

# TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A NEWS

## July 2018



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
THE THIRD AGE

[www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org)

### CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

I'm pleased to report that we held a successful AGM and our motions were unanimously voted in. The strawberries and cream and glass of cava were very popular, so we will do something similar next year.

Our next task is to start the renewal process for this year. To meet the requirements of the GDPR we will be writing to all members asking them to complete and return a renewal form. This is because we have a requirement to check that your contact details are still correct. Members who have set up Direct Debits, or still have Standing Orders, need only return the form. Other members will be advised of the different payment methods that are available to them in the renewal invitation. We've decided to write rather than email, to ensure that everyone is contacted.

This is a good opportunity to remind members that we no longer issue membership cards or handbooks annually. You only need your membership number for outings and if you have mislaid your card please contact Ruth Johnson, our membership secretary. The handbook quickly became inaccurate, which is why we now produce an updated Groups Listing and Groups Diary at least twice a year. If you receive this newsletter by email there will be a link to the latest update in the accompanying email. If you receive it by post, the letter will include the updated version.

Finally, Sandra MacDonald, our **Outings Co-ordinator**, is sadly unable to continue in this position. Sandra has done a brilliant job and organised our first short break away and will be greatly missed. **We urgently need a replacement.** You will be supported by a very professional and experienced Outings Committee and Sandra has built up a wide range of contacts and ideas to take forward. **Please contact me if you are interested in this role.**

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

### COMING UP

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS

at 2.30pm at the Camden Centre

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July**  
**The Vanishing Maidservant:**  
**an 18<sup>th</sup> Century mystery**  
A talk by Ian Keable

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August**  
**Food for the Gods**  
A talk by Russell Bowes

#### MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

at Trinity from 10.30 – 12.00

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July**



**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August**

#### OUR OUTINGS

**There will be outings on:**

**12<sup>th</sup> July**  
Richmond and Syon House

**14<sup>th</sup> August**  
Wimbledon All England  
Tennis and Croquet Club  
See Outings News for availability

**18<sup>th</sup> September**  
Arundel Castle  
Application Form is on page 13

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## REPORT ON THE 2018 AGM

Many thanks to the 128 members who came to our 2018 AGM. We were therefore quorate, which meant we were able to accept the accounts, vote in the committee members who were up for renewal, and accept the minor change to our constitution requested by National Office.

We finished the official business by 3 o'clock, which left plenty of time for a glass of cava, a bowl of strawberries and cream, and a cup of tea. We also could look back on all the outings and other activities throughout the year on a very professional slide show produced by our Digital Slideshow Production group.

## Calling all Medics, Social Workers and Anyone Interested!

Could you help us to set up a **Wellbeing Sub Committee**?

Following the highly successful initiative in the Paddock Wood U3A, your committee would like to set up a **Wellbeing Sub Committee**. This committee's remit will evolve as it progresses but its main purpose will be to provide information on any matters relating to members' wellbeing which will be circulated at Monthly Meetings, Coffee Mornings and in the Newsletter. So much information is available in public health publications, charity handouts and so on, but it is often very difficult to know where to look. The Wellbeing Sub Committee will therefore be providing a very useful service in bringing such things to members' attention, and no doubt many topics will arise as a result of members' enquiries. We'd hope to cover topics such as first aid, disabled rail cards, disability benefits and many others.

If you would be interested in helping to set up this sub committee, please contact [Sue Brimlow](#) or phone 01892 863691.

Here's the first useful tip: Did you know that the British Red Cross and St John's Ambulance both provide free first aid apps for both android and Apple smartphones? [Google Free First Aid Mobile App](#) for further details or download direct to your mobile phone.

## ART LOVERS – SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 17<sup>th</sup>

Some of us were able to join National Gallery lecturer, Gayna Pelham for her taster session at the National Gallery earlier this year. We are delighted that we have been able to arrange another session on October 17<sup>th</sup>. We are still waiting to finalise times and cost (probably £25 per person) but we do know the talk will focus on narrative and storytelling across the collection, and will examine the different ways which artists use to communicate meaning and understanding.

Gayna's previous session was fascinating and I know we all learnt something. We did explore the possibility of her coming and giving a talk to us, but I'm afraid her fees are well above our budget. We hope to give further details in our August newsletter.

## FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

**19th July: Ian Keable:** “The Vanishing Maidservant: an 18<sup>th</sup> 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 *Così fan tutte*, a chocolate processing plant, breakfast with a Spanish Marquesa and *possibly* some free samples to take home with you.

**20<sup>th</sup> September: Mary Smith:** “A Schoolgirl's War”. Mary Smith was headteacher at Maidstone Grammar School for Girls until 2014 and has recently written *A Schoolgirl's War*. Her talk features the exquisite and highly original art work of the art teacher at the school during World War 2. As well as documenting in paint and pencil the lives of school children as the war unfolded, she will share some of the old girls' fascinating memories and anecdotes of disrupted schooling, air-raids, doodlebugs and underground shelters.

## OUTING NEWS

It was evident from conversations at the AGM, how much members had enjoyed their day out at Rochester. This was not a straightforward outing to organise, as it involved visiting several places, and so our thanks to Rosemary Rees for making it such a successful day. Sadly, four ladies cancelled the day before the outing! Very frustrating for organisers when this sort of thing happens.

At time of writing there were still some places on the **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> August** outing to Wimbledon, where we will be treated to a **fascinating ‘behind the scenes’ tour of Wimbledon All England Tennis and Croquet Club and a visit to their award winning Tennis Museum**. We will also stop at Morden Hall Park en route.

The application form can be found attached to the June Newsletter or on the TWU3A website or contact the main organiser Pat Micklewright on 01892 537993.



Painting by Internet Archive Book Images [No restrictions], via Wikimedia Commons

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September** will see an outing to **Arundel Castle**, where there is much to admire of historic and artistic interest. There will be time to explore the Castle and Grounds at your leisure, with a choice of eating in the Castle Restaurant or in the town of Arundel. Main organiser is Lynne Monckton on 01892 533652 and the application form can be found attached to this Newsletter.

Finally, a **one night stopover near Oxford** is planned for October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The itinerary includes two National Trust Properties (Clivedon and Hughenden), Blenheim Palace and Oxford. Please see the itinerary attached to this newsletter for further details. An application form is also attached. Contact Christine on [twu3atours@gmail.com](mailto:twu3atours@gmail.com) or phone Sue Brimlow on 01892 863691 if you need further information. Cost £135.00 per person.

*Pat Micklewright on behalf of the Outings Committee*

# Report on the Outing to Historic Rochester



This month's outing was to **Historic Rochester** and what a grand day we all had!



After an easy coach journey, even arriving early, we walked the short distance to the Cathedral and down into the Crypt for coffee or tea and delicious home-made cakes. The Crypt has been very tastefully refurbished as part refreshment area and part exhibition where there is a most interesting display of the various bridges crossing the Medway, from the Roman one built nearly 2,000 years ago, to the present day bridge. We had some free time to look around the Cathedral or explore the town, before meeting at either the Huguenot Museum or Eastgate, having been split into two groups.

The Museum is the only one in the UK about Huguenot history. The Huguenots were French Protestants who escaped religious persecution from the 16th century and who settled in large numbers in England, particularly the South-East. One in six English people may be descended from Huguenots and there were volunteer researchers on hand to help uncover our ancestry.



Eastgate is a Grade 1 listed late 16th century town house and is one of the most impressive and distinctive buildings in Rochester's historic High Street and has many fascinating tales to tell. Once the family home of Sir Peter Buck, a senior officer at the Royal Tudor Dockyard, the house has also been a Victorian boarding school, a hostel, a museum and a great inspiration to Charles Dickens. The house featured in *Pickwick Papers* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Our informative guide showed us around the house, pointing out its original features and decorative schemes, carefully restored and now open to visitors for the first time in 40 years. It is a remarkable building telling the story of those who lived, worked and played here throughout 400 years.

For those who wanted to, there was also time to visit The Six Poor Travellers House, another Grade 1 listed building and also situated in the High Street. Poor travellers were provided with one night's lodging in six bedrooms built at the rear of the alms house, in the 16th century, through the generosity of Richard Watts, an eminent citizen of Rochester. Charles Dickens visited the house and it provided him with the subject for his Christmas story "The Seven Poor Travellers", he being the seventh traveller. There is a delightful courtyard garden to the rear packed with herbs, flowers and quirky artefacts.



Many thanks to Rosemary and Sylvia for organising such a fascinating day and ordering the wonderful weather!!

*Text and photos by Stella Westrup*

## Art History Seminar Report

In early June at the Art History seminar Jill Denman, an art historian at the University of Kent, delivered a two-part informative lecture entitled Lee Miller and Man Ray: a Surreal Partnership. Man Ray, real name Emmanuel Radnitsky, was an American painter, photographer and minor film-maker born in 1890 who went to Paris in 1921 and established noted links with the surrealist artistic movement. In 1929 Elizabeth (always known as 'Lee') Miller attached herself to him, initially as his student and later also as his lover. Miller, an American born in 1907, had been a fashion model in New York City and was interested in photography from an early age. The couple were together until 1932 and influenced each other's work, sometimes daring and sexy for its time, before he attempted to control her artistic output. This produced a bitter quarrel and separation amid mutually strong recriminations

She married an Egyptian businessman in 1934, but soon tired of life in Cairo and moved to Britain, where she took up with Roland Penrose, another surrealist, before the outbreak of Second World War in 1939, an event which also caused Man Ray to return to the United States. Miller, however, remained in Britain, photographed the London Blitz and went on to become a photojournalist for the Vogue magazine, moving into Europe very shortly after D-Day. These images were widely published by her son after her death in 1977, and Jill Denman showed some of them, most notably her bathing in Adolf Hitler's bath and lying in his bed. In 1946 she and Penrose visited the United States, and she was reconciled with Man Ray, then living in California, until his own death in 1976. Miller did little to promote her work while in Britain after 1946, probably because she suffered from mental health problems. Jill Denman suggested, from Miller's continuing contacts with Ray after their reconciliation, that their partnership was in reality a love match based upon mutual artistic talent.

The audience gave the lecture, well illustrated throughout, well deserved applause.

*Jim Robertson*

*Editor's Note: Farley Farm, the home of Miller and Penrose is near Chiddingly and is open to the public.*

## GROUP REPORTS

### London Explorers 1



On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of June, London Explorers Group 1 went for a walk around Barnes Village, followed by a visit to Barnes Wildlife Wetlands. We were given an interesting and informative tour around the wetlands by one of the many volunteers working there, and had many of the species of birds pointed out to us along with a glimpse of the otters.

I still don't think I could identify many of the duck or goose species that we saw, but it was extremely interesting none the less.

We were very lucky with the weather, with the sun shining on us all day.



*Text and Photos by Marilyn Smart*

## London Explorers 2



London Explorers Group 2's June walk was from Regents Park to Little Venice. We began our walk by visiting Queen Mary's Gardens inside the parks Inner Circle. The gardens were so impressive, displaying many colourful and perfumed roses.

As we walked around the lakes, it was fun to spot the birds and wildfowl. Our walk took us along the side of the zoo where we could see a few of the zoo animals when we peered over a bridge into their enclosures.

On the next part of our journey we visited Primrose Hill view point. After a short

climb, we were amazed to see a spectacular panoramic view of the London skyline and enjoyed spotting many landmarks.

The walk then took us along the canal tow path from the zoo to Little Venice. It was very quiet and tranquil as we passed many colourful narrowboats and houseboats at Lisson Green and on to Little Venice basin where we enjoyed refreshments before returning home.

*Lynn Brown and Jean Weatherley*

*Photos by David Walter*



## London Explorers 4



Good day out organised by Angela & Adrian Moss. Interesting visit to two Churches in the morning. Photo of Angela donating to the RNL I Very interesting talk at the Tower Lifeboat Station.



*Text and Photos by Suzette Elliott-West*

## UPDATE ON GROUPS

In June we added some new and different activities to our list of groups. They have started with a small membership but expect to grow quickly. Please write to the contacts if you would like to join them.

### 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. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon on 11<sup>th</sup> September. Further details from [Bob](#) or phone 01892 529737 (mobile 07885 642763) leaving message with your phone number if Bob is not available.

### CYCLING GROUP (see their first report on the following page)

The newly formed cycling group will by now have had their first ride along the cycle trails to Hartfield or Forest Row.

Two more rides are planned, to Penshurst on July 10<sup>th</sup> and to Brenchley and Castle Hill on July 24<sup>th</sup>. For further details of these and future rides, please look on the website and if you'd like to join, the contact is [Richard Martin](#) or phone 07803 267706.

### **New in the autumn: A discussion course on Medieval Europe: its art, achievements and everyday life.**

Pat Wright an ex lecturer with NADFAS writes as follows:  
The Medieval period has a generally bad press - life categorised as nasty, brutish and short. There is truth in this but considering how difficult life was the achievements of our medieval ancestors are remarkable. Parliaments, banking, a revival of trade, wonderful cathedrals, a re-established system of law and government, all these and much more came into being during the period. And how did those ancestors cope with the harsh conditions? What made them laugh, love, pursue lasting feuds, clear much of the landscape we enjoy today? Not many dates, just a few kings and wars (unavoidable!) in this course but so much humanity and a treasure house of achievement to explore. Perhaps those who enjoy it will think of the Middle Ages a little differently afterwards.

I suggest the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays pm or 2nd & 4th Fridays am. Please contact [Pat Wright](#) or phone 01892 750312 and state which date or time you would prefer.

### **Reminders for summer**

CROQUET time is here again on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday afternoons at Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club. [Jon Diamond](#) will be pleased to welcome you. Tel: 01892 663837.

### **Groups ready to receive new members**

TEN PIN BOWLING This is a very friendly club and you are welcome to come along and give it a go. Bowlers meet every other Tuesday morning at Knights Park. Please contact [Lynn Brown](#) or phone 01892 543756 for more information..

MATTERS ARISING A small group who meet together to discuss chosen topics. If you are free on the second Wednesday of the month and would like to join, please contact [Christine Bryan](#) or phone 01892 535690.

### 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](#) or phone 01892 319070.

### **Se necesita ayuda**

SPANISH INTERMEDIATE This group meets on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday afternoons and would welcome some help from anyone fluent in the language, maybe just an occasional session to support our discussions. The contact is [Helen Bright](#) or phone 01892 527527.

**For more information or to join new groups please contact Jan Sumner, Groups Coordinator**  
[twu3agroupcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:twu3agroupcoordinator@gmail.com) or phone 01892 860554

*Jan Sumner, Groups Coordinator*

## Group Report Extra: Finding Pooh! – The New Cycling Group’s 1<sup>st</sup> Report

On our first bike ride 3 of us set off from High Rocks following National route 18 on quiet roads to Groombridge then onto Forest Way trail. After not very long Roy's tummy diverted us to the iconic Pooh Corner café. (Hartfield; home of the real Pooh Bear). Suddenly it was time to return, which Roy and Lisa did, but the intrepid Jenny hadn't had enough of the traffic-free riding amongst sun dappled trees and turned the other way for more of the same.



Here's Lisa beside the track – no café in sight!

*Text and Photo by Roy Watson*

## Useful Information and Important Messages

### Events in July and August

We have the following events arranged for July and August:

19 <sup>th</sup> July	Monthly Meeting: <b>The Vanishing Maidservant: an 18<sup>th</sup> century mystery told through contemporary prints</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Coffee Morning at Trinity
16 <sup>th</sup> August	Monthly Meeting: <b>Food for the Gods: the utterly delicious history of chocolate</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> August	Coffee Morning at Trinity

### Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct.	Science Study Day: <b>Time, Space and Conservation</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Monthly Meeting: <b>A Schoolgirl's War, a talk by Mary Smith</b> (details next month)
17 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	National Gallery Visit with Gayna Pelham
7 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Christmas Lunch

### New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined since 31 May 2018:

Jane Al-Kailani	Tony Hayward	Susan Reid	Keith Root
So Ling Christina Cheung	Daphne Oliver	Jean Root	Susan Turner

### 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	Vacant	
Business Secretary	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Newsletter	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805

**Anyone for bird-watching?**

*Photo by David Clayton*



### National Events



Details of other interesting national events appear on [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

They can also be found by writing to: The Third Age Trust, 52 Lant Street, London SE1 1RB

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

on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

11.40 am – 12.50 pm

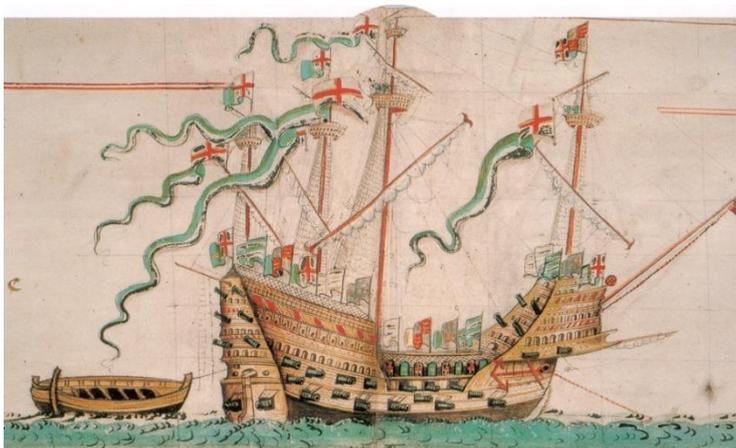
## “Cassini-Huygens: Odyssey to Saturn and Titan”

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.



Image Courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech

2.10 – 3.20 pm



## “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

<p>This Study Day brings together three speakers who have had distinguished careers as university lecturers and research scientists</p> <p><b>Date</b> Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018</p> <p><b>Venue</b> St Andrew's Church, Maidstone Rd. Paddock Wood, Kent, TN12 6DZ</p> <p><b>Time</b> 9.15 am to 3.30 pm approx.</p> <p><b>Cost</b> £7.50 includes 3 lectures and coffee</p> <p><b>Lunch</b> Please bring a packed lunch. Refreshments will be available</p>	<p>9.15 am</p> <p>9.50 am</p> <p>10.00 – 11.10 am</p> <p>11.10 – 11.40 am</p> <p>11.40 - 12.50 pm</p> <p>12.50 - 2.10 pm</p> <p>2.10 – 3.20 pm</p> <p>3.30 pm</p>	<p>Registration and coffee on arrival</p> <p>Welcome</p> <p><b>Dr Chris Goodall:</b> "It's About Time"</p> <p>Tea and coffee break</p> <p><b>Professor David Southwood:</b> "Cassini-Huygens: Odyssey to Saturn and Titan"</p> <p>Lunch Break</p> <p><b>Professor Alan Chadwick:</b> "The Conservation of the Mary Rose"</p> <p>Close</p>
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**Organiser:** Adrian Twiner: Tel. 01892 459352

**Please retain for information**

<p><b>Chris Goodall</b> 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><b>David Southwood</b>, 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><b>Alan Chadwick</b> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018

Name(s) ..... Email .....

Address ..... Tel No .....

..... Home U3A .....

## Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October

*Cliveden Gardens (N.T), Blenheim Palace, Bladon Church,  
Oxford Walking Tour, Hughenden Manor (N.T)*

### **Proposed Itinerary**

Leaving Tunbridge Wells by executive coach with JG Theatre Club

**DAY ONE Cliveden** (N.T), home for more than 300 years to the wealthy and titled commands an imposing position on high slopes above the Thames. The house is now a private hotel but its gardens, woods, water garden are owned by the National Trust. With its terrace more than 110 metres long your eyes are drawn down to the Thames overlooking a spectacular Parterre. We are hoping we will be able to have a peek inside the house on a prearranged tour. (Awaiting confirmation). We can then see some of the public rooms on the ground floor of this stunning Italianate mansion including the impressive Great Hall and French Dining Room.

This is our stop on route where we can enjoy the gardens and views and have refreshments in the Orangery café.

Then we drive on to **Blenheim Palace** the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. We will stop here for the afternoon before getting back on the coach for a brief stop at **St Martin's Church in Bladon** where we find the gravestones of members of the Churchill family.



Picture of Blenheim Palace [Public Domain]

We arrive late afternoon at the Witney Oxford hotel for dinner and our overnight stop. The hotel meets our criteria for a one night stay as a group. It is well situated a few miles south of Blenheim Palace. Sandra reported that the staff were welcoming, hardworking and helpful when she visited. The room was clean, well equipped with tea and coffee making facilities, iron, hairdryer, room safe, flat screen TV and toiletries. The evening dinner offered a varied 3 course meal. The breakfast was an extensive buffet. Please note the bar area is a bit dated, the wine is expensive and the hotel with 3 floors has no lift.

**DAY TWO** We leave promptly after breakfast to drive into **Oxford** to meet our 2 Blue Badge Guides for a 2 hour walking tour including entry into a college and free time.

After lunch we make our way home stopping at **Hughenden Manor** (N.T) which was the home of Benjamin Disraeli. As well as a really impressive house and grounds to wander round we go below stairs to see the top secret mapping rooms from World War 11 codenamed 'Hillside'.

Then we are back on the coach for our return to Tunbridge Wells early evening.

**COST £135.00** per person sharing a double twin room. This includes coach, gratuities, hotel with dinner B & B, entry to Blenheim Palace, Oxford Blue badge Guide and college entry. Cliveden and Hughendon are free to National Trust members. Additional cost to non-members.

£24.00 single supplement. Limited availability.

Reduction of £15.00 for members of Historic Houses (Blenheim).

**APPLICATION FORM FOLLOWS ON NEXT PAGE**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018 Blenheim Palace and Oxford**

Please complete this form and send it with your cheque for deposit of £30.00 per person made payable to **Tunbridge Wells U3A** to: Mrs S Brimlow, 1 The Grange, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 0HR. If you require a receipt by post please remember to include a stamped address envelope.

**Organiser:** [Christine Dove](#) tel: 07748835452 (if Christine unavailable, [Sue Brimlow](#) tel: 01892 863691)

**Basic Cost** £135.00 per person Reduction of £15 for members of Historic Houses  
2 days/1night

**Itinerary** Return coach from Tunbridge Wells  
I night dinner, bed and breakfast Oxford Witney hotel  
Cliveden(NT), Blenheim Palace, Bladen Church, Oxford, Hughenden Manor(NT)

Assembly Hall / Southborough

First name	Surname	Pick up	Pick up	Tel:	Mobile

E mail address.....

U3A Membership number(s)..... National Trust Member Yes..... No..... (additional cost)

Emergency contact name and number (on days of trip only).....  
Relation to you.....

Accommodation requirements (please tick)

Double	Twin	Single	Single Room Supplement £24.00. Limited availability
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Special Requests (not guaranteed) additional information

Lead Name .....

Address.....

I/We enclose a cheque for £..... This is the deposit and is non-refundable but is transferable.

Members are advised that neither the TWU3A nor the organiser will accept any responsibility for any mishap of whatever nature during the trip. Members are advised to consider personal insurance cover.

**Balance is payable by 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

Stamped address envelope enclosed for receipt by post..... }  
Please email me my receipt..... } please tick as appropriate

(Please note that refunds will only be possible if your place can be taken by another U3A member)

Signed.....

Print.Name..... Date.....

**U3A Members only**

**U3A coach trip to Arundel Castle on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Set in the beautiful Sussex countryside, the mediæval Arundel Castle has been the family home of the Dukes of Norfolk and their ancestors for almost 1000 years. The Castle houses a wonderful collection of fine furniture, tapestries and many paintings by renowned artists such as Van Dyck, Gainsborough and Canaletto. Admire the Library with its fine Regency panelling and see the Private Chapel – one of the most perfect monuments of 19<sup>th</sup> century Catholic Revival in England. Visit too the 14<sup>th</sup> century Fitzalan Chapel and its tranquil White Garden. The magnificent gardens include Italianate terraces, walled gardens, the Tropical Glass House and restored Victorian Vine House as well as the organic kitchen garden.

We will arrive in time for coffee and, as it is a ‘free-flow’ visit, we can explore the Castle and grounds at our leisure, taking lunch in the Castle Restaurant or in the charming town of Arundel which is within easy walking distance or you may wish to bring a picnic to enjoy in the grounds if the weather is fine.

- 9.15 am Coach departs Southborough Fountain
- 9.30 am Coach departs Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells
- 10.45 – 11 am Arrive Arundel Castle for coffee and start of visit
- 4.00 pm Coach departs from coach park at Arundel Castle
- 6.00 pm (approx.) Arrive back in Tunbridge Wells/Southborough

Cost: **£28** per person to include coach travel, entrance to Arundel Castle and Gardens and driver’s gratuity.

**Please note that no refreshments are included in this trip – picnics are welcomed in the grounds and your time is your own.**

**Applications should be sent to: Mrs Lynne Monckton, 214 Forest Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5JB (Tel. 01892 533652 / mobile 07944364622) including a cheque made payable to Tunbridge Wells U3A and a Stamped Addressed Envelope.**

Also available for enquiries: Mrs Pat Micklewright **01892 537993**.

**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.**

*Members are advised that neither the TWU3A nor the organiser will accept responsibility for any mishap of whatever nature during the outing. Members are advised to consider personal insurance cover.*

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**TWU3A outing to Arundel Castle on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

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

I/We enclose a cheque for £ . . . . . and a stamped addressed envelope for receipt.

I/We will be joining the coach at \*Southborough Fountain / \*Crescent Road (\*delete as appropriate)

Name/s . . . . .

U3A number/s (i) . . . . . (ii) . . . . .

Address . . . . .

. . . . .Postcode . . . . .

Tel No: . . . . . Signed . . . . . Date . . . . .