

# TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A NEWS

## July 2017



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
THE THIRD AGE

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

### CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

June was a very busy for our U3A, with our AGM, Barn Dance and Tudor seminar. Firstly, all our proposals were accepted at our AGM. This means we can push ahead with the renewal process for 1<sup>st</sup> September and you will be receiving (or may have already received) an email or letter inviting you to renew for the next year. We are offering several different ways to make your payment and would urge you to do so as quickly as possible. This reduces the time and cost involved with sending out reminders.

We hope you agree that the £16 subscription fee is good value for money. Later in this newsletter you will see details of additional groups that we are setting up, our latest outings and we are also hoping to offer our first short break next year. In addition, following the success of our first social event, we will be encouraged to arrange more such events.

The Barn Dance turned out to be a great success; we covered our costs and everyone enjoyed themselves. Everyone was dancing, even those who had said they were just planning to watch. The band timed it perfectly, with music or singing between each dance, which gave us all a chance to get our breath back. This is a packed newsletter, so we will put more photos of the evening on our website.

The Tudor Seminar was also excellent. Dr Julia Cruse was a fascinating speaker who interpreted the paintings from the Tudor era and gave us an insight into the political situation at the time and showed how the Tudor monarchs used art and buildings to reinforce their position. Details of our next autumn seminar are included in this newsletter.

*Sue Brimlow, Chairman*

[suebrimlow@btinternet.com](mailto:suebrimlow@btinternet.com), Tel: 01892 863691

### COMING UP

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS

at 2.30pm at the Camden Centre

20<sup>th</sup> July

**"Put that Light Out"**  
a talk about the 93<sup>rd</sup> (Seachlight)  
Regiment by Imogen Corrigan

17<sup>th</sup> August

**"Tommy Cooper – what he was  
really like"** a talk by John Field

#### MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

at Trinity from 10.30 – 12.00



Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August

#### OUR OUTINGS

on 12<sup>th</sup> July

there will be an outing to the  
**Weald & Downland  
Living Museum**

on 15<sup>th</sup> August

there will be an outing to  
**Quex Park**

on 14<sup>th</sup> September

there will be an outing to  
**Hampton Court**  
see application form on page 10

### Page CONTENTS

1. Chairman's Update
2. AGM Results. Barn Dance. Outing News. Visit to Liverpool
3. Report on the Outing to Herstmonceux Castle and Observatory
4. Group Reports: London Explorers II; Italian Conversation;  
Spanish Conversation II
5. Group Reports: Science Group; Digital Imaging Intermediate II
6. Group Reports: Photographic Group Visit to Dunorlan Park
7. Update on Groups. Tunbridge Wells Heritage Open Days
8. Events. New Members. Useful Information
9. Middle East Matters Study Day Application Form
10. Hampton Court Application Form

## **AGM Results**

I am pleased (and relieved) to confirm that our AGM was quorate, which means enough members came so that we could vote on our proposals. This means our accounts were agreed, our committee members formally voted in and our subscription rates for the next year were confirmed. As announced in a previous newsletter and on the website, the subscription rate will be £16 for a full year, £8 for the half year and new members joining in July or August will have those months counted in the next year's subscription.

We will be starting the renewal process in July so look out for an email or letter with details of the payment options and instructions in the next few weeks.

*Sue Brimlow, Chairman*



The Abbey Capers provided music, songs, and called the dances as we let our hair down at the Barn Dance.

## **Barn Dance**

on  
24<sup>th</sup> June



## **Outing News**

Can you believe we are more than half way through the year? Where has the time gone? .

Thank you to Pat Micklewright & Sandra Chandnani for organising the visit to Herstmonceux. (please see report and photos below.)

The outing to Quex park on 15<sup>th</sup> August now has a waiting list. Please contact Lynn 01892 533652 for your name to be added.

Below you will find the application form to Hampton Court on 14<sup>th</sup> September which also includes a river trip.

Completely separate to the day trips you will see for the first time in this newsletter a proposal to have a short break away in 2018. This is new and exciting territory for TWU3A although it is a normal part of many U3As across the country.

*Sandra McDonald, Outings Coordinator*

## **Visit to Liverpool and the Terracotta Warriors Exhibition**

Come with us in 2018 to spend a few days in the Liverpool area and visit this amazing exhibition which will be the first time in more than 10 years that these spectacular warriors from the tomb of China's First Emperor, Qin Shihuangdi, have been bought to the U.K.

Working with 'Just for Groups', we provisionally plan to make this trip in early May spending 3 nights (dinner, bed and breakfast) at a 3 star hotel about 20 miles from Liverpool.

On route and on our return journey we will stop at places of interest. The itinerary is yet to be decided, but as well as Liverpool we are considering Port Sunlight and Chester.

The exhibition and Liverpool are going to get booked up very quickly. For this reason we are asking that if you would like to join us then please register your interest by 31<sup>st</sup> July by emailing us by clicking [here](#). We need to get a fix on the likely numbers as soon as possible for costings. We hope you will join us for this exciting adventure.

*Alison Grace and Sandra McDonald*

## Report on the Outing to Herstmonceux Castle and Observatory



Despite ominous weather warnings, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June dawned a bright, blowy and sunny day for our trip. After a lovely country ride we made a coffee stop at the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill and then it was a fairly short drive to Herstmonceux Castle, amidst beautiful gardens and woodland. The Castle now belongs to the Queen's University of Canada but has retained many of its historic features and is said to be one of the oldest brick-built buildings in the country. Our guide was very informative and had a dry sense of humour which amused us all.

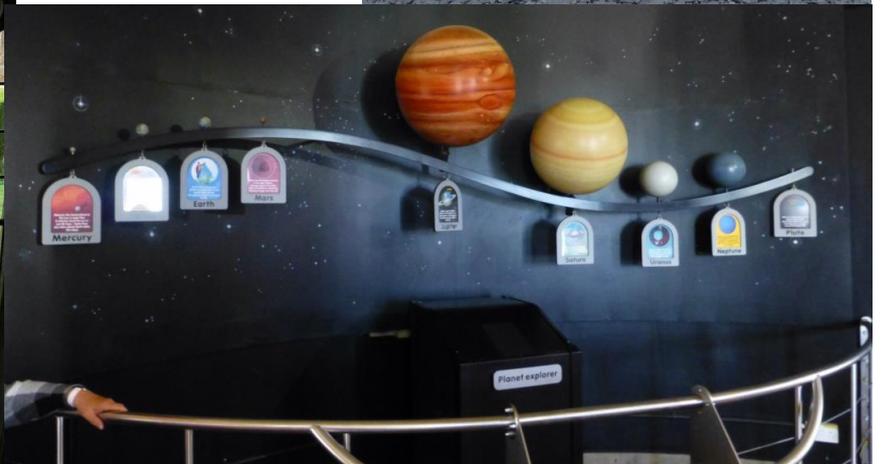
We had light lunches or picnics there and were back on the coach for the short run to the Observatory for the afternoon. There are telescopes still in situ although the main observatory is now in Cambridge.

We all enjoyed 'playing' with the hands-on exhibits available to visitors and the computer screen where one has to fit asterisms, constellations etc onto their correct places in the heavens was fun and educational. The new working Orrery in Dome 7 was fascinating.

*Lynne Moncton*



More photos of the visit by Lynne Moncton and Stella Westrup are on the website



## Group Reports

### LONDON EXPLORERS II



Photo by Phil Summer

On an overcast but dry Thursday our London Explorers Group ventured out to Brixton. After a dash to catch connections from Orpington we were glad to take a break at the Ritzy Picturehouse in Windrush Square. Coffee, croissants, and pastries are a feature of our morning stop. Once refreshed we began our tour of Brixton. A place which has long been associated with the colourful Caribbean community now boasts a unique museum dedicated to telling the story of this vibrant area. The Black Cultural Archives celebrate the history of people of African descent in Britain. Things haven't always been straight forward in the area as the early 1980s reminds us of troubles and demonstrations. Graffiti is best described as building ART and plays a significant role in telling the story of what is often called London's Harlem. Music and colour are synonymous with Brixton and the markets are a miasma of smells scents and perfumes. Legends such as Nelson Mandela and Mohamed Ali visited the area and a shrine has been erected to one of the most famous Brixtonians, David Bowie.

*Gillian Anderson*

### ITALIAN CONVERSATION

Il Gruppo Italiano Avanzato che pubblicizza la carità PMSF  
(<https://www.facebook.com/PMSFUK/>)

The Advanced Italian Group raising awareness of the charity PMSF  
(<https://www.facebook.com/PMSFUK/>)

**Editor's Note:** It is also worth googling Phelan McDermid Syndrome to find out more about this rare and debilitating disorder.



Photo by C. Balmer



With thanks to the publican's wife at the Chafford Arms who took the photo!

### SPANISH CONVERSATION GROUP 2

This is our Spanish conversation group enjoying our Christmas lunch at the Chafford Arms in Fordcombe. This is the third year we have changed from December to June and everyone agrees it is a great idea. Long may we continue!

*Sue Marsal, Group Organiser*

## SCIENCE GROUP



Photo by Dick Bell, the fifth member of the Group

Di Brown, Jean Brushfield, Sandra Blacker and Liz Bell were four of the five members of the Tunbridge Wells U3A Science up Group who went to a Study Day on 14 June at the Events Venue in East Malling on *Climate Change: Facts, Causes and Consequences*.

Three experts presented three aspects of the impact of Global Warming. We were given convincing and copious scientific evidence for Global Warming, how it can be mitigated and the socio-economic effects.

The quality of the presentations was excellent and follow up questions demonstrated the enthusiasm and knowledge of U3A members.

We were amused to discover that Donald Trump's luxury seaside Irish golf course needs an £8.5 million wall as winter storms wiped out metres of beach and dune; the application to build it had cited global warming. Perhaps he believes in Global Warming when it affects his interests! (The wall may now not be built after all, because the area is the habitat of a rare snail).

We all enjoyed our day and perhaps feel empowered to against denial of Global Warming.

*Sandra Blacker*

## DIGITAL IMAGING INTERMEDIATE GROUP II

The group's June outing day fell in the middle of the recent hot spell, too good an opportunity to miss for venturing out into Kent's stunningly beautiful countryside.

With temperatures prohibiting walks of any appreciable distance, members drove through the countryside for lunch at The Star Inn, Rolvenden for a tasty and reasonably priced lunch.

The afternoon's destination was the Grade I listed smock mill in Cranbrook. It has a four-storey base and a three-storey smock which makes it the tallest in the UK. Smock incidentally is the name given to a sloping horizontally weather-boarded tower usually, comprising 6-8 sides, topped by a rotating cap to bring the sails into the wind. The Cranbrook mill is 8 sided.

Built in 1814 for a Mrs Mary Dobell, it was worked by her son Henry until 1819 when his mother was made bankrupt by a Union of her creditors from which the mill gained its new name. In 1832, it was sold to John & George Russell whose families and successors milled corn until 1957 when it was bought by Kent County Council upon the retirement of the last miller.

Restoration costing £6000 took place between 1958/1960.

Imagine what that would be nowadays! In 1994, a storm dislodged the fantail which damaged the sails before landing on a parked car and in 2010, the mill was repainted by a team who decided to abseil down to access the smock rather than surrounding it with scaffolding.

The three four-foot millstones were powered by steam until 1919, by gas until 1954 where-after an electric motor was installed.

With restoration work an ongoing process, prospective visitors are advised to ascertain opening times beforehand.

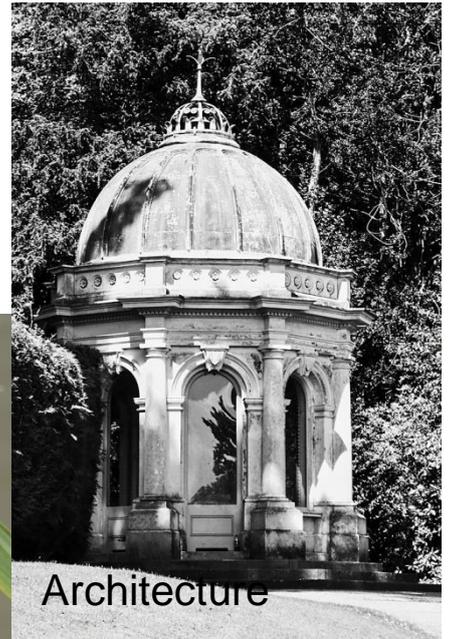


Photo by Tom Guy

*Tom Guy, Group Organiser*

# PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP VISIT TO DUNORLAN PARK

On 25 May, the photographic group visited Dunorlan Park with the goal of taking photos in five groups. These were:-



We all met up and then went our separate ways in order to get as many original ideas as possible.

Inevitably we bumped into each other but on the whole we should have a varied collection which we will review next time our meeting is confined by the weather to indoors.

It being a hot day, we adjourned to the café at a predetermined time, for a well-earned cuppa. Some of our results from the day are above.

*Colin Turner, Group Organiser*



## Update on Groups

### Invitation to join:

Jon Diamond's **Croquet Group** meets every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday afternoon until September. Jon can be contacted [here](#)

To find out more about visits to **Local Village Churches**, contact Peter Batts [here](#)

**London Explorers 5** is now able to take a few new members, meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Please contact Renee and Philip Dewhurst [here](#)

The **Scrabble Group** is ready to welcome two new members. Meetings take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays. Please contact Jean Bicknell [here](#)

**Book Group Volume 4**, a friendly, informal group which meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at 2.00pm, will have a vacancy in October. Find out more from Barbara Cresswell by [email](#) or tel. 01892 542476

### New Groups

#### **This month we have set up two new groups**

**Flower Arranging:** The group will meet once a month on a Wednesday morning and the contact is Ann Harvey by [email](#). Please get in touch if you would like to join or would like to be considered for a second group running on a different day of the week.

#### **Beginners Spanish Group.**

This group of beginners and near beginners will meet on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday afternoons at 2.00pm  
The contact is Barbara McAuliffe by [email](#)

#### **We are currently offering the following groups to start up in the coming months**

#### **Gilbert and Sullivan Appreciation – set up meeting July 12<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am**

A group which would meet to read and enjoy an operetta. Meetings would run from September to April. Please let me know if you would like to come to the set up meeting at Trinity on July 12th.

#### **Out and About Explorers**

A car share group which will meet monthly, sometimes at the weekend, to visit places of interest in the area – historic villages, vineyards, gardens, festivals, castles and so much more.

#### **Medieval Europe: Art, Achievements and Everyday Life**

Pat Wright, ex NADFAS lecturer, has offered to lead a series of discussions on **Medieval Europe: Art, Achievements and Everyday Life**. These would take place between October and March.

For information on these groups or to come along to an initial meeting please contact Jan Sumner, Groups Coordinator by [email](#) or tel: 07900 974684

*Jan Sumner, Groups Co-ordinator*



heritage open days

Every September, people from all over England join together for four days to celebrate what makes their neighbourhood special. Thousands of buildings of every age, style and function will open their doors free of charge to the public and the programme includes many other activities, such as walks and talks, which bring the past to life.

This year's event in the Borough of Tunbridge Wells, will take place between Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September. We have an active Heritage Open Days programme across the Borough and there will be about 40 venues and events. The Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society provides overall co-ordination in collaboration with the National Trust, the Borough Council and numerous individuals and organisations.

At the time of writing, participants and events include an archaeological dig, Mabledon House, Salomons, the High Rocks, the Masjid-Al-Noor Mosque, Trinity Arts Centre, Cranbrook Museum, the Town Hall, the Opera House, the Spa Valley Railway, a talk and guided walk on the Tunbridge Wells of Decimus Burton, and a talk on Tunbridge Ware. Many churches in the Borough will also be opening their doors for the event.

It is an ideal opportunity for residents and visitors to experience and learn about their town in a unique and exciting way, so please look out for further information in the local press nearer the time.

## Tunbridge Wells Heritage Open Days

*Though not a U3A event, members may be interested to read this note from Paul Avis, Chairman, Tunbridge Wells Heritage Open Days*

**THANKS FROM THE EDITOR:** Very many thanks to all of you who sent in reports and photographs of your outings and group activities. Sadly, owing to limited space, I have not been able to include all the photos but I hope that those on the pages above will encourage everyone to **keep on sending them!**

*Eryll Fabian, Editor*



## Events In July and August



We have the following events arranged for July and August:

20 <sup>th</sup> July	“Put that Light Out”, a talk about the 93 <sup>rd</sup> (Searchlight) Regiment by Imogen Corrigan
28 <sup>th</sup> July	Coffee Morning at Trinity
17 <sup>th</sup> August	“Tommy Cooper – what he was really like”, a talk by John Field
25 <sup>th</sup> August	Coffee Morning at Trinity

## Some Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	New Members Meeting
24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	West Kent U3A Study Day: Middle East Matters
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Lunch at the Masonic Hall
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Meeting

## New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who joined in June:

Christopher Glover	Helen Seddon	Antonia Sim
George Sands	Ian Seddon	David Stephens

Please note that the names of members who joined on 30 June will appear in a later Newsletter

## Useful Information

<b>Your Committee</b>		
Chairman	Sue Brimlow	01892 863691
Vice-Chairman	Alison Grace	07900 974684
Secretary	Wendy Maher	01892 325272
Treasurer	David Scott	01892 701950
Group Coordinator	Jan Sumner	07900974684
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 next newsletter should be e-mailed to Eryll Fabian by 31<sup>st</sup> July at the latest.

[fabiantwells.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:fabiantwells.t21@btinternet.com)



## **NATIONAL EVENTS**

Details of interesting national events appear on the website.

They can be found on [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) or by writing to:

The Third Age Trust  
19 East Street, Bromley, BR1 1QE

# WEST KENT U3A STUDY DAY: MIDDLE EAST MATTERS

## Programme

This Study Day brings together three speakers with an academic background who have worked in adult education and have lectured and written extensively on the Middle East.

**Date** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Venue** St Andrew's Church, Maidstone Rd., Paddock Wood, Kent, TN12 6DZ

**Time** 9.15am to 3.30pm approx..

**Cost** £7.50 includes 3 lectures and coffee

**Lunch** Please bring a packed lunch  
Refreshments will be available

**Organiser:** Adrian Twiner, Tel. 01892 459352

9.15am Registration and coffee on arrival

9.50am Welcome

10.00 – 11.10am **William Tyler:**  
Ottoman Tragedy

11.10 – 11.40am Tea and Coffee Break

11.40 – 12.50pm **Jonathan Farley:**  
Major and Minor Actors  
on the Middle East Stage

12.50 – 2.10pm Lunch Break

2.10 – 3.20pm **Brian Beeley:**  
Middle East Update

3.30pm Close

**William Tyler** spent his whole professional life in adult education, his last post being Principal of The City Lit in London. He has served on numerous Boards, including The Central School of Speech and Drama, and today works as a historian, lecturing widely to many clubs and societies. He is 'Scholar in Residence' at The Jewish Cultural Centre in London. William was awarded the MBE in 2009 for services to adult education.

In his talk he will maintain that the post World War One settlement of the former Ottoman territories in the Middle East by Britain and France is at the basis of many of today's problems in the region.

**Jonathan Farley** has worked in adult education since 1965, initially at Nottingham University and thereafter at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. For many years he was engaged in the education and staff training of serving naval officers. During this time he lectured on contemporary history and international politics, specialising in the Middle East and Africa. He has also had work published on these areas.

Jonathan's talk will focus on the parts played in the ongoing struggle for Palestine by all the states in the region, notably Israel and its immediate neighbours, and make reference to the involvement of several external powers, notably the USA and the former Soviet Union.

**Brian Beeley** is a university academic who became interested in the Middle East when he could not understand why Britain attacked Egypt in 1956. He has taught in universities in the USA, Iran, Scotland and latterly was a regional organiser for the Open University in south-east England. He has also been a researcher for *The Economist* and for the Turkish government. Following retirement he has acted as a consultant to the Arab Open University based in Kuwait.

In his talk Brian will maintain that outside involvement in the Middle East today contributes to regional conflicts between Sunnis and Shi'as, Saudis and Iranians, and modernisers and autocrats – in a mosaic of very different states. Why should we be concerned?

## 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:

W. 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 Study Day on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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

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

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

**A Visit to Hampton Court and River Trip  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Hampton Court has been a royal palace for 500 years but its history is the tale of two palaces: a Tudor palace developed by Cardinal Wolsey, made even more magnificent by Henry VIII when he acquired it in 1538, alongside an elegant baroque palace built by William and Mary in 1689. Today you can visit Henry’s lavish State Rooms, the Great Hall and the vast Tudor kitchens as well as William and Mary’s apartments. An audio guide is included with your ticket.

The gardens are extensive and include the celebrated maze, knot garden and the great grapevine. Other places of interest are the Chapel Royal, Cumberland Art Gallery with artworks from the Royal Collection and historic Real Tennis courts.

There are several cafes where you can buy refreshments and lunch.

**Please note: There is a five minute walk from the coach drop off point to the Palace**

After our visit to Hampton Court we will be taking a river trip to Richmond which will take approximately 1 hour.

- 8.30 am Coach departs Crescent Road Tunbridge Wells
- 8.45 am Coach departs Southborough Fountain
- 10.30 am Arrive Hampton Court
- 2.45 pm Depart for river trip
- 4.00 pm Arrive Richmond
- 4.30 pm approx. Depart for Tunbridge Wells
- 6.30 pm approx. Arrive Tunbridge Wells

Cost £37.00 to include entry to Hampton Court, river trip, coach travel and driver’s gratuity.

Applications including cheque made payable to “Tunbridge Wells U3A” and stamped addressed envelope to Jenny Jessup 6 Rossdale Tunbridge Wells TN2 3PG

Queries to Jenny Jessup 01892 530012 or Linda Trowell 01892 528680. Mobiles on the day only 07958926220 or 07984031129

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

(Please note that once we are committed to paying out money in advance, refunds will only be possible if your place can be taken by another U3A member.)

Please reserve ..... places for the outing to Hampton Court and River trip on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

I/We enclose a cheque for £.....plus s.a.e.

I/We will board the coach at Crescent Road at 8.30 am / Southborough Fountain at 8.45am  
(please delete as appropriate)

Name/s..... U3A Membership No/s.....

Address.....

Post Code..... Tel.No..... Mobile No.....

Signed..... Date.....