archaeology** & Egyptology
- **Creative Writing** – Hooked on Stories
- **Fizziks** is Phun (Physics)
- Irish and Anglo-Saxon Illuminated **Manuscripts**
- Seated and/or Standing **Yoga & Mindfulness**
- **Walking**/Rambling – A Coastal Delight.

For more information click the link - <https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/events>



## Important information

### Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

20 April 2023	Monthly meeting: The <b>RNLI</b> (at the TWCF Hall, see page 2)
22 April 2023	<b>Afternoon Tea</b> at the Masonic Centre with the wonderful Cafe Society
18 May 2023	Monthly meeting: <b>the work of the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance.</b>
27 May 2023	Quiz

## New members

A big welcome to our **22** new members in March

**Julie Carter Robert Carter Karin de Kwant Glynis Eryll Dellar Wendy Duxbury**  
**Mary Fox Eileen French Steve Gable Frank Green Ian Harman Thelma Harris**  
**Katinka Hatton Gillian Main Tove Maltby Jennifer McDowall Pamela Meek**  
**Jennifer Pronger Mary Stones Kathryn Sturtivant Matthew Vincent**  
**Susan Vincent and Mark Viner**

## 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 **May** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by April 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

## An Enjoyable Day out to Wakehurst Place and Sheffield Park

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**OUTING CODE: F19 ORGANISER: PAT MICKLEWRIGHT EMAIL: [imicklewright@hotmail.com](mailto:imicklewright@hotmail.com)**

Masterminded by the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, The Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst is now the UK's largest conservation project. We will join a guide to learn more about the work carried out there and also about the history, woodlands and gardens. For lunchtime, bring a packed lunch or eat in the restaurant. We will then travel to Sheffield Park for a stroll around the picturesque lakes, when hopefully water lilies will be emerging - and perhaps finish the day in the coach house tearoom.

The cost of this trip is £17.55 to include the coach & the driver's gratuity and guide/s. But please note that if you are NOT a National Trust Member you will need to pay entrance fees on the day: £13.45 at Wakehurst Place and £15 at Sheffield Park.

**To pay by BACS** please email [Pat Micklewright](mailto:Pat Micklewright) and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and Name of Outing and Code (as above). Plus, say where you want to board the coach.

**Then 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:** OUTING CODE and your Surname e.g. **F19 Your Surname**

**To pay by cheque:** please post the application below to: Pat Micklewright, 4 The Green, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3FT. **Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.**

### APPLICATION FORM Wakehurst Place and Sheffield Park Code: F19

I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Tunbridge Wells u3a

Name and mobile/home phone number.....

Email .....

If you are paying for your partner or a u3a friend, please include their details below

Name and mobile/home phone number .....

Email .....

Please tick where you want to board the coach.

Opposite Southborough Fountain 9.15am.....

St Johns, outside Sainsbury's Local 9.20 am.....

Crescent Road, opposite the Assembly Hall 9.30 am.....

After our visit to Wakehurst Place, we will leave promptly at 2.00 pm to arrive at Sheffield Park around 2.30 pm. The coach will leave at 5.00 pm to return to Tunbridge Wells around 5.45 pm.

**The contact numbers for queries regarding this trip are 01892 341301 Mobile 07530 885657**

**NB** Once money has been paid, refunds can only be offered if your place is filled by another U3A member. Members are advised that neither the TWu3a nor the outing's organiser will accept responsibility for any mishap during the outing. Members are advised to consider personal insurance cover and reminded to bring any necessary medication with them.

IF YOU HAVE NOT GIVEN US DETAILS OF YOUR NEXT OF KIN OR PERSON IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE LET US HAVE A NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER. THIS WILL BE STORED ON TWU3A'S DATABASE.

## TWu3a QUIZ EVENING Application

ORGANISER: Sue Brimlow

email: suebrimlow@btinternet.com

Code: QUIZ 23

**Date: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May**

**Time: 7.30 to 10.30**

**Venue: Langton Green Village Hall TN3 OJJ**

**Price: £10 to include ploughman's supper**

***\* Please bring your own drinks, nibbles, cutlery and glasses. \****

**Ideally**, please make up a team of 6 people and make one payment on behalf of the team. However, if you're happy to take pot luck, just apply on your own and we'll put you in a team.

To apply please email: [Sue](mailto:suebrimlow@btinternet.com) and include your name, and the names of the other team members if relevant, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and Name of Event/Outing and Code (as above).

**To pay by BACS:** 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: QUIZ23 Your Surname**

**To pay by cheque:** please post your application & cheque to  
Sue Brimlow, 1 The Grange, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells TN3 0HR  
Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

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### APPLICATION FORM

**Event name and Code: QUIZ 23**

**I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Tunbridge Wells u3a**

**Name and mobile/home phone number**

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**If you are paying for your partner or a u3a friend, please include their details below**

**Name and mobile/home phone number**

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**TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A**  
**AFTERNOON TEA with 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 **Leila 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 [isobelm3@gmail.com](mailto:isobelm3@gmail.com) 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.**

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**APPLICATION FORM**

**Afternoon Tea with Café Society/Event Code CST23**

**I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Tunbridge Wells u3a**

**Name plus home and mobile phone numbers**

.....

**If paying for your partner or a u3a friend, please include their details below:**

**Name plus home and mobile phone numbers**

.....