

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This will be my last Chairman's Report in the Newsletter for, as you know, at the AGM on 15th June you will be electing a new Chair and other members of the committee. Many thanks to those of you who have sent in proxy forms if you cannot come to the meeting. I look forward to sharing strawberries and a glass of bubbly with those of you who will be there. Please come if you can, as we need at least 100 members to form a quorum.

I have found my time as Chair very rewarding, despite the problems which the pandemic produced. What a really worthwhile organisation u3a is, and TWu3a in particular! I am immensely grateful to the friendship and help which I have received from every side.

Of course, this won't be the last you hear of me for I shall be taking on the role of Publicity Officer. My first task will be to organise our displays at the forthcoming fetes. I need hardly add that I hope very much that you will respond to the plea for help which you will find on page 3!

My thanks to you all for making TWu3a such a happy and active place — I know it will long continue to be so.

[Eryll](mailto:Eryll@twu3a.org) (01892 513805)

Coming up

Thursday 15th June 2.30: **AGM in the TWCF Hall**

Friday 23rd June 10.30:
Coffee morning at Trinity. Please note this is not the last Friday! Trinity cannot host us on the 30th.



Thursday 20th July 2.30-TWCF Hall
Monthly Meeting: **The Life of a Private Investigator**



At Castle Coch on the Cardiff Short Break

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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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that the AGM in June and the July and August monthly meetings will be held in the Christian Fellowship Hall, Hanover Rd, TN1 1EY.
Consequently, there will be no book or puzzle exchange until we are back in the Camden Centre.

!! AGM Final Reminder !!

The AGM will be held at the TW Christian Fellowship Hall,
Hanover Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1EY.
on Thursday 15th June 2023 at 2.30pm.

We need at least 100 voting members to form a quorum at the **AGM**,
so please come if you can or vote by proxy!

The meeting will be followed by
strawberries & cream and a glass of bubbly.

Not another evening in front of the TV!

Come on, join us for some good ol' toe-tapping



Church Centre, Rusthall, TN4 8RE
on Saturday July 8th
7.00-9.30pm

Only £12 including a jacket potato supper

Just follow the leader. It's great fun!

More details and application form at the end of the newsletter

**July's Hybrid Monthly Meeting at the
Christian Fellowship Hall**

Thursday 20th July 2.30pm

The Life of a Private Investigator

Veronica King

Veronica's story featured in the February issue of Third Age Matters on pages 60 and 61. This promises to be an entertaining afternoon about a job of which few people will have any knowledge other than its depiction in TV crime series!



The season of summer fêtes is at hand!

Come and join the fun at:

Rusthall Fête on Saturday 24th June, 12-4.30pm

Fringe Event at Langton Green on Saturday 8th July, 11am-5pm

Tunbridge Wells Mela on Sunday 23rd July (tbc)

u3a Day on Friday 22nd September (tbc)

Better still ...

Come and join the team who will be hosting at our gazebo.

Do you like chatting to people?

Then this is where you can meet the public and tell them why you enjoy being a member of TWu3a.

**Do you like being a member of a friendly team
and feeling that you are being useful?**

Then join the Gazebo Volunteers!

To join the team for one or more of the events or for more information please contact [Eryll](#) or phone her on 01892 513805

CARDIFF SHORT BREAK IN VERSE

At Avebury Manor it's all hands on,
Judy and Sandra wait for the gong.

It's Llancaich Fawr by half past 10, I'd be quite happy
to visit again.

With a home, full board, £3 a year, our servant girl had
nothing to fear.

She thought she had a pleasant life but had
to move out when once a wife.

For the master we learn beef flavoured the
stew, but for those below a rat would do.

St Fagans has buildings from Wales' rural
past, re-erected here, built to last.

Llandaff cathedral with guide we did see, then
a guided tour of Mermaid Quay.

We board Princess Katherine then sail
down the river, to Cardiff castle she
does deliver.

That night there is a special treat, at
Glyndwr vineyard we're due to eat.

With the llama, the sheep, the wine,
and the food,
it's back to the hotel in expansive
mood.

All aboard the Brecon Beacons steam train, viewing the lake then
back again.

We descend the Big Pit and stand in the dark, with our helmets on us
it seems quite a lark.

But we think of young
children shivering down
there, and it's almost as
if no one did care.

Castell Coch's red turrets appear, this rich man's gothic does endear.
We finish at the Abbey and village of Lacock, and throughout our journey we
had Sandra our rock.

She's kept eyes on us all, made sure all was
well, so on our return we had tales to tell.

Friendly people, we laughed a lot,
I say a bargain for what we got.

Jean Wordsall



Outings Coordinator

In August we will be visiting the Rural Life Living Museum in Farnham Surrey. The Museum tells the story of the countryside, with its unique collection of relocated historic buildings, allowing visitors to explore inside. It is complemented by a large collection of agricultural implements and objects from everyday life. It is an open-air museum set in 10 acres of open space and woodland. There are places to shelter should it rain, a picnic area for lunch and secluded benches for a break. The market garden cafe serves a variety of hot and cold food and there is always tea and cake to finish off a great day out. So why not join us for a day out in the country? The application form is at the end of the newsletter.

On a sunny day in May we visited The Vyne near Basingstoke, a National Trust property from the Tudor period, a review of the outing by Sheila Casey follows below.

The July outing to Knebworth House, still has a few places left, if you would like to go on this trip the application form is in May's Newsletter or contact me by [email](#) / telephone 07504919081.

[Joan Young](#)

Last month's outing to The Vyne

The five-hundred-year old history of The Vyne is a tale of two families, the Sandys and the Chutes.

The exterior of the house presents a traditional red brick Tudor façade with chimney pots. However, superimposed on the front, is an impressive classical portico. Inside the contrasts continued with the Oak Gallery lined with linenfold panelling; the tapestries keeping out the cold; the carved wooden pews and Renaissance stained



glass in the chapel; all reflecting the Tudor period before giving way to the gleaming white Stone Gallery and the sweeping marble of the magnificent classical staircase soaring up to the first floor.

Sir William Sandys inherited The Vyne in 1497 transforming it into one of the most important houses in the country. But in 1601 the 3rd Lord Sandys backed a failed rebellion by the Earl of Essex and ended in the tower. The family were impoverished and the house became damp and dilapidated. The Sandys were forced to sell to John Chaloner Chute in 1653 and a new era began. The Chute family furnished it with antiques and artefacts from their grand tours and made the huge structural changes we see today.

Sometimes prospering and sometimes falling into disrepair the old house survived the turbulence of the Tudor period, the Civil, First and Second World Wars. Sixty small boys were evacuated here from a school in Deal, Kent — the

food was awful and the house freezing but the boys apparently loved The Vyne and its grounds, where they swam in the lake and played in the woods. However, in 1956 with no heir, Charles Lennard Chute gifted the estate to the National Trust and the tale of two families finally came to an end.



Sheila Casey

Groups Coordinator's update

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

2 groups have been added to the groups listing since it was sent to members by email. Their group contacts have asked for the following details to be shared in the newsletter.

"The Wealden Walkers was the first walking group in TWu3a and was originally know as Ita's Walking Group after its founder and first leader Ita Edwards. Today the group walks are between 5 and 6½ miles and are mainly within a radius of about 12 miles from TW, with the occasional one further afield. The walks can be quite hilly and will include a number of stiles at times. We keep to recognised footpaths recognised by Ordnance Survey. Weather and terrain plays a part so good footwear and waterproof rain gear are essential. We start at 9.30am every Monday and every member is encouraged to lead a walk once in a while."

For more information: email [Stephen](#)

The Sustainable Living group discusses aspects of why and how to live sustainably, to raise awareness and share information. So far these have been "How our food choices impact the environment", "Reducing waste", "Does our voice matter?" One member had a letter published in the Times of TW about reducing food waste and is campaigning for food waste bins for apartment buildings.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10.30 am at Esquires, 70 Mount Pleasant, TW.

For more information: email [Sue W](#)

Sue W is also the new group contact for the Amblers walking group. Our thanks go to the outgoing group contacts Celia and Robby, who have coordinated the group for some time.

The Dowsing course is starting on Wednesday 7th June and will run for 4 weeks throughout June.

[Lindsay Hasell](#)

The Galleries and Exhibitions group travelled to the Tate Modern for their May outing. The exhibition was called 'Every Tangle of Thread and Rope', created by Polish artist Magdalena Abakanowicz. In creating her radical sculptures from natural woven fibres in soft, organic shapes, Magdalena pioneered a new form of installation in the 1960's and 70's. They became known as the Abakans.

This was a rare opportunity to step outside our comfort zone and into a world of towering sculptures to experience an art form that is completely different from the norm. The photo gives a sense of scale.

We were delighted to have 3 new members, Mary, Bob and Julie, join us for the day.



Janet Smith



On 19th May, a few of us from the **Science group** plus other u3a friends, went on a "Science in the City" walk, led by a City Guide.

This photo was taken by the mural of "The Dark Side of the Moon", in the City.

Marilyn Smart

Group News

The Bus & Train Explorers visited Uckfield in May. We went to Bridge Cottage, a medieval Wealden hall house, where we had a fascinating tour and talk about the history of the building. We followed this with a pub lunch at 'The Station' and a walk around some of Uckfield's historic areas.

Carol Boyd



Walk on the Wildside at Penshurst



The Amblers

This morning, one of the group had forgotten their walking boots so this new style was created!



On 17th May, a few of us from **Wine Appreciation Group 1** visited Chapel Down Vineyard, where we had a tour of the vineyard plus wine tasting, followed by lunch at the Swan. The sun shone, and we all had a great day out.

Marilyn Smart



The **Photo Group's** trip in April was to Dungeness. A brilliant but very tiring day: There is only so much walking on pebbled beaches that old legs can tolerate. I know I should talk of all the wonderful photographic opportunities, but all I can remember is my sore legs and how everyone said they had the best chips ever at the pub midday. Oh - and how David bought his wife a singing cactus. You would think that taking a shot of a stationary boat sitting on a beach would be easy, but it is very difficult getting a dynamic or dramatic shot, and it is impossible to get one that nobody has done before. But still, a lot of fun.

Ian Graham



Last month's talk

The marvellous work of the Kent, Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance



Poor Keith – he was booked to speak a couple of years ago but Covid struck and that was that. Last month he was due to take the stand once again, unfortunately this time he actually had Covid! But all was not lost, as between the AV team, the wonders of technology and Keith's willingness to continue ...he was able to join us on Zoom. And so...

Since 2013 the AAKSS, which is an independent charity, provide emergency 24-hour help in severe situations, enabled by the use of night vision goggles. It is often thought that they are flying ambulances but actually they carry a doctor (often senior registrars or junior consultants seconded from the NHS) and a senior experienced paramedic, allowing immediate surgical treatment. The highly equipped and adapted helicopters can act as an operating room enabling emergency procedures to be carried out at the scene and even putting patients into induced comas in extreme cases. The pilots need to have at least 1,000 hours of experience and are often ex-military. The pilots wear blue and the medical team wear orange for immediate recognition

They receive about 600,000 calls per year, coming through a triage dispatcher who makes the all-important decision and in 2022 they flew to 3,200 missions taking an average of 25 mins to reach the emergency site. To run this service takes £16.5m a year. About 55% comes from lottery funding and the rest from legacies, special appeals, volunteer collections and other fund-raising.



To find out more click here aakss.org.uk

*******DON'T MISS THIS LAST CHANCE*******

SHORT BREAK to the DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

October 9th - 13th October 2023 4 nights half board 3* Belle-Vue 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

15 June 2023	AGM
8 July 2023	Line Dancing at Rusthall
20 July 2023	Monthly meeting: My Life as a Private Investigator
October 2023	Barn Dance – details tbc

New members

A big welcome to our **17** new members in May

Geraldine Born, Irene Campbell, Carolyn Clutterbuck, Gay Coleman, John De Krestser, David Evans, Andrew Harfoot, Carol Harfoot, Joanne Hunter, Gwen Jones, Phyllis Leslie, Gaynor Marshall, Bronwyn Morgan-Giles, Chris Morgan-Giles, Simon Parker, Carol Wilson and Pat Wilson

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 **July** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by June 30th 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

RURAL LIFE LIVING MUSEUM, FARNHAM, SURREY.

THURSDAY 10th AUGUST 2023

For u3a Members only.

A fair amount of walking. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing.

OUTING CODE: F21 OUTING ORGANISER: STELLA WESTRUP

EMAIL ADDRESS: stellawestrup@hotmail.co.uk

The Rural Life Living Museum tells the story of the countryside, with its unique collection of relocated historic buildings, allowing visitors to explore inside. It is complemented by a large collection of agricultural implements and objects from every day life. It is a open-air museum set in 10 acres of open space and woodland. There are places to shelter should it rain, a picnic area for lunch and secluded benches for a break. The Market Garden Café serves a variety of hot and cold food, and there is always tea and cake to finish off a great day out.

The cost of the trip is £23.00 which includes Entrance Fee and Driver's Gratuity.

To pay by BACS please email: Stella and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and Name of Outing and Code (F21). Also where you want to board the coach.

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 F21 Surname e.g. **F21 Your Surname**

To pay by cheque: please post the application below to: Stella Westrup, 19, Oakwood Rise, Tunbridge Wells Kent. TN2 3HD

Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

APPLICATION FORM

Outing name and Code: F21 Rural Life Living Museum

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 Hall at 9.00am.

St Johns opposite Sainsburys local at 9.10am.

Southborough Fountain..... at 9.20am.

We expect to be at the Museum at approximately 10.30am. ***We will leave at 3.30pm. And hope to arrive back in Tunbridge Wells around 5.15pm.***

***My contact number for any enquiries regarding this trip : STELLA WESTRUP 01892 523413
ON THE DAY : VAL APPS 07768790647***

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.

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 6.13pm or 6.43pm, taking about 13 minutes, and a return bus leaves from very near the centre at 9.06pm and 10.06pm.