

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last month the first notice about our AGM, which will take place on Thursday 15th June, appeared in the Newsletter. Unfortunately, the Camden Centre cannot guarantee that we shall be able to hold it there, so, as you will see in the notice below, the venue has been changed to the Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship.

We need at least 100 members (10% of our membership) to form a quorum at the AGM – without a quorum, votes will not be recognised and we shall have to hold another AGM. Please therefore put the date in your diary and come to the AGM ... strawberries and cream and a glass of bubbly will be your reward! If you cannot come in person, please send us your proxy. **Proxy forms will be available from Sian Shaw after 11th May (the last date for receiving nominations).**

Members of the committee are elected for three years and, under our Constitution, they can then stand for re-election for a further three years after which they must step down for at least one year. Sandra MacDonald and I are both stepping down after six years and, to date, we have received the following nominations:

Chair – Chris Woodward; Vice Chair -- Fiona Findlay; Secretary – Sian Shaw

In addition, the following have agreed to stand for re-election for another 3 years:

Group Coordinator – Lindsay Hasell; Newsletter Editor – Bridget Sands

If further nominations are received by 11th May they will be added to the poll.

By the Members, For the Members – please make sure to vote at the AGM!

Coming up

Thursday 18th May 2.30 at the TWCF Hall
Monthly meeting: The work of the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance.

Friday 26th May 10.30:
Coffee morning at Trinity



Saturday 27th May 7pm
Quiz Night

Thursday 15th June 2.30: AGM



Enjoying afternoon Tea and some jazz

[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.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that May's monthly meeting and the AGM in June will be held in the Christian Fellowship Hall, Hanover Rd, TN1 1EY, as the Camden Centre is continuing to repair its roof.

R E M I N D E R -- please note change of venue

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held at the TW Christian Fellowship Hall,
Hanover Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1EY. There is parking in Meadow Road Car Park.

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](#). 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 & Newsletter Editor.

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

All nominations should be proposed and seconded and sent, together with motions for discussion, to the Hon. Secretary, Fiona Findlay, by [email](#) or by post to her at 12 Faraday Lodge, Badger's Holt, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 3DX **no later than 11th 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 & cream and a glass of bubbly!

Please come or submit a proxy vote in order to form the necessary quorum.

Apologies for absence should be sent to [Sian Shaw](#)

Hybrid Monthly Meeting at the Christian Fellowship Hall

Thursday 18th May 2.30pm

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

We often see the Air Ambulance flying over Tunbridge Wells and even hovering over the Lower Cricket ground on the Common. Come and find out what they are up to and how they got to be such an important part of our rescue service.

Their website says...

'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.'



u3a Friends and Family Quiz



When? 27th May starting at 7pm

Where? Langton Green Village Hall

Cost? £10 includes a ploughman's supper

We're bringing back our popular quiz. Why not make up a team of 6 people—u3a members, friends and family all welcome. Ideally, we'd like you to apply as a team, but we're very happy to take individual requests and we'll put you together in a team when you arrive.

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.

Not another evening in front of the TV!

Come on, jump up and join us for some good ol' toe-tapping Line Dancing

Church Centre, Rusthall, TN4 8RE

on Saturday July 8th

7.00-9.30pm

Only £12 including a jacket potato supper



Just follow the teacher. It's great fun!

More details and application form at the end of the newsletter



Afternoon Tea, classy entertainment and a spot of dancing!

Another enjoyable afternoon spent in the company of the fabulous *Cafe Society*, back by popular demand this year. The band was in excellent form and singer Lelia di Domenico's rendition of "Unforgettable" was exactly that!

Demonstration dancers, Sandra and David, managed to encourage some of our members onto the dance floor, and an excellent tea was provided by Emma and her staff from L&A Catering.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event and helped to make it such a great success.

Isobel Martin

Outings Coordinator

The July outing is to Knebworth House, Stevenage, the home of the Lytton family since 1490 when the house was first purchased by their ancestors. The House has stood for many years longer than the Victorian decoration suggests, the stucco hides from view a red brick house dating back to the Tudor times.

The romantic exterior of Knebworth House with its turrets, domes, and gargoyles silhouetted against the sky does little to prepare the visitor for what to expect inside. Knebworth House first achieved fame in Victorian times as the home of the novelist, playwright and politician Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton author of the words "it was a dark and stormy night" and "the pen is mightier than the sword".

Every generation of the Lytton family has left something of their style and taste making Knebworth an extraordinary walk through 500 years of British History. Heirlooms reflect the family's contribution to literature, politics and foreign service, alongside stories of visits by characters as diverse as Charles Dickens, Winston Churchill and Liam Gallagher.

The application form for this summer trip is at the end of this newsletter, please apply early to avoid disappointment.

Our June trip to see two beautiful gardens, Wakehurst Place and Sheffield Park still has a few places available, the details were in the April newsletter, if not please contact the organiser [Pat Micklewright](#) on 01892 341301.

A review of Greys Court, the National Trust property we visited in April, follows below. I hope to see you all on the May trip to Vyne House, which is now full.

[Joan Young](#)

Last month's outing to Greys Court

The house is no stately pile but a really welcoming house set amongst rolling countryside. From the moment you walked through the doors you were reminded it had been the home of four lively boys, the children of Sir Felix and Lady Elizabeth Brunner, who bought the house in 1937 and bequeathed it to the National Trust in 1969.



Every room felt lived in. The sitting rooms furnished with squashy sofas and welcoming fireplaces, the bedrooms full of 1930s comfort and even the kitchen was light and airy with a member of staff baking biscuits which permeated the house with a delicious aroma! And all the rooms had wonderful views.

Through the centuries the house has been the home to Richard the Third, Lettice Knollys who secretly married Queen Elizabeth's favourite, Robert Dudley, Peter Fleming, brother of Ian Fleming, and so many more.

The present house dates from Tudor times but the first manor was built on land bequeathed to the de Grey family in the 11th century hence the name Greys Court. The ruins of the fortified manor are



situated close to the house guarding the entrance to the walled gardens which are reached through an arch and parts are still enclosed by the original curtain wall. Each bite sized garden morphs seamlessly from one arch to the next; each lovely in its own way.

We were there for the daffodils and spring bulbs but my personal favourite had to be the cherry blossom avenue a vista of thick white blossoms echoing

Houseman's "cherry hung with snow". A really lovely day.

Sheila Casey

NB A camera case and batteries were found on the coach. Please contact Stella - 01892 523413

Groups coordinator update

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

The Groups Listing (spaces only) is accompanying this newsletter. We strive to keep it up to date, however if you contact someone who says a group that you may be interested in is **full** please let the [Groups Co-ordinator](#) know. We can help you begin another one.

At the April New Members Meeting the following groups were suggested:

Foraging

Maths For Fun

2nd Breakfast Brunchers

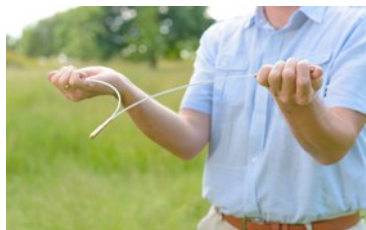
Snooker

The Bee Walkers have resumed their monthly walks and the croquet lawn in Calverley Gardens was being prepared when the Meanderers walked past during their fortnightly walk. The Croquet group meets in conjunction with members from other local u3as.

Thanks to the London Explorers group contacts who have been sharing information about their trips. A LEX Group 7 should be up and running soon.



Reminder



Come and join Joelle and other TWu3a members for a Dowsing for Beginners course in June. There will be 4 sessions on Wednesday 7th, 14th, 21st at Esquires on Mt Pleasant from 2-4pm and then at an outdoor venue on Wednesday 28th June.

If you have not already done so then please register your interest with the groups co-ordinator groupstwu3a@gmail.com

Lindsay Hasell

The Galleries and Exhibitions group followed our successful visit to the David Hockney Exhibition in March with a visit to Tate Britain in April to see The Rossettis.



The Rossettis' approach to art, love and lifestyle are considered revolutionary so we knew we would have to take our courage and strength with us. The exhibition promised an immersive show, using spoken poetry, drawings, paintings, photography and more. It did not disappoint. It was an impressive show that must have taken several years to put together. We very much enjoyed and appreciated the show but generally agreed that we felt rather exhausted by the end of it.

We enjoyed having coffee in the Tate's impressive Members Room when we arrived. Following the exhibition we strolled along to the Morpeth Arms, a small pub close to The Tate. We had booked the Spying Room on the first floor for lunch. It has a great view across the river to the MI6 building. Unfortunately James Bond did not join us for lunch but as we were all feeling rather exhausted by the exhibition that may have been as well.

We were fortunate in having good weather for our visit but when we came back through Sevenoaks station on the train, the ground was white with hail stones. Hopefully, May will bring us calmer weather for our next visit to Tate Modern.



Evelyn Birkett

Group News



Wine Appreciation Group's Day Trip to Calais

11 of us had a great day out. The journey by tunnel went very smoothly. The focus was a tutored wine tasting with an excellent 4 course lunch. The 3 cars then found space in their boots to bring a few cases of wine back!

Great organisation **Merci**

To be repeated I hope. A votre sante!

Sandra McDonald

London Explorers 4 visited 4 churches. St Nicholas Cole Abbey, the earliest church on this site from the 12th century. St Stephen Walbrook, the most famous of Wren's churches. The Dutch Church and we had a very good tour at All Hallows by the Tower, dating back to the 17th century. The church has commissioned a wide variety of artworks. An excellent place to stop for lunch.



Suzette Elliott-West

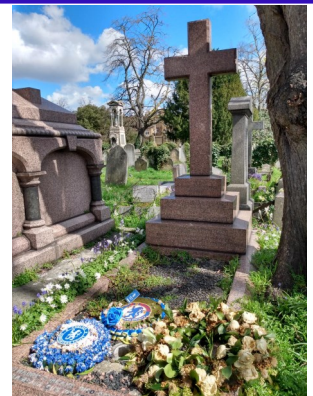
London Explorers 2

The morning of our April outing dawned bright and sunny after Storm

Noa, and the trains ran to time, for our visit to Brompton Cemetery, one of the Magnificent Seven built in the early nineteenth century to accommodate the growing population of London. Parish churchyards were overflowing, and private companies hoped to make money from burying the dead. Unfortunately, they lost money, and Brompton is unique in being the country's only nationalised cemetery in



the country, and is now managed by the London Parks on behalf of the Crown Estate. It is mown sparingly to encourage biodiversity and is home to over 200 varieties of moths, as well as squirrels, foxes and birds. It has some very elaborate tombs as well as common graves. Our guide told us many stories about the interesting people buried there, many were pioneers in medical, science, or transport fields, or artists. It was designed as an open-air cathedral with a west door and a nave leading to the high altar of the domed chapel, surrounded by colonnades with catacombs underneath, which we were luckily enough to enter as part of our tour. Stamford Bridge football stadium, oddly enough, is next door, as shown in this grave! Following the tour we made our way to the pub for lunch!



Mary Blinks

Last month's talk

The marvellous work of the RNLI



Jan Pierce is the secretary of the local RNLI fund raising committee.

Over 300 people drown every year in the UK. There is obviously a wide range of reasons for this but the RNLI offer a non-judgemental rescue service and saved about 500 lives last year.

The Royal Naval Lifeboat Institute has been around for 200 years, fishermen previously having to organize their own rescues. For 100 years their aim was to save all lives at sea (the UK having 19,000 miles of coastline) but now encompasses inland waterways too. In fact, the busiest lifeboat station is at Tower Bridge on the Thames. Their boats went out 600 times last year.

The cost of running the service in 2022 was £182m – that is £460,000 a day. A new, all weather lifeboat cost £2.7m. Staffing is predominantly from volunteers, about 1,000 boat crew and 3,000 shore based crew. There are a few paid roles: for instance, the mechanics who keep the boats in working order with daily checks and maintenance, and the pilots who drive the hovercraft rescue vehicles in shallow waters.

They have six flood rescue teams with specially trained volunteers who are called out to incidents all over the country. They also run International teams which respond to requests from foreign governments. And an important part of their work is in education.



These are only a few of the services provided by the RNLI. To find out more go to <https://rnli.org>

DON'T MISS THIS LAST CHANCE

SHORT BREAK to the DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

October 9th - 13th October 2023 4 nights half board 3* Belle-View hotel Vianden

A very exciting first for our u3a. Travelling by coach across the channel!

Highlights include:

City of Tournai Belgium (en route)
Villeroy & Boch porcelain factory
City of Luxembourg tour
Military History Museum to the Battle of the Bulge
Vianden Castle guided tour.
Mullerthal (Little Switzerland guided tour by coach)
Echternach medieval town
Trier (Germany's oldest town) The Roemer Express (electric train)
Moselle Valley wine tour & tasting
Dinant Belgium (return journey)

This trip is being organised through Simply Groups.

LAST FEW REMAINING PLACES.- WAITING LIST FOR SINGLE ROOMS.

Please contact [Sandra McDonald](#) for more information and to receive the flyer and booking form.

Important information

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

18 May 2023	Monthly meeting: the work of the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance.
27 May 2023	Friends and Family Quiz Night
15 June 2023	AGM
8 July 2023	Line Dancing at Rusthall

New members

A big welcome to our **15** new members in April

Carole Alston, John Alston, Colin Beckett, Barney Brady, Eve Brady, Graham Clampin, Jane Filtness, Robin Graham, Mary Harris, Richard Harris, Paulette Hudson, Clive Maxwell-Yates, Barbara Parton, John Sarkis and Joelle Williams

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 **June** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by May 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.

KNEBWORTH HOUSE (STEVENAGE SG1 2AX) 4TH JULY 2023

OUTING CODE: F20. OUTING ORGANISER JOAN YOUNG: EMAIL ADDRESS: jyoutings@gmail.com

Knebworth House has been the home of the Lytton family since the estate was purchased by their ancestors in 1490. The original brick courtyard house has, over the years, been changed and extended. In 1811 three-quarters of the house was demolished. The remaining wing was remodelled and decorated in the restrained Tudor Gothic style that was fashionable at the time.

Throughout the house the style and taste of former generations can be seen including in 16th century brickwork, 17th and 18th century interiors and principal rooms decorated by Crace Brothers who also designed the interiors of the Houses of Parliament. We will have a guided tour of the house in two groups one at 11.45am and the second group starting at 12.00pm.

Visitors with a house, park and garden ticket are now able to access the Victorian Watchman's Tower for the first time. The Tower has been out of use since the 1950's and has taken two years to restore, in order to reach the top viewing platform where you can enjoy stunning views of the local area.

The cost of the trip to include a guided tour of the house, gardens, watchman's tower, coach and driver's gratuity will be £25.

To pay by BACS please email: jyoutings@gmail.com and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and Name of Outing and Code (F20). Plus, where you want to board the coach.

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].

Reference : OUTING CODE F20 Surname e.g. **F20 Your Surname**

To pay by cheque: please post the application below to: *Joan Young 21, Coniston Avenue Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 9SP.* Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

APPLICATION FORM

Outing name and Code: F20 Knebworth House
I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Tunbridge Wells u3a

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

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

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

Please tick where you want to board the coach.
Crescent road opposite the Assembly Hallat 9.00am.
St Johns opposite Sainsburys local.at 9.10am.
Southborough Fountainat 9.20am.

We expect to be at Knebworth House at approximately 11.00am. **We will leave at 3.30pm. And hope to arrive back in Tunbridge Wells around 5.30pm/6.00pm**

My contact number for any enquiries regarding this trip is 07504919081

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 YOU NEXT OF KIN OR PERSON TO BE ADVISED IN AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE LET US HAVE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER. THIS WILL BE STORED ON TWU3A'S SECURE DATABASE.

TWu3a QUIZ EVENING Application

ORGANISER: Sue Brimlow

email: suebrimlow@btinternet.com

Code: QUIZ 23

Date: Saturday 27th May

Time: 7.00 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.

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

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

Name and mobile/home phone number

EVENT/OUTING CODE: LINE DANCING

ORGANISER: Miranda Baston

email: randabb@hotmail.co.uk

Location: Church Centre, High Street, Rusthall

Date: Saturday July 8th 2023

Time : 7-9.30pm

Cost: £12 including a jacket potato with tuna or cheese and salad

Please bring your own plate, glass, cutlery and drinks

To pay by BACS please email: [Miranda](#) and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and Name of Event/Outing and Code (as above).

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: LINE DANCING Your Surname

To pay by cheque: please post the application below to Miranda Baston, 4 Fernbank, Palesgate Lane, Crowborough, TN63HF. Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

APPLICATION FORM

Event/Outing name and Code: LINE DANCING

Name and mobile/home phone number

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

Name and mobile/home phone number

Parking is limited on street, close to the Church Centre in the High St. near the supermarket.

The 281 Arriva bus leaves the War Memorial for High St. at 6.13 or 6.43, taking about 13 minutes, and a return bus leaves from very near the centre at 21.06.and 22.06