

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A NEWS

May 2019



THE UNIVERSITY OF
THE THIRD AGE

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

I'm delighted to say that our plea for a replacement Treasurer has been answered. We now have a nomination form submitted and two other members who cannot commit to a full time involvement have offered their assistance at busy times. The committee are obviously very relieved at this, but would rather not have had to raise the threat of closure before we got a response. Please do remember that the U3A is a participative organisation and is totally reliant on volunteers.

In fact, more volunteers have undertaken to hull and prepare the strawberries for the AGM, so I do hope a considerable number of you will be able to join us. We need 10% of our members present to be able to accept the accounts and vote in new committee members and at the rate we continue to grow that means we'll need 110 members; the equivalent of a very good turnout for a monthly speaker. All the paperwork for the AGM will be sent out with the June newsletter and will also be available on the website at least 3 weeks before the AGM.

We've got two very exciting items in this month's newsletter. Those of you who came to our Science Study Day last year will know what an inspirational and interesting speaker David Southwood was. At the time, he said that he would love to come and talk to us again and Adrian has arranged a seminar in August; definitely not to be missed. Our short breaks are also proving really popular and Sandra has already organised a trip in 2020. So it's very fortunate that our U3A can continue.

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

COMING UP

MONTHLY MEETINGS

at 2.30pm at the Camden Centre

Thursday 16th May

The Ghosts of Kent
a talk by Rupert Matthews

Thursday 20th June

AGM

followed by strawberries and
cream and a glass of bubbly

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

at Trinity from 10.30 – 12.00

Friday 31st May



Friday 28th June

OUR OUTINGS

There will be outings on

**Tuesday 7th May to
Heaven Farm, Standen,
And Saint Hill Manor**
fully booked

**Tuesday 11th June to
Polesden Lacey**
waiting list only

**Wednesday 10th July to
Hatfield House**
booking form is on p. 14

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REMINDER

The AGM will be held at the Camden Centre
on Thursday 20 June 2019 at 2.30pm

Nominations are sought for the position of **Chairman, Treasurer,
Outings Co-ordinator and Short Breaks Co-ordinator**

Nomination forms can be downloaded [here](#).

All AGM documentation will be downloadable from our website no later than
30th 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 23rd May, 2019

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

We hope as many people as possible can attend.
Please send apologies for absence to the Hon. Secretary.

SPACE EXPLORATION: ROCKETS AND THE MOON



Astronaut Buzz Aldrin on the Moon

Image from NASA in public domain

Those of us who attended the Science Study Day last October at Paddock Wood are still talking about the excellent talk on the Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn given by Professor David Southwood.

You will be delighted to hear that he will be returning to conduct a seminar on the afternoon of **Tuesday 13th August** at the Camden Centre. The two sessions will cover ***The Dawn of the Space Age*** and ***The Race to the Moon***.

Details and application form are on page 13

Adrian Twiner, Business Secretary

GROUP CONTACTS' LUNCH AT THE NEVILL GOLF CLUB on Thursday 25th April



The 100 and more groups in our U3A could not operate without our Group Contacts.

Here is Sue Brimlow saying a big **THANK YOU** to them!

Photos by Tom Guy

THE BARN DANCE

Our third annual Barn Dance was held on 6th April and a good time was had by all. One enthusiast was heard to say that she had not laughed so much since the last one!

The Abbey Capers provided terrific music and calling as always.



Photo by Eryll Fabian

With apologies for the poor photos – with all that dancing, we had little time to think about photography!



Photos by Sue Brimlow



OUTINGS NEWS



Bill Tutte, one of the code breakers at Bletchley

The Outing to **Bletchley Park** was in April. It was a very interesting day seeing where the code breakers like Alan Turing worked and lived in quite spartan conditions during the war. A very good day was had by everyone that went on this sunny but cold day.

Our May outing is to the triple venues of **Heaven Farm, Standen and Saint Hill Manor** and is fully booked. In June we are off to **Polesden Lacey** and again this outing has proved very popular. Please telephone Robby Holmes (01892 544095) for availability if you wish to go on this trip as places are limited. Details were in April's Newsletter.

In July we have a trip to **Hatfield House**, a beautiful Jacobean house. Details of this trip and application form will be at the end of this newsletter.

Joan Young, Outings Coordinator

Report on the Outing to Bletchley Park

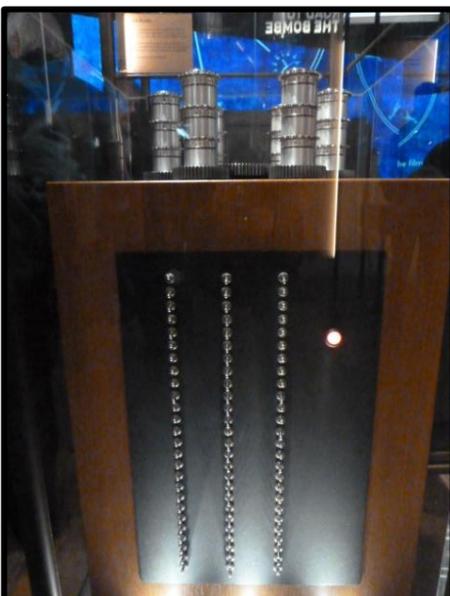


the Mansion, the experience truly awe-inspiring, every room arranged as if we had gone back in time. Jackets hung over the backs of chairs waiting for their owners to claim them, bringing alive the urgency and sacrifices made on our behalf to win the war.

Bletchley Park is renowned for breaking the Enigma Code. The Mansion is set in acres of wonderful gardens and is a mix of Victorian, Gothic and Dutch Baroque. You don't have to be an architect to appreciate it. We ventured into



Tummies rumbling, we decided to take a break and found a table in the picnic area. Refreshed, we set off towards the huts, bumping into other U3A members, suggesting "Have you seen that?" and "Oh yes, there's this to see".



What a day we all had with never a dull moment. The sun shone and we had time to fit in some tea and cake just before boarding the coach for home.

The coach echoed with, "It's worth another visit."

Job done.

*Text:
Judy Bailey*

*Photos:
Stella Westrup*



SHORT BREAKS REPORT

My Easter found me doing a familiarisation trip to Bath and Bristol. What lovely cities. It was raining heavily as we crossed on the ferry at Bristol but it only added to an atmospheric and memorable walk along by the harbour side and into the beautiful cathedral. Crossing the Pulteney Bridge in Bath spanning the river Avon with its Georgian houses and shops and looking back at the ancient arches was stunning. Then on to Wells we wandered along the medieval Vicars Close and gazed in awe at the stained glass windows inside the magnificent cathedral. I am so looking forward to returning with our group in October.

NOW FOR MORE EXCTING NEWS

5 Day Break to Devon May 2020

In conjunction with Tailored Travel we are heading to Torquay. I stayed here in February with other Short Break organisers and had a lovely time. The trip includes an interesting and amazing variety of things to see and do including a Devon Cream Tea and a trip to the theatre!

DATE: Monday 11th - Friday 15th May 2020

HIGHLIGHTS:

Kingston Lacy (N.T)
Blue Badge Guided Tour of Dartmoor
Powderham Castle (Guided)
Buckfast Abbey
Dartmouth
Ferry
Coleton Fishacre (N.T)
Greenway (N.T)
World of Country Life including Deer Safari
Cream Tea in Brixham
Evening at Babbacombe Theatre



We will stay at the Toorak Hotel in Torquay on a half board basis.

The Booking Form has been produced with a more detailed itinerary.

There are a limited number of rooms available for single use free of supplement!!

Deposits must be paid by mid September to secure the booking at the hotel.

COST: £454.00 per person to include executive coach, gratuities, hotel, entries to non N.T properties, and other items as specified on the itinerary.

Please contact me for a booking form at sarn.mcd@hotmail.com or phone 01892 752196

*Sandra McDonald,
Short Breaks Organiser*



Dartmouth Harbour

GROUP REPORTS

FOOD APPRECIATION GROUP

On 1st April a number of the members of the Food Appreciation Group went to Temper, Temper Chocolate factory in Southborough.



It was a very interesting and enjoyable morning. Here we are, having a go ourselves at making chocolate figures, lollipops, decorating florentines and making chocolate baskets to carry our attempts home.



*Text and photos by Suzette Elliott-West
Group Contact*

FRENCH, DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS

French, Develop Your Skills goes from strength to strength, largely thanks to a stalwart group of French ladies who help us enormously at each monthly session.

John Heitt's unforgettable presentation about 30 years spent at sea with his wife, was quite exceptional. We all felt privileged to witness an extraordinary life aboard a small boat in the 1980s, with a sextant for navigation; progressing to present day GPS and all mod cons.

The group has welcomed many French speakers over the past few years, supplementing the sessions with Dictées, Quizzes, Games and conversation.

Long may it continue!



Photo by Phillip Sumner

Ginny Whitelaw, Group Contact

LONDON EXPLORERS 4



One Friday in early April London Explorers 4 had a stroll through Regents Park. I had forgotten how lovely it is. The photo is in front of one of the flowers beds. After lunch we went to the Royal Academy of Music which was very interesting. The day was organised by Dick and Miranda.

*Text & photo by Suzette Elliott-West
Group Contact*

The lovely April weather brought out our Nature Lovers!

BEE WALKERS GROUP



The Bee Walkers Group has started to make monthly records of bees on Tunbridge Wells Common for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. We made our first attempt in March and, not surprisingly, no bee was to be seen as the weather was cold and windy! We fared no better in early April but here we are on Good Friday making our first attempts at identification ... 4 types of bumblebee, a dozen or more honey bees, and a carder bee were among our findings.

Text and photo by Eryll Fabian

THE MEANDERERS

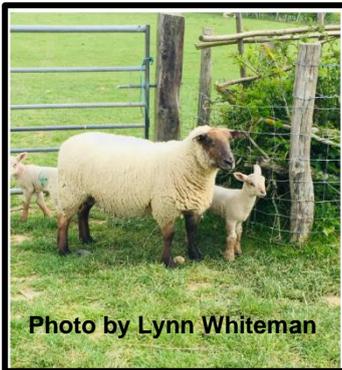


Photo by Lynn Whiteman

One of our April Walks was through the Scotney Castle Estate, where we saw baby lambs frolicking in the fields, banks of primroses and bluebells, and to top it all, the weather was beautiful.

We finished our walk at the café where we all enjoyed tea or coffee, and some of us also treated ourselves to scones!

Marilyn Smart



Photo by Marilyn Smart

THE AMBLERS

have been enjoying the signs of Spring ...



photo by Celia Claxton

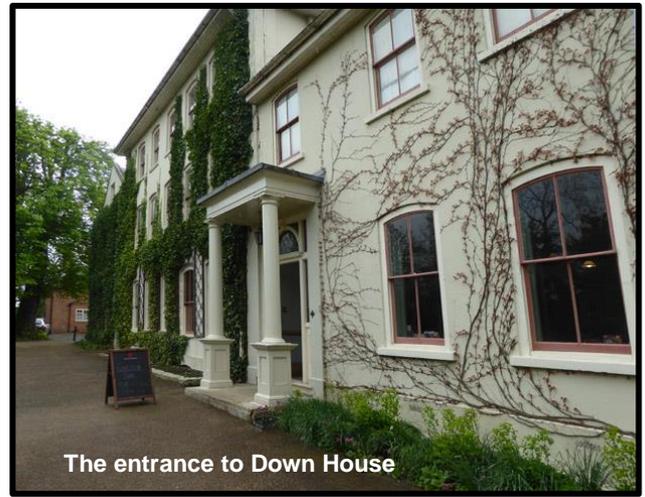


Photo by Eryll Fabian

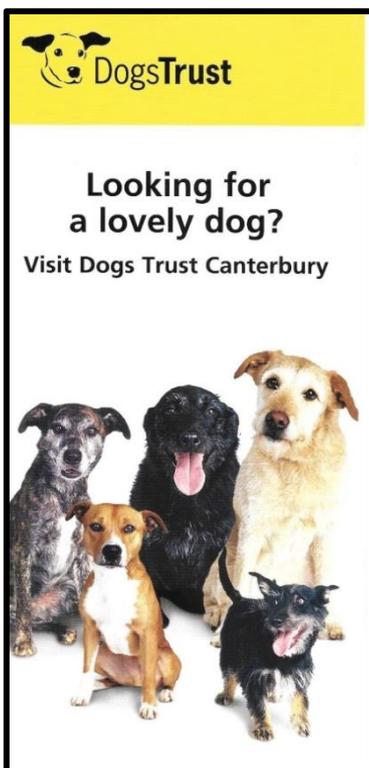
... and so have the birdwatchers.



Erik's report is on the next page



A REPORT ON THE APRIL MONTHLY MEETING



Leaflet reproduced by kind permission
of the speaker

The History and work of the Dogs Trust

Our Speaker was Lara Murphy who gave us a very informative and well delivered talk on the Dogs Trust.

We learnt that the Dogs Trust began in 1894, funded entirely by donations from members and supporters. In 1902 membership totalled 1,000 and grew steadily to 6,500 members by 1910. Today there are over 55,000 members and supporters and it still continues to be run on donations, legacies and lots of fundraising. It opened its first clinic in 1926 and by 1939 there were 9 across London. The latest clinic to be built has taken 6 years of fundraising to enable the the project to commence. They require at least £1,000,000 every year to keep the Dogs Trust afloat. In 1964 they opted to end the destruction of dogs who for some reason did not find a home, and arranged sponsorship to enable the dogs to become permanent residents in a Dogs Trust centre. They also introduced the end of the dog licence and replaced it with the microchip.

On arrival all dogs are neutered, microchipped and given a health check. They have lots of happy healthy dogs who all go to their new home with a brand new collar and lead.

A little extra snippet of information to end on. At the outbreak of WWII they collected the combings from members' dogs fur to be knitted clothing for the troops. It was very successful and continued for many years.

Chris Drury and Rosemary Ford-Hill

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

16th May 2019: "Ghosts of Kent" by Rupert Matthews.

20th June: AGM followed by strawberries and cream and a glass of bubbly.

18th July 2019: Roger Hailwood will talk to us about the National Memorial Arboretum visited by the U3A group last year.

AN INVITATION FROM FRANT BOWLS CLUB

Frant Bowls Club invites Tunbridge Wells U3A members to come and have a go. Sessions take place on Tuesdays from May to September. All standards of play welcome with free coaching for those who are new to the sport. Bowls can be provided. The club is friendly and sociable. There is a club house and licensed bar.

Contact Chris Hall 01892 652483 or email captain@frantbowls.uk

UPDATE ON GROUPS

Latest News

The following new groups are to meet at Trinity for an initial discussion:

THE PATCHWORK GROUP on 8th May at 2.30pm

THE NEW SPANISH BEGINNERS on 16th May at 2.30pm

The website will have details of contacts and meeting times once they are confirmed.

Lionel Cole's ROMAN HISTORY class will resume in October under the new title DARK AGE EUROPE 500-900 AD. Members will explore the main themes in European history for that period. For instance, did the rise of Islam shut down Mediterranean trade and lead to the decline of towns in western Europe? Did the Vikings do more than create havoc?

Contact Lionel on lionel.cole@tiscali.co.uk or 01580 752663.

Proposals for new groups

CHESS This was suggested by one of our members who is keen to take up chess. It will therefore be a beginners group but will certainly welcome anyone with some experience, willing to come along and show us how.

RUMMIKUB And if chess isn't for you, would you be interested in Rummikub, a strategic numbers game using tiles and played along the same lines as the card game Rummy.

PLAY ACTING A new group which will meet once a month and practise acting skills. Scripts will be provided and you are promised lots of fun. If you would like to know more, please get in touch with Anthea Hall who will be pleased to answer your questions. Anthea can be contacted on anthea.hall@gmail.com or 01892 862027.

Further Opportunities

THE POETRY GROUP has been running for just three months and enjoying some interesting discussions. They would welcome a few more members to bring even more ideas and opinions. The next meeting will be on "Poets who are still alive" on Tuesday 28th May at 10.00am Contact Elaine Royal on 01892 524537 or yorvadale@gmail.com.

DESIGNING THE FUTURE A chance to join in discussions on some of the bigger issues we may face in the years to come. Contact David Greenhalgh david@greenhalghco.com or 01892 671737.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE would welcome more gentlemen to enable them to continue giving concerts at local care homes and other venues. Contact Adrian Twiner adriantwiner@gmail.com or 01892 459352.

CREATIVE WRITING The group members agree a theme and read their offerings to one another in their monthly meetings. Meetings are on 2nd Thursday mornings. Contact Don Laurie mail@dhl1524.plus.com or 01892 539951.

5 MILE MONTHLY WALKING GROUP A small group who enjoy walking in the countryside and an occasional pub lunch. Contact Joy Podbury joypodbury@talktalk.net or 01892 315549.

WINE GROUP 1 2nd Wednesday. Contact David Britton dlb21@sky.com or 01892 528785.

WINE GROUP 2 4th Friday. Contact Ian Seddon iaseddon@yahoo.co.uk or 07815 188471.

LONDON EXPLORERS 5 4th Wednesday. Contact Bob Slater Robert.906slater@btinternet.com or 01892 547520

LONDON EXPLORERS 6 1st Friday. Contact Helen Seddon herseddon@yahoo.co.uk or 07866 67701.
For more information or to join new groups please contact Jan Sumner, Groups Coordinator twu3agroupcoordinator@gmail.com or phone 01892 860554.

Useful Information and Important Messages

Events in May and June

We have the following events arranged for May and June:

12 th May	Carvery Lunch at the Masonic Hall – by ticket
16 th May	The Ghosts of Kent , a talk by Rupert Matthews
31 st May	Coffee Morning at Trinity
11 th June	Julia Cruse Seminar: Cunning Regal Women – by ticket
20 th June	AGM followed by strawberries and cream
28 th June	Coffee Morning at Trinity

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

19 th July	BBQ at the Nevill Golf Club – by ticket
13 th August	Seminar: David Southwood, Space Exploration: Rockets and the Moon – by ticket
7 th Sept.	Games Afternoon – details later
28 th Oct	Study Day: Various speakers (Art) – details later
12 th Dec.	U3A Christmas Lunch at the Masonic Hall – details later

New Members

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

Colin Brace	Carol Grundy	Ivana Segall	Robert Ian Tucker
Laura Collins	Annette Knight	Shirley Spurgeon	Sheila Wood
Robert Gardner	Howard Matthews	Lois Thomas	
Brian Grundy	David Nealon	Christine Thomson	

Your Committee

Chairman	Sue Brimlow	01892 863691
Vice-Chairman	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Secretary	Wendy Maher	01892 325272
Treasurer	David Scott	01892 701950
Group Coordinator	Jan Sumner	01892 860554
Membership Secretary	Ruth Johnson	01892 523097
Outings Coordinator	Joan Young	01892 546687
Business Secretary	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Newsletter	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805
Short Breaks & Holidays	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196

A Message from the Editor:

Members' photos and articles about group activities, places visited and anything relating to U3A events are always welcome. We can't guarantee to print them but will do our best if space allows.

All contributions to the **June** Newsletter should be e-mailed to [Eryll Fabian](mailto:Eryll.Fabian@u3a.org.uk) by 31st May (**earlier submissions will be welcome!**) or phone 01892 513805.



National Events

Details of interesting national events appear on the website:

They can be found on www.u3a.org.uk or by writing to:

The Third Age Trust, 52 Lant Street, London SE1 1RB

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A



Summer Evening Barbecue

We look forward to welcoming you to the Nevill Golf Club on **Friday 19 July 2019**.

We have booked the first floor room and, if the weather is kind, we can also be outside on the balcony.
After the meal, there will be music for anyone who would like to dance.

Please arrive at the venue from 7.00 pm for the Barbecue at 7.30 pm.

The address is: **The Nevill Golf Club, Benhall Mill Rd, Tunbridge Wells TN2 5JW**

There is ample parking for cars at the venue.

The cost per person for the two course barbecue meal is **£26.00**, including room hire and gratuities.
The first course (including beef, salmon and chicken) will be served with salads and breads.
For the second course, you will be able to choose from several desserts, followed by coffee or tea.

Drinks can be purchased before the meal, and during the evening, from the ground floor bar.

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

Any queries to Di Brown by email to: dmzbrown@gmail.com; or phone her on 01892 529 999

Post your completed application form, together with your cheque for the ticket(s) to:

Di Brown, The Corner House, 44 Pennine Walk, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 3NW

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



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

Name Membership no.....

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

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

Name Membership no.....

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

Please say here if (either of) you need a vegetarian meal YES/NO

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A SCIENCE SEMINAR ON TUESDAY 13TH AUGUST

Space Exploration: Rockets and the Moon

The speaker for this seminar is Professor David Southwood, who spoke to us last October at the Study Day at Paddock Wood. Professor Southwood is a planetary scientist, currently Chairman of the Steering Board of the UK Space Agency, Senior Research Investigator at Imperial College, and a past President and Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

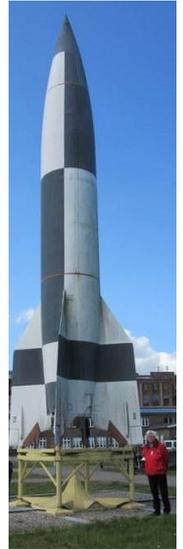
Date: Tuesday, 13th August 2019

Venue: The Main Hall, The Camden Centre, Tunbridge Wells

Cost: £6 per person

Programme:
from 2.30 p.m. Registration

David Southwood in front of V2 rocket at Peenemunde
Photo by Sue Southwood



2.50 – 3.50 The first lecture, **The Dawn of the Space Age.** The space age began independently first in Tsarist Russia and then in Weimar Germany with individual visionaries realising the potential of rockets whose thrust could be controlled, for space exploration. The Moon and Mars were the targets of these early visionaries. However, both in Russia and in Germany it was the military potential that led to practical rockets. The USA had a faltering start in the twenties and was rather late entering the race because the military potential of rockets was initially discounted. By the end of WWII Germany had shown the destructive capabilities of rockets and nobody could ignore the new technology.

3.50 – 4.15 Tea Break

4.15 – 5.15 The second lecture, **The Race to the Moon.** By the 1950s scientists and the general public realised that rockets were important for space science and space exploration. So it happened that at the height of the Cold War, a missile race between the Soviet Union and the USA transformed into a race to the Moon. Why were the Soviets so far ahead at the beginning? What went wrong? How and when did the Americans pull ahead and ultimately win? 50 years later, where are we now?

Organiser: Adrian Twiner 01892 459352 adriantwiner@gmail.com

N.B. This seminar is open to U3A members in West Kent

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, which will be sent out from late June.

Please retain for information.

✂

I/We wish to attend the Tunbridge Wells U3A Science Seminar on **Space Exploration: Rockets and the Moon** 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)

U3A Members Only

Coach Trip to **Hatfield House** on Wednesday 10th July 2019

Hatfield House built by Robert Cecil, 1607–11. A Jacobean house with examples of craftsmanship throughout the building. The Cecil family home for over 400 yrs. They've filled every room with fabulous art and furnishing. On view are historic mementoes. The plants, bulbs, brought back from all over Europe by John Tradescant. Descendants 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury, live in and care for the house today.

In 1553 when Mary Tudor became queen, she feared any attempts by those who would, for their own gain want Elizabeth for Queen. Queen Mary put her half-sister Elizabeth Tudor under arrest in **Hatfield House**. It was here sitting under an oak tree in the park, when she learnt of her accession to the throne 1558.

Smile you are on camera. Film/tv crews are regularly spotted on location at Hatfield house.

The House opens at 11am. River Cottage Restaurant opens at 10am. If you would like to book lunch, contact number: 01707 262 030 for further information. www.hatfield-house.co.uk.

Every effort to accommodate these who may need a little help to enjoy their visit; wheelchairs in house not for outdoors, and there is a small lift which can accommodate standard size wheelchair. A special assistance vehicle is available to transport visitors from the coach park to the house. A full access statement can be found on their website.

TRIP PLANNER

7.47 am coach departs Assemble Halls.
8 am coach departs Southborough Fountain.
10 am (ish) E.T.A allowing for traffic etc;
4 pm coach departs for return journey to Tunbridge Wells.
7 pm (ish E.T.A) allowing for traffic.

Price £ 33.60 includes entry to the House, Gardens and parks walks, and the coach driver's gratuity.

1st House Tour 11 am – 12 pm.

2nd House Tour 11.15 – 12.15 pm.

APPLICATIONS should be sent to: Sheila Austin. 10 Sherwood Road, Tunbridge Wells TN2 3LG including a cheque made payable to: **TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A** and a **STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**. Mo: 07966 578 417 / 01892 578 417

Also available for enquiries: Sylvia Joyce 01892 319070.



TWU3A OUTING TO **HATFIELD HOUSE** WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2019

PLEASE RESERVE.....PLACES/S FOR THIS OUTING.

I/WE WILL BE JOINING THE COACH AT ASSEMBLY HALL* // SOUTHBOROUGH FOUNTAIN*

*delete as appropriate

NAMES/S

U3A NUMBERS (1) (2)

ADDRESS

POSTCODE..... SIGNED

TEL NO: DATE