

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A NEWS

June 2018

www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org



CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

I've been reviewing the past year for my AGM report and we certainly packed a lot in. Do join us for strawberries and cream and a glass of cava, following the formal business of the AGM, where we'll be running a slideshow of all the photos that have been taken over the last year.

As you know the U3A is a participatory organisation. Please can a few of you could participate a little more and help us with some of our events? Every year we put on several regular events; the Christmas Lunch and quiz, AGM, new members meeting and a lunch for our group contacts. In addition in the last year we have put on two Barn Dances. All these events have been organised by the committee, with help from the 'tea rota'. Our aim is to set up an Events Committee to help with these events in the future and we already have a volunteer to run the committee.

It will operate like the Outings Committee, who meet once or twice a year to plan the next few months outings and people take responsibility for individual outings. I hope you can see from this that it won't be too onerous and with more people involved we can hopefully arrange more events and possible short breaks. We have already got all the contacts and details for the regular events so it won't be a case of starting from scratch. Just a few hours a year would make such a difference and help us continue to deliver such an exciting programme.

Without such help we may have to curtail some of our events, so please contact me if you want to be involved.

Sue Brimlow, Chairman, Tel: 01892 863691

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COMING UP

MONTHLY MEETINGS

at 2.30pm at the Camden Centre

Thursday 21st June
A G M



followed by strawberries and cream and a glass of bubbly

Thursday 19th July
The Vanishing Maidservant:
an 18th Century mystery
A talk by Ian Keable

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

at Trinity from 10.30 – 12.00

Friday 29th June

Friday 27th July

OUR OUTINGS

There will be outings on:

20th June
Historic Rochester
outing full, waiting list started

12th July
Richmond and Syon House
see Outings News for availability

14th August
Wimbledon All England
Tennis and Croquet Club
application form on page 11

YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU



TO COME TO THE AGM ON JUNE 21ST

We need 10% of our members to be able to vote in
the new committee, which means we need
at least 103 to attend.

*Please join us after the AGM
for a glass of bubbly and strawberries and cream.*



The AGM is at 2.30 at the Camden Centre.

**The present Committee welcomed Group Contacts
to lunch on Thursday 26th April**



A big THANK YOU, **Group Contacts**, from the Committee and **ALL TW U3A Members!**

Liverpool 2018

Last month saw our inaugural short break away and I think that all the participants would agree that it was a great success. We set off in pouring rain and luckily left the bad weather behind us. We stopped en-route at [Shugborough Hall](#), and saw the private apartments of Patrick Lichfield, the famous photographer and relative of the royal family. He took the photographs at Charles and Diana's wedding.

The next day we had a blue badge tour of [Chester](#), which was fascinating, followed by a tour of [Port Sunlight](#) and a visit to the Lady Lever Art Gallery. Lord Lever was ahead of his

times in his concerns for his workers' health, but he was also a shrewd businessman and knew that people would be more productive if they were healthy and also motivated to work well to retain their houses. It was amusing to hear the stories from past workers complaining about all the rules, especially not being able to keep chickens on their allotments.



On Wednesday, we had a blue badge tour of [Liverpool](#), including the Catholic Cathedral. It was really interesting to see the redevelopment and renaissance of the city centre.

Following a visit to the World Museum to see the Terracotta Warrior Exhibition, we had free time to visit other Liverpool highlights including the Cavern Club (very loud) and Albert Dock. The day was completed by a trip on the Mersey Ferry. The sun followed us but it was very windy and we were all red-cheeked with windburn when we left the ferry.

Our stop on the way home was at the [National Memorial Arboretum](#), which was new to many of us. It was a fascinating place and exuded a wonderful air of peace and tranquillity.

The trip was so well planned and organised that the only downside was that Sandra McDonald, who had arranged the trip and itinerary, was unwell and unable to join us. It's a tribute to her organisational skills that the trip ran so smoothly.



Text and photos by Sue Brimlow



Short Breaks Away

As you will see from Sue's report above, the TW U3A short break to Liverpool, Chester, and Port Sunlight was a great success. A one night stopover to Oxford is planned for October (see Outing News below). Why not join up now before it's too late?

Meanwhile here are two of Colin Turner's photographs of the recent trip.



National Memorial Arboretum



There will be a slide show of photos of our events during the last 12 months at the AGM!

OUTING NEWS

Well, Liverpool came and went but without me!! I have been out of action for 2 months because of ill health. A massive thank you to Sue, Jenny and the other outing committee members on the short break away who rallied round and ensured all went smoothly.

I also need to thank Pat who has been taking over the admin and accounts for the outings.

Cressing Temple and Layer Marney led by Stella was thoroughly enjoyed in May and meant our first outing to Essex for some time.

To check for spaces on the July outing to Richmond and Syon House on Thursday 12th July please contact Linda Trowell 01892 528680

Pat and Lorna are leading the outing in on Tuesday 14th August to the Wimbledon Tennis and Croquet Club. Please see application form at the end of this newsletter.

In September we head for Arundel Castle.

In October we plan to have our **one night stopover** near Oxford. It seems a long way off but we really need you to **APPLY NOW** because of the hotel rooms. There are still twin/double room spaces available. **You are able to share with a non U3A member.** The full itinerary which includes 2 National Trust properties (Clivedon and Hughenden Manor), Blenheim Palace and Oxford is available on request by email me and Christine on twu3atours@gmail.com or by phoning me on 01892 752196. Cost £135.00 per person sharing a room. **There are two single rooms available at the time of writing.** There is a reduction of £15.00 if you have free entry to Blenheim Palace by being a member of the Historic Houses Association.

Sandra McDonald Outings Co-ordinator

Report on the Outing to Cressing Temple and Layer Marney

We do not go often to Essex for an outing. Perhaps we should, as this trip to see **Cressing Temple** and **Layer Marney** did not disappoint – indeed, it likely exceeded expectations and so many thanks to Stella Westrup, supported by Rosemary Rees, for excellent organisation and taking us there.

As we headed towards Colchester, with no hold ups at Dartford Tunnel, the sun was shining and the Essex countryside looked wonderful with Spring flowers everywhere and crops in the fields. One advantage of a coach journey, compared to being in the car, is that you are higher up and have time to appreciate such views.

Our first stop was historic **Cressing Temple**, one of



the earliest Knights Templar estates, with awesome barns and amazing craftsmanship dating back to the 1200's – the huge Barley Barn being the oldest standing timber-framed barn in the world. There was much to see. We were free to wander and appreciate the world of agriculture in years gone by and also to visit the large Tudor Walled Garden. Free admission and so well worth a visit, if in the area.



The traditional café at Cressing is run by Tiptree (jams) and as it happened we journeyed through the village of Tiptree (thought to be the largest village in the country), en route to our second stop. The 'Tiptree' story began in this village around the early 1700s with Trewlands, a farm that was later to become the main jam making site in Essex. In 1885 the Britannia Fruit Processing Company was formed and the company – as Wilkin & Sons – continues to this day.



On arrival at **Layer Marney** we enjoyed a convivial, ploughman's lunch followed by a tour of this impressive Tudor Palace, with the tallest Tudor Gatehouse in England and panoramic views.

Construction was initiated by a close friend of Henry VIII, Lord Henry Marney in the 1520s, perhaps to compete with Hampton Court. The palace was never completed though,

and is today lived in as a family home. It is to their credit that the present owners made us very welcome and gave us an amusing and informative tour, which included climbing the tower and an exhibition of Heraldic Crowns and Crests originally made for certain Knights of the Garter.

Pat Micklewright

Photos by Stella Westrup and Eryll Fabian



GROUP REPORT

Digital Imaging Intermediate Group II



Despite Wednesday 16 May falling short of the weather forecast of a reasonably sunny day, our group, after fortifying themselves with coffee and biscuits, made their way to Emmetts Garden, an Edwardian estate located at Ide Hill, near Sevenoaks.

Until 1860 when the present house was built, the area was open farmland then, in 1890, the house and land was purchased by Frederic Lubbock, a banker and passionate plants-man whose elder brother John Lubbock was a world authority on ants. The name "emmett" is a local word for ant and could well have influenced Frederic to make the purchase.

The gardens were initially laid out in the mid-1890s by Frederic's Irish friend William

Robinson who advocated more natural and less formal-looking approach to plantings. Actually, he railed against standard roses, statuary, sham Italian gardens and other artifices in gardening at the time. Between 1900 and 1908, the shrub garden was added.

After Lubbock's death in 1927, the estate was acquired by an American geologist Charles Watson Boise who, in making various alterations to both house and garden, managed to retain the original character of both. In 1964, Charles Boise bequeathed Emmetts to the National Trust which has sought to maintain the botanical diversity created by the two men.

Many of the original trees and plants were brought down by the Great Storm of 1987 prompting the NT to embark on a programme of sympathetic replanting. However, one tree that did survive was Wellingtonia, a giant Sequoia, the densely fibrous bark of which is completely fireproof.

The garden comprises some six acres on one of the highest points in Kent offering expansive views towards the North Downs and, as one would expect, offers some stunningly beautiful flora to enjoy (see photos) during one's stroll through the arboretums.

The group reflected upon a thoroughly enjoyable morning over lunch in the Cock Inn at Ide Hill.



Tom Guy – Group Organiser



UPDATE ON GROUPS

At the last count we now have 103 interest groups.

Here are a few of our more recent additions:

Beginners Italian Group please contact [Fiona Findlay](#) if you would like to join.

Four Seasons Bird Watching Group which is planning to make its first visit to Sevenoaks Wildlife Trust. For further details please look on the website or contact [Phil Sumner](#).

Know your friends, Know your Foes

Jonathan Farley's Talks will run on Monday afternoons from 18th June to 23rd July and will involve a cultural, political and sociological analysis of a number of countries important to the UK, viewed from a historical perspective. There may still be places so if you are interested please contact [Jonathan](#) or phone 01892 325272.

Designing the Future

Please get in touch with David if you are interested in discussing what the future might bring in such fields as politics, technology, life styles, social developments, education, science and commerce. Typically for each meeting a specific subject is agreed and the main proposer circulates materials i.e. questions and/or short articles ahead of the meeting to provide a starting point for discussion. Please contact [David Greenhaugh](#).

Latin Solo

Dance classes at the Medway School of dancing in Tonbridge on Thursday afternoons, from 2.30 to 3.30. Sylvia is now taking names for the second course beginning in July. The cost for the 6 weeks will be between £36.00 and £45.00 per person – less with a larger group. Contact [Sylvia Joyce](#), Tel: 01892 319070.

The following Groups will be set up early in June and will have places for new members:

Folk Singing Group

Bob Kenward of the Abbey Capers band which played for our barn dance has offered to lead this group. Emphasis will be on chorus songs and maximum involvement for all. No experience or sight reading necessary and song sheets will be provided.

Cycling Group

Morning rides of about two hours plus a cafe stop (if available), sometimes on the National Cycle routes that run through quieter roads in town and in local parks and sometimes branching out into the countryside. No special stamina or lycra required! Just a bike, (back of garage search?) a spare inner tube and a water bottle. Ideal rides for chatting and making new friends.

Groups ready to receive new members:

Ten Pin Bowling Bowlers meet every 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 activities to improve fluency. We would love some help from anyone fluent in the language. The contact is [Helen Bright](#) or 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 Angela Tutin's group welcomes new members to discuss a range of different subjects. They meet on the 2nd Friday of the month. Please contact [Angela](#) or phone 01892 724458.

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

Forthcoming Monthly Meetings

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

19th July: Ian Keable: "The Vanishing Maidservant: an 18th century mystery told through contemporary prints". In 1753 Elizabeth Canning caused a sensation when she claimed she was kidnapped. Henry Fielding the author of *Tom Jones*, became embroiled in the controversy. Was she a blameless victim; or was she sending an innocent woman to the gallows?

16th August: Russell Bowes: "Food of the Gods: the utterly delicious history of chocolate". A history of chocolate from its discovery in the forests of central Mexico to the birth of the modern chocolate bar, via a rehearsal of Mozart's *Cosi Fan Tutte*, a chocolate processing plant, breakfast with a Spanish Marquesa and possibly some free samples to take home with you.

Events In June and July

We have the following events arranged for June and July

5th 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
29 th June	Coffee Morning at Trinity
19 th July	Monthly Meeting: The Vanishing Maidservant: an 18th century mystery told through contemporary prints
27 th July	Coffee Morning at Trinity

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

16 th August	Monthly Meeting: Food of the Gods: the utterly delicious history of chocolate
22 nd Oct.	Science Study Day: Time, Space and Conservation
20 th Sept.	Monthly Meeting: A Schoolgirl's War, a talk by Mary Smith (details next month)
7 th Dec.	Christmas Lunch

Useful Information and Important Messages

New Members

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

Valerie Apps
Freya Atkinson
Patricia Ballard
Andy Claxton
Gerry Colley
Mair Davies
Lynne Griffin
John Head
Don Sandford
Jacqui Sandford
Pauline Twiner

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

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 shall do our best if space allows.
All contributions to the **July** Newsletter should be e-mailed to [Eryll Fabian](#) by 30th June or phone 01892 513805.



National Events

Details of other 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



WEST KENT U3A SCIENCE STUDY DAY: TIME, SPACE & CONSERVATION

on Monday 22nd October 2018

10.00 – 11.10 am



“It’s About Time”

Dr Chris Goodall will discuss how man's attempts to regularise the calendar have led to some interesting anomalies since the three of nature's clocks which define our calendar, namely the Earth's rotation, the moon's orbit and the Earth's orbit round the Sun, are not synchronised.

Public Domain Image from Desktop Wallpaper HD.

“Cassini-Huygens: Odyssey to Saturn and Titan”

Professor David Southwood will relate the history of the joint Europe/US Cassini-Huygens mission to explore Saturn and its major moon, Titan. In 2017 the programme finally ended with the Cassini mothership deliberately diving into the Saturn atmosphere.

2.10 – 3.20 pm

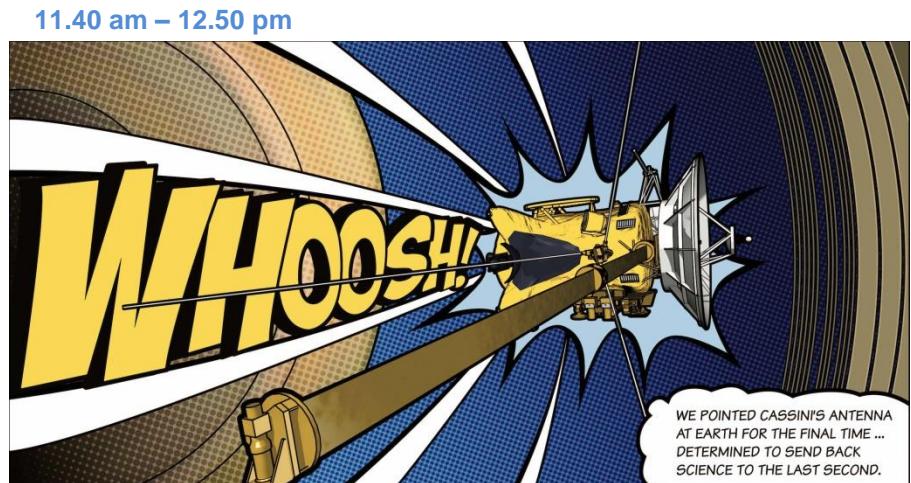
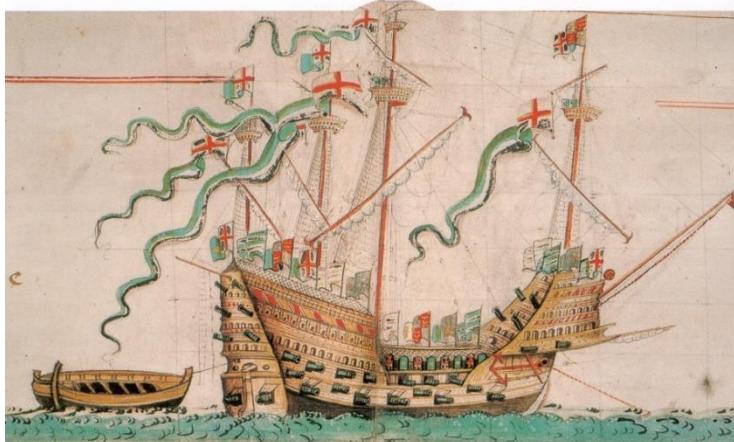


Image Courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech



“The Conservation of the Mary Rose”

Professor Alan Chadwick will give a brief history of the Mary Rose, the flagship of Henry VIII's navy, followed by a detailed discussion of the conservation problems of the timbers and artefacts, with particular reference to nanotechnology.

**FULL DETAILS OF THE STUDY DAY
AND THE APPLICATION FORM
ARE BELOW.**

The Mary Rose from the Anthony Roll of Henry VIII's Navy (1546)
By Own scan. Photo by Gerry Bye. Original by Anthony Anthony.
[Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

WEST KENT U3A SCIENCE STUDY DAY: TIME, SPACE & CONSERVATION Programme

This Study Day brings together three speakers who have had distinguished careers as university lecturers and research scientists	9.15 am	Registration and coffee on arrival
	9.50 am	Welcome
Date Monday 22 nd October 2018	10.00 – 11.10 am	Dr Chris Goodall: "It's About Time"
Venue St Andrew's Church, Maidstone Rd. Paddock Wood, Kent, TN12 6DZ	11.10 – 11.40 am	Tea and coffee break
	11.40 - 12.50 pm	Professor David Southwood: "Cassini-Huygens: Odyssey to Saturn and Titan"
Time 9.15 am to 3.30 pm approx.	12.50 - 2.10 pm	Lunch Break
Cost £7.50 includes 3 lectures and coffee	2.10 – 3.20 pm	Professor Alan Chadwick: "The Conservation of the Mary Rose"
Lunch Please bring a packed lunch. Refreshments will be available	3.30 pm	Close

Organiser: Adrian Twiner: Tel. 01892 459352

Please retain for information

<p>Chris Goodall is a retired Senior Lecturer in Astrophysics and Space Research at the University of Birmingham where he obtained his PhD in Electron Physics. He specialised in research in X-ray Astronomy and participated in the ESA Cornerstone mission using their largest X-ray telescope which was launched in 1999 and is still operational.</p> <p>The three of nature's clocks which define our calendar, namely the Earth's rotation, the moon's orbit and the Earth's orbit round the Sun are not synchronised. This talk explores how man's attempts to regularise the calendar have led to some interesting anomalies, of which Easter is perhaps the most significant.</p>	<p>David Southwood, a planetary scientist, is Chairman of the Steering Board of the UK Space Agency and Senior Research Investigator at Imperial College. He is a past President and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and a Visiting Scientist at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He built a space magnetometer at Imperial which operated in orbit around the planet Saturn aboard the NASA Cassini spacecraft from 2004 until 2017.</p> <p>Some 30 years ago, Europe and the US agreed to explore the outer planets in a joint mission, Cassini-Huygens, to Saturn and its major moon, Titan. In 2017 the programme finally ended with the Cassini mothership deliberately diving into the Saturn atmosphere. The history of the programme will be outlined in this talk.</p>	<p>Alan Chadwick completed his PhD at Manchester University and served as a post-doctoral fellow at both the National Research Council of Canada in Ottawa and at the University of Strathclyde. He then moved to the University of Kent where his research has focused on solid state chemistry with a recent interest in nanomaterials. One of his current projects is in the development of conservation strategies for the Mary Rose.</p> <p>This talk will give a brief history of the Mary Rose, the flagship of Henry VIII's navy, followed by a detailed discussion of the conservation problems of the timbers and artefacts. Since 2004 the speaker has been using hard X-rays from synchrotrons to monitor and help to minimise the effects of the 'sulphur problem'.</p>
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This Study Day is open to the members of any U3A in West Kent.

How to Apply: Fill in this part of the form indicating how many tickets at £7.50 per person you require. Make your cheque payable to **TW U3A** and include a **stamped self- addressed envelope (9" x 4")** in order to receive your ticket(s), then send to:

West Kent U3A Study Day, A. Twiner, Flat 16, Bishops Court, Bishops Down Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 8XL

I/We wish to apply for 1 / 2 places for the West Kent U3A Science Study Day on Monday 22nd October 2018

Name(s) Email

Address Tel No

..... Home U3A

A fair amount of walking/steps

A U3A day out by coach to

U3A members only



Wimbledon All England Tennis and Croquet Club

to include

the award winning Wimbledon Tennis Museum
and Blue Badge Guided Tour of the Grounds and Championship Facilities
Calling en route at Morden Hall Park



On Tuesday 14th August 2018

Near to Wimbledon is the delightful riverside National Trust estate, Morden Hall Park (free entry). We will stop here for a coffee and comfort stop and a stroll in the gardens. We will then travel to Wimbledon to meet our Blue Badge Guide, who will take us on a fascinating, behind the scenes, 90 minute tour of the grounds – to include history of the club and how it became so famous, the historic scoreboard, selected courts (including Centre Court) and how the grass is cared for, ‘Henman Hill’, players entrance and facilities, BBC studios + press interview room

After a break for lunch in the Wingfield Café, there should be ample time in the afternoon to visit the Wimbledon Museum, probably the best tennis museum in the world.

8.15 am	Coach departs Crescent Road, opposite Assembly Hall
8.25 am	Coach departs Southborough Fountain
9.50 am	Arrive Morden Hall Park, for coffee and comfort stop. Do bring your own drinks/snack if you would like, to enjoy in the park area. Otherwise there is a café.
10.40 am	Coach departs Morden Hall Park
11.15 am	Arrive Wimbledon Tennis Club ready to start our 11.30am Blue Badge Guided Tour
1.15 pm – 2.15 pm	Break for lunch at Wingfield Café. Select your lunch from choices below and pay on the day.
2.15 pm	Visit Wimbledon Tennis Museum and shop
4.00 pm	Coach departs.
5.30 pm / 5.45 pm (approx.)	Arrive back at Southborough/ Tunbridge Wells

Cost £30 per person – to include entry to Wimbledon Museum and Blue Badge Guided Tour, coach and gratuities. It does **not** include any refreshments - but we have been asked to place orders for lunch in advance. Choices are:-

- 1. Freshly made Beef Lasagne (£8) 2. Freshly made Cottage Pie (£8)**
3. Vegetable Frittata (£8.75) 4. Jacket Potato (£7): choose a topping of Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo

(All dishes will come with Seasonal Vegetables and Mixed Salad, in large bowls on the tables, to help yourself)

Applications - (including cheque made payable to 'Tunbridge Wells U3A' and S.A.E. for reply) to:
Mrs Pat Micklewright, 1 Birling Park Avenue, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5LQ

Tel 01892 537993. Mobile (on the day only) 07530 885 657

Mobile (on the day only) 07500 000 007
Orna Jones Tel 01892 533127

Also available for queries, Lorna Jones Tel 01892 533127

Please note that once we are committed to paying out money in advance, usually full refunds can only be given if your place is taken by another U3A member. Also, members are advised that neither TWU3A nor the organiser will accept responsibility for any mishap of whatever nature during the outing. Members are advised to consider personal insurance cover.

**TWU3A outing to Wimbledon All England Tennis and Croquet Club (for tour and museum),
Tuesday 14th August 2018 web application**

Please reserve..... place/s for this outing.

I/we enclose a cheque for £..... and S.A.E.

Lunch Choice/s (pay on the day) jacket apple orange banana

Note: If ordering lunch for more than one person, please state name beside choice

Name/s

U3A Membership No/s

Address

Post Cee

Signed.....

Date