

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This has been a busy and productive week for TWu3a. It started with the Council's Jubilee celebrations on 3rd June. Our marchers looked splendid in their Union Jack crowns and u3a sashes and the display in our gazebo received a lot of attention. We took the display to the Rusthall Fete and the Southborough Lions Gala on 25th and 26th June. By the time you read this, it will also have been seen



at the Langton Green Village Fete on 2nd July. All this takes a lot of time and energy and we are enormously grateful to all the volunteers who helped to make these events such a success. And a success they are, for we are already receiving enquiries from those who "picked up one of your leaflets at the fete".

Another event which also attracted outside attention was the fascinating talk by Colin Bell which you can read about below. What a remarkable man!

We were delighted to see so many of you at the AGM and I am happy to report that all the motions were passed unanimously. The strawberries and cream which followed were delicious and it was fun to get together over a glass of bubbly.

Unfortunately, the Camden Centre cannot tell us when the repairs to the roof will be completed, so we shall hold **our July monthly meeting in the Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship Hall**, in Hanover Road. It will also be on Zoom. The meeting is on 21st July at 2.30pm when Kathryn Harkup will speak to us about *The Chemistry of the Human Body*. It sounds fascinating.

Coming up this month

21st July Monthly meeting:
The Chemistry of the Human Body.

29th July **Coffee morning at Trinity**



[Eryll](mailto:eryll@u3a.org) (01892 513805)

Inside this issue

1	Chairman's Update; contents	6-7	Group Coordinator update
2	Upcoming Events	8	Group News; Committee
3	Short Break News; Gardening Group	9	Colin Bell 's Talk
4	Summer Fetes; Summer School	10	Useful Information
5	Outings Coordinator & write up	11-12	Application Forms

Hybrid Monthly Meeting at the **Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship Hall.**

Kathryn Harkup:

The Chemistry of the Human Body

21st July 2.30pm



There are 92 naturally occurring elements in the Periodic Table but how many of them would you need to make a human?

The chemical formula for a human has some surprising inclusions.

This talk looks at some interesting facts about the elements that make us what we are.

Read this and then think about volunteering...

THAT'S NOT MY JOB!

This is a story about four people named: **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realised that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

URGENT – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Have you got secretarial skills?

We are looking for a volunteer to take minutes at committee meetings when the Secretary is unable to attend.

Meetings are held from 9.30 to 11.30 on the fourth Wednesday each month and you would only be called on two or three times a year. This is an excellent opportunity to find out more about how TWu3a is run.

If you are interested please contact [Eryll Fabian](mailto:Eryll.Fabian@twu3a.org) (01892 513805).

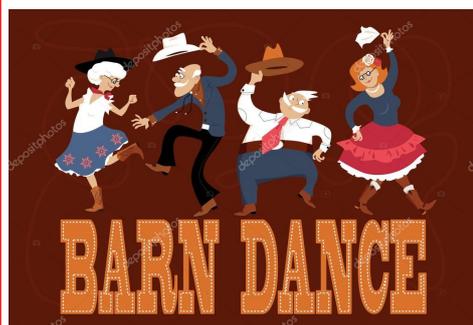
BARN DANCE RETURNS

24th September

Before Covid we had our annual barn dance and fish and chip supper in the diary for 2020 and many of you had bought tickets.

If you can make it and have already paid please complete the booking form and let Carol know. If you can't remember or can't make the date please

email [Carol Woodman](mailto:Carol.Woodman@twu3a.org), who has a list of 2020 payees.



It's the usual formula, you bring your own drink, glasses and nibbles and we provide the music, caller, fish and chips. We have managed to keep the cost at £15 per ticket and we have spaces for anyone new to barn dancing to come along for what is always an enjoyable fun evening.

Details and the application form are at the end of this Newsletter.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



We were excited as we gathered in our position in York Road, 12 of us representing the TWu3a in the Jubilee Procession; dressed in red, white and blue, and sporting union jack crowns. However nothing prepared us for the enormous crowds lining the streets as we marched to the drum beat, handing out flags, following the route through town and out to Dunorlan events field. There we were greeted by the u3a team manning the publicity gazebo all afternoon, and joined in with everyone enjoying their picnics and the show on the big stage. Well done TWu3a!

Jean Root



Four members of the **TWu3a Gardening group** were invited to help RTW In Bloom to plant up their sunflower display for the area outside the Mount Pleasant Lloyds Bank. On 30th June the visiting RHS judge was reported to be impressed and u3a has been given some visual publicity.



The **Gardening group is joining up with the Friends of Grosvenor & Hilbert Park and the local community on

Sunday 17th July 12 – 4pm

for a Picnic In The Park on the lower football pitch, near to the allotments and the Hilbert Road entrance.

Anyone is welcome to join us, just bring a chair, a picnic and good weather.**



SAVE THE DATE

5 DAY SHORT BREAK to **SOUTH WALES**

MAY 8th 2023

ITINERARY

- Dyrham Park 17th century mansion and gardens (NT)
- Llancaiach Fawr Manor House. Step back to 1645!
- St Fagan's & The Welsh National History Museum
- Guided tour of Cardiff and the surrounding area – Llandaff Cathedral - Mermaid Quay - Norwegian church
- **Gala Welsh Themed Dinner at Cardiff Castle + tour**
- Big Pit National Coal Museum
- Brecon Beacon Railway journey on a steam locomotive
- Castell Coch (the 19th century Gothic fairytale red castle)
- Avebury stone circle and Manor house (NT)

HOTEL- Holiday Inn Cardiff City centre 17 single rooms plus 12 twin/double

To register interest please contact
[Sandra McDonald](#) Short Breaks organiser

GROUP CONTACTS BREAKFAST MEETING

Our thanks to all the group contacts who came along to the working breakfast meeting on Tuesday 21st June. We enjoyed meeting, eating and comparing notes.

We asked contacts to fill out a questionnaire...

Communication, sharing the load, everybody reading and replying to emails and the positive welcoming of new members seemed to be frequently mentioned!



Thanks also to our cooks, Margaret, Judy, Pat and Carol, to 'meeters and greeters' Stuart and Valerie and to Sandra L for her work in correcting and updating the groups listing.

We are planning to hold a similar get-together in the Autumn. Different weekday, different location!



Spreading the Word



We've had two very busy weekends recently.

After the Queen's Jubilee picnic in Dunorlan we took our gazebo to the **Rusthall Village Fete** on 25th

followed by the **Southborough Lions Club Gala** on 26th June.



And we shall be at the Langton Green Fete on 2nd July – just too late for this Newsletter.

Very many thanks to all those who volunteered to man the displays and those of you who came to visit them. The word is definitely beginning to spread about u3a and TWu3a in particular!

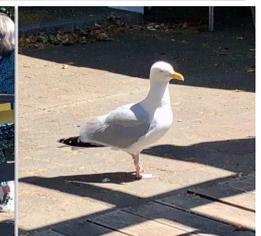
SUMMER SCHOOL

A yoga enthusiast, a ukulele player and two Mahjong newbies joined 100 others at the u3a Summer School held at Chichester University last month.

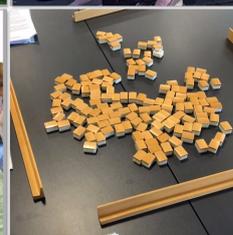
They had such fun!

Some were on the winning team at the first night Quiz. Some saw Alex Jennings in *The Southbury Child* at the Chichester Festival Theatre. Some reminisced at a talk about the early days of the wireless, but all enjoyed great food and interesting courses. The staff were very helpful, the organisation was amazing and everyone was extremely sociable.

The u3a run Summer schools all over the country. Look out for one next year.



South East U3A forum Summer School – University of Chichester 2022
Hatha Yogis



Outings Coordinator

In September we will be visiting another beautiful garden at Cliveden, together with a cruise along the Thames. Built in 1666 by the 2nd Duke of Buckingham as a gift to his mistress, Cliveden house has remained a place of intrigue and glamour for the elite. Enriched with antique furniture and period features, it has stayed true to its roots whilst also providing a luxurious setting to rest, meet and play. Cliveden is presently leased as a luxury country house hotel. However, for limited times of the year the doors of the glamorous ground floor open to visitors for 30-minute guided tours run by volunteers in small groups of about 10 people. We are going on one of these special days but the tours are booked on a first come, first served basis on the day of the visit. We will also take a ten-minute walk down to the river in small groups of 10-12 to take a guided cruise along the Cliveden Reach, widely regarded as the most beautiful stretch of the river Thames.

To secure a place on this outing please complete the application form at the end of this newsletter.

If you wish to go on our August outing to Ramsgate and the Ramsgate tunnels, please contact the organiser Stella Westrup to check availability on this lovely trip to the seaside. Stella can be contacted by telephone on 01892 523413.

The review of the lovely trip to Walmer Castle in June is below.

[Joan Young](#)

Outing to Walmer Castle and the Turner Contemporary Gallery at Margate

We had a lovely warm day for our outing to the Kent coast. We travelled via Dover and were surprised to see little in the way of traffic queuing for the ferries.

Around 1540, faced with an alliance between Spain, France & the Pope, Henry VIII commissioned a chain of defences from Hull to Milford Haven, including building the picturesque Castle at Walmer – which in later years became the official residence

of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports – including, amongst the many who held this post, the Queen Mother (for 23 years) and the Duke of Wellington, who died at the Castle. This fascinating history is reflected throughout the Castle and yet most of us felt that it had a very homely feel. From the ramparts there are fine coastal views, and some of our U3A members enjoyed eating their packed lunch up there. The extensive, award winning gardens were also a joy.



After lunch, we travelled on to Margate to visit the Turner Contemporary Gallery, opened in 2011. There was time to wander around the thought-provoking galleries and / or stroll along the seafront,



where portions of crab, lobster or jellied eels were consumed (by some!). Out to sea, in front of the Turner Gallery, stands one of Antony Gormley's cast iron men. Standing in the water, with more to be seen when the tide goes down, it really is an enigmatic figure. Our thanks to Lorna Jones for a good day out.

Pat Micklewright

Groups coordinator update

Updates from group contacts

Wealden Walkers would welcome new members. They meet on Mondays at 9.30am for country walks of between 5 - 7 miles. Please get in touch with [Helen Seddon](#) whose contact details are also in the groups listing and on the website.

Are you a native/fluent Spanish speaker?

The **Intermediate Spanish** group is interested to hear from anyone who could join their meetings occasionally to help improve the group's conversational skills. Please contact [Paul Bright](#) (details also on the website).

The **Tech Users Computer** group has changed their monthly meeting time from 11am to 12 noon. They meet at the Constitutional Club, Sandrock Road on the first Wednesday of each month.

The **Recorder Consort**, **Watercolours Painting**, **Tennis Bat & Chat** and the **Croquet** groups would still welcome new members.

A **7th London Explorers** group and a book group that meets every 2 months to discuss **Booker Prize winning books** (past and present) will hopefully get underway in July (my apologies for the delay in getting these groups off the ground)

The **Gardening** group is joining up with Friends of Grosvenor & Hilbert and the local community on Sunday 17th July 12– 4pm for a Picnic In The Park. See page 3. Anyone is welcome to join us, just bring a chair, a picnic and good weather.

If you are interested in any of the above groups most details of group contacts can be found on the TWu3a website, from the Groups Listing or from the Groups Co-ordinator. (We do strive to keep Groups details up to date!) [Lindsay Hasell](#)

A 6 week short course offer from Jonathan, one of our members:

East/West relations 1945-1991

Wednesdays 2.30pm -4pm starting Oct 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th and 2nd and 9th November
Venue: Chancellor House, Mt Ephraim
Maximum number: 10

'This short course will review the development of East/West relations between the end of the Second World War in 1945 and the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991. It will consider the advent of the Cold War and the creation of NATO, superpower confrontation (Berlin + Cuba etc), mutually assured destruction (MAD), the rise and decline of détente and the circumstances leading to the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991. More recent events will not form part of the course but may be mentioned en passant.'

If you would like to register your interest in this course please contact [Jonathan Farley](#).

****We would welcome ideas from any other members who can think of short courses that they might like to run for TWu3a members.****

Group News

New group suggestions from members...

- * Are you a **ukulele** player? One of our musical members would like to meet and start a group of players (sorry, not beginners)
- * Another member is keen to start a group offering **practical meditation and breathing techniques**, however we need suggestions for a quiet venue to hold the group meetings.
- * We would like to start up a **craft** group, maybe combining sewing with a variety of other crafts. Two members are happy to co-ordinate the group but again we need suggestions about where to meet.

[Lindsay Hasell](#)

The Bus and Train explorers went to East Grinstead last week and visited the Museum, which is mostly about the pioneering work done at the Queen Victoria Hospital by surgeon Sir Archibald McIndoe with burns victims during World War II. They called themselves his guinea pigs and mixed with local residents as much as possible, leading to East Grinstead becoming known as 'the town that didn't stare'.



While admiring St Swithun's Church, we were lucky enough to find the organist practising so we had an impromptu concert and talk about the organ's history. The Greenwich Meridian line runs through the town and we also enjoyed walking around the medieval town centre.



Carol Boyd



[Eryll Fabian](#)
Chair



[Sandra McDonald](#)
Vice Chair & Short
Breaks Coordinator



[Fiona Findlay](#)
Secretary



[Judy Horwood](#)
Membership
Secretary

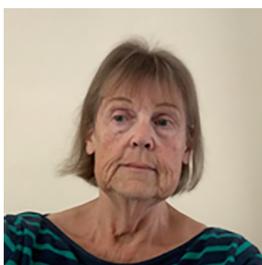


[Lindsay Hasell](#)
Groups Coordinator

After the AGM here is this
year's committee



[David Brimlow](#)
Treasurer



[Joan Young](#)
Outings Coordina-



[Philippa Berstein](#)
Events Coordinator



[Bridget Sands](#)
Newsletter Edi-

OVER BERLIN AT NIGHT IN A MOSQUITO BOMBER

F/L Colin S Bell DFC AE RAF (Retd)

What an amazing, inspiring man Colin Bell is. He started by telling us he was 101 and a bit years old and that the bit was very important! His motto is; Live every day as if it's your last because one day you'll be right. But he hasn't been right yet. And so to the talk...

Fighter Command used the Spitfires and were the Battle of Britain planes. Bomber Command, under the leadership of Bomber Harris, used the De Havilland Mosquitos and were the planes that 'took the war to Europe'. Flight Lieutenant Colin Bell believed that the Mosquito could do anything that the Spitfire could. However, unlike Spitfires they were unarmed and relied on their speed, height and agility — plus the skill of the pilots — for their defence.



Goering considered the British wooden airplanes as the scourge of the Luftwaffe and they apparently made him green with envy.

WWII pilots had a 25% chance of survival and 55,000 died on duty and many more whilst training. Colin flew 13 raids over Berlin, the most dangerous area to attack as it was very heavily defended. At night Wild Boar squadrons would wait high over the city to give them a chance to catch the Mosquitos. Each raid was extremely daunting and Colin and his Canadian navigator had their share of scary moments.

Both engines cut out one night under anti-aircraft fire but eventually started up again and got them home to find their parachutes had been shot through. Colin said while taking a 'nap!' on the way back from Berlin they were hit by a practice shot from a women's anti-aircraft training group. The women were only allowed one shot per night. And near the end of the war they were being chased by a German jet-engined plane using radar to locate them. Colin had to drop the plane down and fly at the lowest possible level forcing the Germans to use a lot of fuel and give up.

Colin is truly a survivor and he puts that down to 50% luck. The rest, he says, is up to you.

There was a lot of interest from the audience and a barrage of questions and reminiscences ensued. Ray Dean of the 10 Milers Walking group told of how they came across the IMOS Foundation near a derelict church on Romney Marsh. The foundation is an arts charity and of particular interest were the memorial carvings of WWII pilots by Clive Soord. There was also a question about what wood was used to make the Mosquito. And Ray found this in one of his wood-working books:

the Mosquito fuselage was made in two halves & that the rear section was made by wrapping two 2mm thick birch plies diagonally, over a 20mm thick machine shaped balsa core. Overall, the aircraft is a mixture of hardwood, softwood & this composite skin.

Here are some links if you are interested in following up on items in this talk.

From Duxford air museum <https://youtu.be/JTsnMKzmdWs> (thank you Peter)

A project to build a mosquito <https://www.peoplesmosquito.org.uk/the-aircraft/>

About the arts charity <https://imosfoundation.org/new-romney-sculpture/>



Important information

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

24 Sept 2022	Barn Dance
27 Oct 2022	Games afternoon
8 Dec 2022	Christmas Lunch

New members

A big welcome to our **5** new members this month

**Jacqui Corral, Celia Kerr-Patton, Michael Kerr-Patton,
Maureen McIntosh and Mike Tilbury**

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	01892 546687
Short Breaks & Holidays	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196
Events Coordinator	Philippa Bernstein	01892 523132
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 to the **August** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by July 31st at the latest (**earlier submissions are always 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

TWu3a BARN DANCE Application

ORGANISER: Carol Woodman

email: carol.woodman@hotmail.co.uk

Code: BARN

Date: Saturday 24th September

Time: 7.30 to 10.30

Venue: Langton Green Village Hall TN3 OJJ

Price: £15 to include fish and chip supper

For anyone not wanting fish and chips there is an alternative - Halloumi Special. Please indicate if you would prefer this option.

****Please bring your own drinks, nibbles and glasses.****

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

And: 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: BARN Your Surname

To pay by cheque: please post your application & cheque to
Carol Woodman, 21 Culverden Park Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9RB.
Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

NB Please let Carol know (01892 539452) **if**

you paid for a Barn Dance ticket in 2020 OR you can't make this date OR you can't remember whether you paid.

APPLICATION FORM

Event name and Code: BARN DANCE

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

.....

For u3a Members only.

A fair amount of walking.

APPLICATION FOR CLIVEDEN HOUSE & GARDENS, TAPLOW, BERKSHIRE INCLUDING A GUIDED CRUISE ALONG THE THAMES. THURSDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2022.

The cost of this outing is £28 which includes entrance to the garden and a guided cruise along the Thames, the coach and the drivers gratuity. The house is open on days when the N/T have enough volunteer guides and is not bookable in advance. There is a conservatory cafe for food and drinks—alternatively you may wish to take a picnic.

OUTING CODE: F12 ORGANISER : Joan Young jyoutings@gmail.com

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

Then 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 Surname e.g. **F12 Your Surname**

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

APPLICATION FORM/ or a note accepted with the details below

Outing name and Code: Cliveden House & Gardens F12.

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 Halls At 8.30a.m.

St Johns opposite Sainsburys local At 8.40 a.m.

Southborough Fountain At 8.50a.m.

We hope to be at Cliveden at approximately 10.45a.m. (We will be going on the M25).

We will leave at 16.00p.m. And hope to arrive back in Tunbridge Wells around 18.00p.m.

Stopping at Southborough Fountain, then 5/10 minutes later at St Johns and Crescent Road.

Please remember to bring you National Trust cards on the day of the outing to avoid an entrance charge.

My contact number for any enquiries regarding this trip is 0750 491 9081

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.